Chapter 1 : Catalog Record: Introduction to the study of Indian languages | Hathi Trust Digital Library

Introduction to the study of Indian languages, with words, phrases, and sentences to by collected Item Preview remove-circle Share or Embed This Item.

The word "Indian" comes from Sindhu, a local name for the Indus River. Indians also call their country "Bharat," the name of a legendary emperor. Indian history dates to the third millennium BC when Harappan civilization flourished in the Indus Valley. These groups eventually took over much of India. Muslims entered India at the beginning of the eleventh century AD and ruled much of the subcontinent for eight hundred years. The Mughal Dynasty conquered Delhi and ruled from the sixteenth century until the eighteenth century. Europeans reached South Asia in when Portuguese sailors landed on the southwest coast of India. Over the next two centuries, Portugal, Holland, Britain, and France set up trading posts and factories. By the middle of the eighteenth century, the British East India Company controlled most of the European trade in India, and Britain ultimately ruled the entire region. The inability of British, Hindu, and Muslim leaders to agree on a successor state to the British Indian Empire resulted in the partition of the subcontinent by the United Nations into India and Pakistan in This has caused three wars. India and Pakistan continue to be hostile toward each other, particularly over the question of which country should control the beautiful mountain state of Kashmir. Pakistan lies to the west, and to the east, India shares borders with Bangladesh, China, and Myanmar Burma. India has three geographic zones. Below the mountains lie the Indo-Gangetic plains. The Deccan Plateau forms the third geographical region. These are the uplands bordered by the Eastern and Western Ghats mountains that make up the interior of the Indian peninsula. The seasonal rhythm of the monsoon sets a pattern of Indian life. Winters are bright and pleasant. The hot season ends with the onset of rain. The monsoon reaches southwest India in late June and sweeps northward. Cherrapunji, in the northeast, is on record as the wettest place on earth, averaging nearly inches 1, centimeters of rain annually. For three months, water is plentiful and the land is green. At the end of September, the rains stop and winter approaches. India has a wide range of ethnic and cultural diversity. It is less a nation and more a collection of countries. Throughout central and southern India there are tribal populations such as Mundas, Oraons and Santals, there are Dravidian groups in southern India such as Tamils and the Malayalam-speaking peoples in Kerala. India shares many of its cultural groups with Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Each region has its own mix of religion, caste social class , language, and literary, cultural and historical traditions. These traditions existed long before modern nations were created, and many people identify strongly with them. There are about twenty-four languages that are spoken by more than a million people. Indian languages belong to four major linguistic families groups of languages with a common ancestor. Bhotia and other languages in the mountain belt belong to the Sino-Tibetan linguistic family. Most Indian languages belong to the Indo-European or Dravidian families. India today recognizes fourteen spoken languages as official: Sanskrit, the classical language of northern India, is also an official language. English is widely used for national, political, and business purposes. Muslims revere Sufi mystics, and Sikhs have martyred Gurus. Tribal groups have distinct myths and legends. A few historical figures such as Shivaji, the seventeenth-century Maratha leader, are seen as national heroes. Jawaharlal Nehru â€" , the first prime minister of India, and his daughter Indira Gandhi â€"84 are among the most important Indian national leaders. The best known figure, however, is Mohandas Gandhi â€" , known worldwide as Mahatma "Great Soul". Independence from Great Britain was granted in India, however, prides itself on the freedom of religion guaranteed by its constitution. Religious minorities include Muslims 14 percent , Christians 2. Other religious groups include Jews, Parsis Zoroastrians , and animistic tribal peoples. The practices and beliefs associated with Hinduism vary by region, and from person to person. It is often said that Hinduism is not a religion but a way of life. One major aspect of Hinduism that influences Indian society is the caste system. The Aryan-speaking peoples developed this system, which divides people into four categories: Brahmans priests and scholars , Ksatriyas warriors and rulers , Vaisyas

