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Language in India www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940** Vol. 16:4 April 2016

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Phonological Analysis of Nick Names in Punjabi

**Faiza Abid, M.Phil., Amina Deen, M.Phil., Farah Khurshid, M.Phil.,
Sonodia Ashraf, M.Phil., Aisha Niazi, M.Phil. and Naheed Ashfaq, M.Phil.**

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Abstract

This paper relates to the study of nicknames in Punjabi language .it help us to understand about the transitions of syllable from name to nick names. The names are categorized depending upon the number of syllables in name and the characteristics of first syllable. In this paper only those nicknames are focused which have connection with the names, however passing a comment is also one of the convention of nicknames that directly have no connection with the names.

Keywords: Phonological, Transition, syllable, Nicknames

Introduction

1. Background

Nickname is familiar or shortens form of a proper name but sometimes it is also use in deceptive and negative meanings. Now a days this practice have become so common not to one particular part of world but in all over the globe. All names can have more than one nickname but it depends on who is saying? To whom it is been said? What is the social setting? In which circumstances it is used?

This paper has tried to explore the basic pattern on which these nicknames are based and what is main procedure involve

1.1 Problem Statement

To find out the phonological rule that governs the transformation of names to nicknames in Punjabi.

2. Literature Review

There was no work done in past that is concerned with the names and their nickname formation. found in the past years regarding to nicknames. There are some phonological rules for the transition of names into nicknames in different languages in it and which helps in transition from an original name to a nickname.

Through this paper we are exploring nicknames in Punjabi language and also give a brief introduction of nicknames in other languages. Sound changing is a common feature in every spoken language. When a new word is formed its phonetic content is changed. These sound changes are done under certain rules. Some of these rules are:

2.1 Metathesis

According to Pyles.T & Agleo.J, (1982) the transposition within a word of letters sounds and syllables is called metathesis. Moreover, (Bukhari, 1985) stated that there are three possibilities when consonant sounds change their places, with the vowels remaining intact. One is that two simple sounds change their features. Secondly, words become completely reversed and thirdly, aspirated sounds become unaspirated. The example of this technique is

given as that the name /nɔ̃bil/ changed to /bɔ̃nnu/. In this nickname formation metathesis plays a vital role along with deletion and epenthesis

2.2 Assimilation

Phonology this phenomena is about changing of sound in a word to become similar to another sound in the same word. This assimilation can be synchronic or diachronic, the synchronic assimilation is the active process in present and diachronic is the historical sound change. Assimilation is progressive and regressive as well. When the sound assimilates because of preceding sound its progressive assimilation but when sound changes because of following sound its regressive assimilation. (Crowley & Terry, 1997)

2. Epenthesis

The insertion of sound in the body of a word is called epenthesis

Elision

An **elision** is known as the omission of a sound for reasons . . .: 'cause (also spelled 'cos, cos, from *because*; fo'c'sle from *forecastle*; or ice tea from *iced tea* (in which -ed is pronounced /t/ but omitted because of the immediately following /t/)." (John Algeo, "Vocabulary," in *The Cambridge History of the English Language, Volume IV*, ed. by Suzanne Romaine. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999)

Lengthening Rule

This rule is explained by Dona Jo Napoli (1985) that is usually accompanied by some loss within a word or some other sound is repeated twice. To understand this rule an example is given by the formation of /nɔ̃jjo/ from /nurjɔ̃han/.lengthening of /j/ is accompanied by both epenthesis and deletion rule. Some researchers have assigned it a particular name called germination.

Compression

Bukhari states that this is simply a shortening of a word (1985)

2.2Names from other languages

Different names in Punjabi are derived from other languages for example from Persian and Arabic and from Hindi origin for example Arabic like / ə b d u l l ə h /, / ə b d u l m ə j i d /, / m u s t ə f ə / etc. then there are names from Persian origin like / j ə m f ə d /, / b ə b u r /, / m ə h r u x /, / g u l r u x / etc and there are names from Hindi origin like / ə m ə r /, / k ə v i t ə /, / s ə ŋ g i t ə / etc.

