Linguistic Convergence and Divergence in Telugu-Urdu Contact Situation: A Study with Special Reference to Telangana Dialect

Venkanna Ithagani

The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India.

Abstract

Contact between two or more languages as well as cultures in India is a common phenomenon. In such contexts, it is possible that the elements can be transferred from one language to another. The contact induced changes can be measured at all levels of a language and the results will be far more visible even when the languages involved belong to genetically homogeneous families. Convergence and divergence, two opposite directions of language change, describe the increase and decrease in similarity between languages (cf.Auer at al. 2005:1).The present study attempts to answer a set of questions concerning the internal mechanisms of a language contact situation and its effects, i.e. linguistic convergence and divergence. It focuses on the linguistic convergence of Telangana, a dialect of Telugu spoken in Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh to Urdu spoken in Telangana region, and at the same time its divergence from standard variety of Telugu. This is an interesting phenomenon to study that how a dialect coming in contact with another language moves closer to it and the same dialect move further away from its standard form.

Key words: Convergence, Divergence, Language change and Standard variety.

Introduction

Telangana region was ruled over by Moguls and Nizams, whose official languages were Persian and Urdu. Thus, non-speakers of Urdu use Urdu in the form of Telugu. Telangana is the hub of many different cultures and traditions. Geographically it is placed in such a way that linguistic background of north and south meet up here. The Telugu language spoken here has assimilated many Urdu words into it. And the Urdu used here is also exceptional, with equal influence of Telugu and Hindi, giving boost to an accent called Hyderabadi Telugu, Urdu and Deccani. Region can play a key role in the development of a language. We can find such kind of mixed and unique words in Telangana.The Telugu language is a wide spread Dravidian language spoken by approximately more than 10 crores of people living mostly in Andhra Pradesh, India and all over the world. Andhra Pradesh has three regions i.e. Telangana, Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra. Telugu language is grouped into three widely acknowledged dialects based on the variations at different linguistic levels. For instance, the word 'wheel' has different terms in different dialects. It is girra in Telangana variety, payya in Rayalasema dialect and chakram in Coastal Andhra variety. Speakers of all these three dialects agree on the fact that these three dialects are to be considered one language which is distinct from neighboring languages. Similar fraction tallies between the dialects based on pronunciation (Maaji - originally Maazi, meaning former), lexicon (Phukat- originally Phugat, meaning Free) similarity are in the range of 50% to 60%. As it is frequently the case in dialect differences, tend to vary directly with geographical separation.

The objective of the present study would be to find out the following: How a speaker of the dialect would identify their own language, and if they view it as part of a larger language or as separate from it.

How the same language can vary based on a number of situations. It does not merely mean pronunciation alterations, but can also mean differences in choosing variety of words and lexicon.

It will also seek the various factors which make the speaker of Telangana dialect to converge towards Urdu and diverge towards Standard variety of Telugu or what are the key social factors that drive Telangana dialect to different directions (convergence and divergence).

Variables such as region, religion, culture, gender, age, education and occupation and will be used to check the proposed questions.

The study of the development of the dialect can prove helpful and an insight in the field of dialectology.

Methodology

The data is collected from the people from Telangana region. The contact languages are Telugu and Urdu in Telangana, especially in Hyderabad. The words are collected from News channels' and conversations in which the words are used. The data was collected having informal meetings, interviews, and observing people conversations.

Results

1. Convergence shows the adjustments and unity

2. Divergence shows the segregation and division of culture, language and individuality

3. Easily recognise the dialect where it is being used

4. Identify the group's existence and access to get their speech patterns.

5. It will trace the development of the dialect.

6. Divergence transmits a feeling of parting, extraction; it shows a border around the group that a speaker belongs to (LePage, R., B. and Andree T., K. (1985)).

The present study put forth the hypothesis that the extensive contact between two languages will result in linguistic convergence and it tend to result in linguistic divergence for another language.