traders and farmers , and Sudras servants and artisans. These categories are further divided by occupations, as well as by regional and cultural differences. However, most Indians fall outside the four categories and are referred to as Untouchables, the lowest caste. Although the system has its roots in Hinduism, most religious groups in this region of the world have adopted some aspect of the caste structure. Hindu festivals include Shivaratri dedicated to the god Shiva , Holi the spring festival , Janamashtami birthday of the god Krishna , Dasahara the festival of the goddess Durga , and Divali the Festival of Lights. The Christian holy days of Good Friday and Christmas are also observed, as are the birthdays of the founders of Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. India also celebrates its Independence Day on August 15, the day in when British colonial rule ended. Republic Day, held on January 26, marks the inauguration of India as a Republic in For Muslims, the circumcision of male children is the symbol of commitment to their religion, while for Christians it is baptism. Sikhs, Parsis, and tribal groups also mark the passage from childhood to adulthood. Marriage customs conform to the norms of each community, as do funeral rites. Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists cremate their dead, whereas Muslims and Christians bury them. Parsis and some Buddhist groups expose their corpses to vultures. Tribal funeral customs include both cremation and burial. In parts of India, the word Namaste is replaced with Namaskar. Shaking hands, Western style, also is acceptable. Inadequate sewage disposal, contaminated drinking water, and poor nutrition still pose health problems. People living in poverty are estimated to represent between 24 and 40 percent of the population of India. India contains some of the largest cities in the world. Greater Bombay or Mumbai has about thirteen million people, Calcutta has twelve million, and Delhi has ten million. Buses and trains are the most common means of long-distance travel. Several airlines also operate in India. In the north, families tend to be patriarchal. A household consists of two or three generations of males and their wives and children. In southern India, joint families often are matriarchal. Marriages often are arranged, and caste plays an important role. In northern India, marriage partners are usually unrelated. This is a long piece of white cotton wrapped around the waist and then drawn between the legs and tucked into the waist. In southern India, the chest is usually left bare, while in the north a shirt may be worn. Turbans or some form of headdress are common in northern India. Both men and women also wear a kurta , a long tunic-like shirt, and pyjamas , loose baggy trousers. People wear leather sandals or other shoes. Shoes usually are removed before entering a temple or an Indian home. Women typically wear the sari , a length of cotton or silk cloth wrapped around the waist, with one end thrown over the right shoulder. The choli, a tight-fitting blouse that leaves the midriff bare, is worn under the sari. The sari is worn differently in different parts of India. In Maharashtra, for example, rural women draw one end of the sari through the legs and tuck it into the waist. In some rural areas, women do not wear the bodice; they use the end of the sari to cover their upper bodies In urban areas, Western-style clothing has become the norm for males. This is a round metal tray or plate that holds several little bowls katoris. Each bowl holds a different dish. In some areas, food is served on banana leaves. Food is eaten with the hand, preferably the right hand. The term "curry" was used by Europeans to describe the spicy dishes they found in India, but curries are not always hot. The "heat" in Indian food comes from chilies. Other spices include cumin, coriander, turmeric, black pepper, cardamom, and cloves. Curries are eaten with lentils dal and pickles and chutneys. In northern and western areas, meals are taken with flat breads roti. These breads are replaced by rice chawal in the east and south. Yogurt dahi also may be eaten.

It is believed that the system of schedules, followed seriatim, will lead the student in a proper way to the collection of linguistic materials; that the explanations given will assist him in overcoming the difficulties which he is sure to encounter; and that the materials when collected will consti.