2.3 Influence of English language

As English is used as a second language in the entire world. Similarly in Pakistan it has great influence on our people either by media or by official purposes. So it is observed that people often tend to form nicknames which is specially dominated phonetically or phonologically by English

2.4 Nicknames in Japanese

A dialect of Japanese rustic girls has a phonological rule for a subset of names and is explained below. These names are formed by taking original full names of girls and make them limited to the first two moras to form the nickname (Poser, 1990). The rule is that three entities can form a nickname: an open syllable with a long vowel, a consonant-vowel-nasal sequence, and two light syllables. These fall into a natural class as two moras, or a bimoraic foot. The table shows the process:

TABLE 1: Formation of nicknames in Japanese

Full Name	Circumscribe Two moras	Truncated nickname
Yuuko	[Yumu]ko	o-Yuu
Ranko	[Raun]ko	o-Ran
Yukiko	[Yuki]ko	o-Yuki

Trends for assigning names

There are different trends settle for assigning names in Punjabi .such as assigning a name consist of one word and having particular meaning. For example

bilal bɪlɪl
aisha aɪʃa

Connection between names and nicknames

Sometimes we have observed that there is no connection between the names and nicknames. There are 3 reason to understand this connection

- Nicknames can be given on physical appearance of the person.
- By just having resemblance of nicknames of some other person, in the name without knowing why the name was nicked originally
- Varies from person to person. Depends on the individual likes or dislikes. Whenever he cannot find out any suitable nick, he tries to map the nickname on to the one he likes the most. Hence no explanation can be given for his act,

3. Methodology

3.1 Data collection

For the analysis 40 names were picked from Punjabi language 20 of females and 20 of males .this list of names also includes some religious names like aisha, khatija, sakeena, Mustafa, usman, Mohammad etc people were asked to form nicknames on their own if they did not have directly friends or relatives with such names. Everyone was given the option that if he could not think of a name he can pass on to the next name.

Mostly the names selected were simple but different in length. these names are common in Pakistan.

3.1.1 Analysis

To find out structural change in the syllable of the name to the nickname firstly all the possible syllable structures that exist in Punjabi names and secondly all the possible structures of their nicknames were written attempt was made to formulate a rule that could do conversion from names to nicknames structures. The most commonly used syllable structures were taken out by finding out their percentage of occurrences. The starting point was to take into consideration the number of syllables (Napoli,1993) that a name has and then formulate a rule for that transition. The categorization was done on the basis of the structure of the first syllable of the name

3.2 Nicknaming of English names

In the second experiment the names used were from English but the subjects were asked to make their Urdu nicknames. Thus the structural transition could be figured out and analysed whether they follow some rule.

3.2.1 Analysis

In the experiment an attempt was made to find the consonants and vowels that were induced in the nickname and in the analysis it was tried to relate a relation between the names and the nicknames.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Syllable Structure Percentage of Occurrence

The vowel consonant behaviour of the nicknames showed that most frequently occurring vowel consonant structure found in the nicknames are CVCV and of CVC. The mentioned calculation of percentages are calculated with both male and females names. These statistical calculations shows that CV CV and CVC are observed in the nicknames

4.2 Consonant rule

If we make a nickname by choosing consonants from the name then the order of consonants observed in the nickname is same as in the name.

4.3 Vowel rule

1. If a name starts with a consonant and its nickname starts with any consonant of the original name then the first vowel in the nickname would be same as the first vowel after that consonant in the original name.

2. If a name starts with a vowel and its nickname template has a vowel in start then the nickname would start with the same vowel.

3. The last vowels can be anyone of the following.

1. a

2. i

3. u

5 Discussions

Mostly the names were taken was of single syllable.

5.1 Single Syllable name

Hence it can be seen that the rule formulated above for the 1-syllable names that are of the form CVC is verified from the data and can be seen below with the help of few examples from the English names.