Crystal (1985:74) defines convergence as a term used in sociolinguistics to refer to process of dialect change in which the dialects become more like each other (convergence). This usually happens when a non-standard dialect falls under the influence of the standard, but it may happen the other way round-as in the current development of modified forms of Received Pronunciation in English. Neighboring speech communities are sometimes referred to as 'convergence'. The converse effect is known as divergence. 'Convergence' also has a currency in historical linguistic studies, referring to the merging of forms which at an earlier stage of a language were contrastive.

Crystal (1985:100) defines divergence as

A term used in sociolinguistics to refer to a process of dialect change in which the dialects become less like each other (or 'diverge'). This process is only likely to happen in the absence of geographical and social links between populations within a speech community, lines of communication thereby being few or difficult, and a standard dialect probably being non-existent. The opposite effect is known as convergence. 'Divergence' is also a coinage in historical linguistics study, referring to the dividing of a structure into two contrastive units.

In the light of Crystal's (1985) definition of Convergence and Divergence exhibits that people from different social groups have divergent ways of knowing them each other based on differing experiences.

This paper is to examine the evidence that the three dialects of Telugu language and Urdu developed divergence rather than convergence. The morphological evidence is inconclusive, but the grammatical forms suggest the possibility that the dialects may have originally been two distinct languages that covered.

Discussion

Convergence

The very dialect, Telangana diverges significantly from standard Telugu with respect to pronunciation, lexicon and converges with Urdu in same respect. The following examples show the phenomenon vividly.

Ex: 1   Naku zarasepu   ni   kalam eeyaraday? (Telangana Dialect)

           I.dat. sometime   your.gen   Pen,   give

           Could you lend me your pen?

           Zara   aapki   kalam   khidmath kijiye (Urdu)

           Some   your   pen   give

           Could you lend me your pen?

Kochem   ni   kalamunu evvagalava? (Standard Telugu)

Some   your.gen   pen   give

Could you lend me your pen?

The word, bejaru (tired) in Telangana Telugu shows convergence to Urdu bejar and divergence to visugu in the standard variety of Telugu.

These examples clearly show the convergence of Telangana dialect towards Urdu and divergence from standard Telugu.

The word choice in the following examples implies the same.

	Hospital	Strength	Door	Foolish
Telangana dialect	Davakhana	Takath	Darvaja	Houla
Urdu	Davakhan	Tahakath	Darvaz	Haula
Standard Telugu	Vaidyashala	Balamu	Talupu	Telivithakkuva

Telugu	**Urdu**	**Standard Telugu**	**Meaning**
Tareekhu	Tareekh	Thedi	Date
Jamindaar	Zamindaar	Bhuswami	Land lord
Kalamu	Qalam	Kalamu	Pen
Khaidi	Qaidi	Khaidi	Prisoner
Jawabu	Jawab	Javabu	answer
Sawalu	Sawal	Prasna	Question
Meku	Mekh	Meku	Nail
Munasabu	Munsif	Nyayamurthi	Judge
Roju	Roz	Roju	Day
Kurchi	Kursi	Kurchi	Chair
Dastavejulu	Dastavaiz	Patralu or Pharalu	Documents
Darakhastu	Darkhwast or Darkhast	Vinati	Request
Kaburu	Khabar	Vaartha	News
Khitiki	Khirki	Kitiki	Window
Maaji	Maazi	Maaji	Former
Aakhari	Aakhari	Chivari	Last
Moju	Mouj	Moham	To have fun
Kaazhi	Khaali	Khaali	Empty
Raaji Naama	Raazi Naama	Rajinama	Resignation
Tarafu	Taraf	Tarapuna	On behalf
Sifarsu	Sifarish	Sipharsu	Recommend

Divergence : Labov has found evidence for divergence which has been caused by increased social segregation of the speech communities (Labov and Harris 1986), which have different languages and cultures in choosing words (lexical and grammatical items) in region.

The very dialect, Telangana diverges significantly from Urdu with respect to pronunciation, lexicon and converges with (Telangana) Telugu in same respect. The following examples show the phenomenon vividly.