Applications[edit] For example, a sociolinguist might determine through study of social attitudes that a particular vernacular would not be considered appropriate language use in a business or professional setting. Sociolinguists might also study the grammar , phonetics , vocabulary , and other aspects of this sociolect much as dialectologists would study the same for a regional dialect. The study of language variation is concerned with social constraints determining language in its contextual environment. Code-switching is the term given to the use of different varieties of language in different social situations. William Labov is often regarded as the founder of the study of sociolinguistics. He is especially noted for introducing the quantitative study of language variation and change, [8] making the sociology of language into a scientific discipline. Traditional sociolinguistic interview[edit] Sociolinguistic interviews are an integral part of collecting data for sociolinguistic studies. There is an interviewer, who is conducting the study, and a subject, or informant , who is the interviewee. In order to get a grasp on a specific linguistic form and how it is used in the dialect of the subject, a variety of methods are used to elicit certain registers of speech. There are five different styles, ranging from formal to casual. The most formal style would be elicited by having the subject read a list of minimal pairs MP. Minimal pairs are pairs of words that differ in only one phoneme, such as cat and bat. Having the subject read a word list WL will elicit a formal register, but generally not as formal as MP. The reading passage RP style is next down on the formal register, and the interview style IS is when an interviewer can finally get into eliciting a more casual speech from the subject. During the IS the interviewer can converse with the subject and try to draw out of them an even more casual sort of speech by asking him to recall childhood memories or maybe a near death experience, in which case the subject will get deeply involved with the story since strong emotions are often attached to these memories. Of course, the most sought-after type of speech is the casual style CS. The closest one might come to CS in an interview is when the subject is interrupted by a close friend or family member, or perhaps must answer the phone. CS is used in a completely unmonitored environment where the subject feels most comfortable and will use their natural vernacular without overtly thinking about it. Fundamental concepts[edit] While the study of sociolinguistics is very broad, there are a few fundamental concepts on which many sociolinguistic inquiries depend. Speech community Speech community is a concept in sociolinguistics that describes a distinct group of people who use language in a unique and mutually accepted way among themselves. This is sometimes referred to as a Sprechbund. To be considered part of a speech community, one must have a communicative competence. That is, the speaker has the ability to use language in a way that is appropriate in the given situation. It is possible for a speaker to be communicatively competent in more than one language. Community of Practice allows for sociolinguistics to examine the relationship between socialization, competence, and identity. Since identity is a very complex structure, studying language socialization is a means to examine the micro-interactional level of practical activity everyday activities. The learning of a language is greatly influenced by family but it is supported by the larger local surroundings, such as school, sports teams, or religion. Speech communities may exist within a larger community of practice. Prestige sociolinguistics Crucial to sociolinguistic analysis is the concept of prestige; certain speech habits are assigned a positive or a negative value, which is then applied to the speaker. This can operate on many levels. The terms acrolectal high and basilectal low are also used to distinguish between a more standard dialect and a dialect of less prestige. A social network is another way of describing a particular speech community in terms of relations between individual members in a community. A network could be loose or tight depending on how members interact with each other. A multiplex community is one in which members have multiple relationships with each other. The looseness or tightness

of a social network may affect speech patterns adopted by a speaker. Recently, social networks have been formed by the Internet, through chat rooms, Facebook groups, organizations, and online dating services. Differences according to class[edit] Further information: Linguistic insecurity Sociolinguistics as a field distinct from dialectology was pioneered through the study of language variation in urban areas. Whereas dialectology studies the geographic distribution of language variation, sociolinguistics focuses on other sources of variation, among them class. Class and occupation are among the most important linguistic markers found in society. One of the fundamental findings of sociolinguistics, which has been hard to disprove, is that class and language variety are related. Members of the working class tend to speak less standard language , while the lower, middle, and upper middle class will, in turn, speak closer to the standard. This is because not only class but class aspirations, are important. Class aspiration[edit] Studies, such as those by William Labov in the s, have shown that social aspirations influence speech patterns. This is also true of class aspirations. In the process of wishing to be associated with a certain class usually the upper class and upper middle class people who are moving in that direction socio-economically will adjust their speech patterns to sound like them. However, not being native upper-class speakers, they often hypercorrect , which involves overcorrecting their speech to the point of introducing new errors. The same is true for individuals moving down in socio-economic status. In any contact situation, there is a power dynamic, be it a teacher-student or employee-customer situation, this power dynamic results in a hierarchical differentiation between languages. He claimed that factors like family orientation, social control, verbal feedback, and possibly social class contributed to the development of the two codes: His theory places this code within environments that operate according to established social structures that predetermine the roles of their members, in which the commonality of interests and intents due to a shared local identity creates a predictability of discrete intent and therefore a simplification of verbal utterances. Such environments may include military, religious, and legal atmospheres, criminal and prison subcultures, long-term married relationships and friendships between children. Due to the strong bonds between speakers, explicit verbal communication is often rendered unnecessary and individual expression irrelevant. However, simplification is not a sign of a lack of intelligence or complexity within the code; rather, communication is performed more through extraverbal means facial expression, touch, etc. Bernstein notes the example of a young man asking a stranger to dance: As such, implied meaning plays a greater role in this code than in the elaborated code. Restricted code also operates to unify speakers and foster solidarity. This code is typical in environments where a variety of social roles are available to the individual, to be chosen based upon disposition and temperament. Most of the time, speakers of elaborated code utilize a broader lexicon and demonstrate less syntactic predictability than speakers of restricted code. The lack of predetermined structure and solidarity requires explicit verbal communication of discrete intent by the individual in order to achieve educational and career success. Bernstein notes, with caution, the association of this code with upper classes while restricted code is associated with lower classes , where the abundance of available resources allows persons to choose their social roles, warning, however, that studies associating the codes with separate social classes used small samples and were subject to significant variation. He also asserts that elaborated code originates due to differences in social context rather than intellectual advantages; as such, elaborated code differs from restricted code according to the context-based emphasis on individual advancement over assertion of communal bonds. For instance, a child exposed solely to restricted code learns extraverbal communication over verbal, and therefore may have a less extensive vocabulary than a child raised with exposure to both codes. While there is no inherent lack of value to restricted code, a child without exposure to elaborated code may encounter difficulties upon entering formal education, in which standard, clear verbal communication and comprehension is necessary for learning and effective interaction both with instructors and other students from differing backgrounds. As such, it may be beneficial for children who have been exposed solely to restricted code to enter pre-school training in elaborated code in order to acquire a manner of speaking that is considered appropriate and widely comprehensible within the education environment. Additionally, Bernstein notes