TABLE 5.1 Examples of single syllable names from other languages.

Name	Nick	Trans
Tom	TOMY	Tomi
Raam	Rami	Rami

The vowel 'i' was appended at the end of the name.

5.2 Two Syllable name

The variability between nicknames was to such an extent that 10 different people gave almost five different nicknames for each of the name.

5.4.2.1 First Syllable having no code

As we concluded before that a name with the first syllable structure, can be converted to following three different syllable structures unpredictable. The data of the English name Ada is shown below.

TABLE 27: Examples of bi-syllabic names from other languages.

Name	Nick Trans.	Prob.
Ada	Dama d5a ma	.4
Ada	Aedi æ d5i	.1
Ada	Aadam a d5↔m	.2
Ada	Dunno d5Yn no	.1
Ada	Aadi a d5i	.2

And we can see that the nick rule was applicable but if we changed the consonants like in ‘Dunno’ and then there can be no rule applicable.

Fulfil Religious concept

The names that belongs to some pious personalities in Islamic religion are observed that they are not converted into nicknames . (Mustafa usman etc) 95% people left those space of nicknames blank.the rest 5 % people give like Ayesha to əɪʃə and əɪ

Sound (z)

It can be seen through data collection that sound z changes to (dʒ) in Punjabi language for example

Nazir	naɖʒir
Razia	raɖʒo
Nazia	naɖʒo

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Appendix

Males

Name	transcription	nickname
aslan	əɾslan	ərsəl
wajid	vədʒɪdʰ	vadʒi
mustafa	mʊstafa	
waqas	vaqas	vɪqi
imran	amran	mana
arfan	ərfaɳ	fani
jawad	dʒawadʰ	dʒedi
ashraf	əʃrəf	ɑʃraf
rasheed	raʃɪd	ʃɪda
nazir	naʒɪr	nadʒir
kamran	kamran	kami
usman	ʊsman	
Mohammad	mohamədʰ	
sohail	sohæl	səni
ashfaq	aʃfaq	fɑqa
zahid	zahiɪdʰ	zædi
shahid	ʃahiɪd	ʃahda
afzaal	əfzaɪ	fazlu
bilal	bɪlɪl	bala

Females

Name	transcription	nickname
sumaira	sumæra	summi
ishrat	ɪʃrət	ɪʃi
shabana	ʃabana	ʃabi
maria	maræ	mari
shabnam	ʃabnam	ʃabu
razia	rəzia	radʒo
ayesha	əɪʃa	aʃi
hafza	hafza	həfzo
shameem	ʃəmim	ʃamo
nabeela	nabila	bila
shagufta	ʃʊgufta	gufto
zareena	zrina	dʒari
sidra	sɪdra	sɪd
uzma	uzma	uzmi
nazia	nazia	nadʒo
sakeena	səkina	səko
khatija	χatɪdʒa	dɪdʒa
shaista	ʃæsta	ʃista
kauser	kosər	kaosər

shumaila	ʃomæla	ʃumi
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FAIZA ABID, M.Phil. Applied Linguistics from Kinnaird College Lahore Pakistan
Lecturer at Institute of Communication and Cultural Studies
University of Management and Technology
Lahore, PAKISTAN
faiza.abid@umt.edu.pk



AMINA DEEN, M.Phil. Applied Linguistics from Kinnaird College Lahore Pakistan
aminamughal.kc@gmail.com



FARAH KHURSHID, M.Phil. Applied Linguistics from Kinnaird College Lahore, Pakistan
farahrandhawal@gmail.com

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 **16:4 April 2016**

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SONODIA ASHRAF, M.Phil. Applied Linguistics from Kinnaird College Lahore, Pakistan



Aisha Niazi, M.Phil. Applied Linguistics
Lecturer at University of Management and Technology aisha.niazi@umt.edu.pk



Naheed Ashfaq M.Phil. Applied Linguistics from Kinnaird College Lahore, Pakistan
Lecturer at University of Management and Technology 13005065090@umt.edu.pk

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