Ex: 1   Naku   Kochemsepu   ni   ooyi(lu)   eeyaraday? (**Telangana Dialect**)

          Me   sometime   your   book(s),   give

          Could you lend me your book?

          Zara   aapki   kithab khidmath kijiye (**Urdu**)

          Some   your   book   give

          Could you lend me your book?

2   Ee   thovva ekkada pothadi? (**Telangana Dialect**)

          This   road   where   goes

          Where does this road go?

          Uos raasta kidar jaraihi hue? (**Urdu**)

          This road   where goes   be

          Where does this road go?

Telangana dialect	potti (short)	Potta (stomach)	Po (go)
Urdu	Potti (girl)	potta (boy)	Po (on)
Standard Telugu	potti (short)	Potta (stomach)	Po (go)

These are the examples which show the divergence to Urdu and convergence to Standard Variety of Telugu.

There are some examples which show divergence with Urdu and Standard Variety of Telugu.

	Girl	Boy	Books	Skin
Telangana dialect	Pori (Slang)	Poraga (Slang)	Oyeelu	Ollu
Urdu	Ladiki	Ladaka	Kithab	Chamada
Telugu	ammaayi	abbaayi	Pusthakam	Sariramu

Telugu influence on Urdu

There are some words in Urdu which have got influenced by Telugu and followed by 'ku', 'ki', and're'. These words are used as prepositions in Telugu to address the people.

- Kis<u>ku</u> =to whom

- Kai<u>ku</u> (informal)= why, kyon in Urdu

- Kaiku<u>ki</u> (informal)=why, who knows why

- Merey<u>ku</u> (informal) = my, instead of mujhey or mujhko inUrdu E.g. Mujhe malum nai. (I don't know.)

- Tumaare<u>ku</u> (informal) = you, instead of tumhey or tumko in Urdu E.g. Tujhe malum kya? (Do you know?)

- Terey<u>ku</u>(informal)= you, instead of tujhey or tujhko in Urdu

- kaisa haula hai <u>re</u> tu? (What a crazy person are you?).

- kareem <u>ku</u> khana hona kate. (Kareem wants food to have.)

we can converge all the way through many characteristics of communication such as their use of language, their "pronunciation, lexical, non-verbal behaviors, and intimacy of self disclosures" (Giles and Smith, 1979, 46), The people in contact can exhibit both convergence

and divergence, but they do not necessarily have to converge at the same time at all of these levels and people converge at some levels and diverge through others at the same time.

Conclusion

After examining the lexical data from Telangana dialect of Telugu, Urdu and standard Telugu, it is now evident that convergence and divergence between two languages or dialects of one or more languages is a process that naturally takes place in a sustained contact situation. The changes not only occur between two language groups of the same family but even across the language families for which the contact of Telugu, a Dravidian language, and Urdu, an Indo-Aryan language, discussed above, stand a good example. As discussed above, the borrowed words are naturalized in tune with the phonology of the recipient language and thus dialects phonologically maintain uniformity though some words in one dialect are not native ones. This paper on language change, convergence and divergence is by no means exhaustive and therefore there is a lot more to explore.

References

1. Auer, Peter, Frans Hinskens, and Paul Kerswill, eds. Dialect change: Convergence and divergence in European   languages. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

2. Chambers, John Kenneth. Dialectology. Cambridge University Press, 1998.

3. Crystal, David. Dictionary of linguistics and phonetics. Vol. 30. John Wiley & Sons, 1986.

4. Francis, Winthrop Nelson. Dialectology: an introduction. London and New York: Longman, 1983.

5. Giles, Howard, and Philip Smith. Accommodation theory: Optimal levels of convergence. 1979.

6. Hudson, Richard Anthony. Sociolinguistics. Cambridge University Press, 1996.

7. Labov, William, and Wendell A. Harris. "De facto segregation of black and white vernaculars." Diversity and   diachrony 53, 1986.

8. Le Page, Robert Brock, and Andrée Tabouret-Keller. Acts of identity: Creole-based approaches to language and   ethnicity. CUP Archive, 1985.