several studies in language development according to social class. In , the Committee for Higher Education conducted a study on verbal IQ that showed a deterioration in individuals from lower working classes ages 8â€"11 and years in comparison to those from middle classes having been exposed to both restricted and elaborated codes.

Chapter 3 : Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages

Other articles where Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages, with Words, Phrases, and Sentences to Be Collected is discussed: John Wesley Powell: Powell's legacy: and in he published Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages, with Words, Phrases, and Sentences to Be Collected.

Nomenclature[edit] Before the 20th century, the term philology , first attested in , [19] was commonly used to refer to the study of language, which was then predominantly historical in focus. Linguistics is a multi-disciplinary field of research that combines tools from natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. The theory of variation therefore would elaborate on the different usages of popular languages like French and English across the globe, as well as its smaller dialects and regional permutations within their national boundaries. The theory of variation looks at the cultural stages that a particular language undergoes, and these include the following. Pidgin[edit] The pidgin stage in a language is a stage when communication occurs through a grammatically simplified means, developing between two or more groups that do not have a language in common. Typically, it is a mixture of languages at the stage when there occurs a mixing between a primary language with other language elements. Creole[edit] A creole stage in language occurs when there is a stable natural language developed from a mixture of different languages. It is a stage that occurs after a language undergoes its pidgin stage. At the creole stage, a language is a complete language, used in a community and acquired by children as their native language. Dialect[edit] A dialect is a variety of language that is characteristic of a particular group among the language speakers. This is what differentiates a dialect from a register or a discourse , where in the latter case, cultural identity does not always play a role. Dialects are speech varieties that have their own grammatical and phonological rules, linguistic features, and stylistic aspects, but have not been given an official status as a language. Dialects often move on to gain the status of a language due to political and social reasons. Differentiation amongst dialects and subsequently, languages too is based upon the use of grammatical rules, syntactic rules, and stylistic features, though not always on lexical use or vocabulary. The popular saying that " a language is a dialect with an army and navy " is attributed as a definition formulated by Max Weinreich. Universal grammar takes into account general formal structures and features that are common to all dialects and languages, and the template of which pre-exists in the mind of an infant child. This idea is based on the theory of generative grammar and the formal school of linguistics, whose proponents include Noam Chomsky and those who follow his theory and work. This should not make us think, though, that it is actually any better than any other dialect. As a social practice, discourse embodies different ideologies through written and spoken texts. Discourse analysis can examine or expose these ideologies. Discourse influences genre, which is chosen in response to different situations and finally, at micro level, discourse influences language as text spoken or written at the phonological or lexico-grammatical level. Grammar and discourse are linked as parts of a system. Registers and discourses therefore differentiate themselves through the use of vocabulary , and at times through the use of style too. People in the medical fraternity, for example, may use some medical terminology in their communication that is specialized to the field of medicine. This is often referred to as being part of the "medical discourse", and so on. That is the stage when a language is considered a standard variety, one whose grammatical laws have now stabilised from within the consent of speech community participants, after sufficient evolution, improvisation, correction, and growth. The English language, besides perhaps the French language, may be examples of languages that have arrived at a stage where they are said to have become standard varieties. In some analyses, compound words and certain classes of idiomatic expressions and other collocations are also considered to be part of the lexicon. Dictionaries represent attempts at listing, in alphabetical order, the lexicon of a given language; usually, however, bound morphemes are not included. Lexicography , closely linked with the domain of semantics, is the science of mapping the words into an encyclopedia or a dictionary. The creation and addition of new words into the lexicon is called coining or neologization, [34] and the new words are called

neologisms. However, this is often considered a myth by linguists. The capacity for the use of language is considered by many linguists to lie primarily in the domain of grammar, and to be linked with competence , rather than with the growth of vocabulary. Even a very small lexicon is theoretically capable of producing an infinite number of sentences. Relativity[edit] As constructed popularly through the Sapirâ€"Whorf hypothesis , relativists believe that the structure of a particular language is capable of influencing the cognitive patterns through which a person shapes his or her world view. Universalists believe that there are commonalities between human perception as there is in the human capacity for language, while relativists believe that this varies from language to language and person to person. The 20th century German linguist Leo Weisgerber also wrote extensively about the theory of relativity. Relativists argue for the case of differentiation at the level of cognition and in semantic domains. The emergence of cognitive linguistics in the s also revived an interest in linguistic relativity. Any particular pairing of meaning and form is a Saussurean sign. For instance, the meaning "cat" is represented worldwide with a wide variety of different sound patterns in oral languages , movements of the hands and face in sign languages , and written symbols in written languages. Linguistic patterns have proven their importance for the knowledge engineering field especially with the ever-increasing amount of available data. Linguists focusing on structure attempt to understand the rules regarding language use that native speakers know not always consciously. All linguistic structures can be broken down into component parts that are combined according to sub conscious rules, over multiple levels of analysis. For instance, consider the structure of the word "tenth" on two different levels of analysis. On the level of internal word structure known as morphology , the word "tenth" is made up of one linguistic form indicating a number and another form indicating ordinality. The rule governing the combination of these forms ensures that the ordinality marker "th" follows the number "ten. Although most speakers of English are consciously aware of the rules governing internal structure of the word pieces of "tenth", they are less often aware of the rule governing its sound structure. Linguists focused on structure find and analyze rules such as these, which govern how native speakers use language. Linguistics has many sub-fields concerned with particular aspects of linguistic structure. The theory that elucidates on these, as propounded by Noam Chomsky, is known as generative theory or universal grammar. These sub-fields range from those focused primarily on form to those focused primarily on meaning. They also run the gamut of level of analysis of language, from individual sounds, to words, to phrases, up to cultural discourse. Sub-fields that focus on a grammatical study of language include the following. Stylistic analysis entails the analysis of description of particular dialects and registers used by speech communities. Stylistic features include rhetoric , [37] diction, stress, satire , irony , dialogue, and other forms of phonetic variations. Stylistic analysis can also include the study of language in canonical works of literature, popular fiction, news, advertisements, and other forms of communication in popular culture as well. It is usually seen as a variation in communication that changes from speaker to speaker and community to community. In short, Stylistics is the interpretation of text. Theoretical[edit] One major debate in linguistics concerns the very nature of language and how it should be understood. Some linguists hypothesize that there is a module in the human brain that allows people to undertake linguistic behaviour, which is part of the formalist approach. This " universal grammar " is considered to guide children when they learn language and to constrain what sentences are considered grammatical in any human language. Proponents of this view, which is predominant in those schools of linguistics that are based on the generative theory of Noam Chomsky , do not necessarily consider that language evolved for communication in particular. They consider instead that it has more to do with the process of structuring human thought see also formal grammar. Functional[edit] Another group of linguists, by contrast, use the term "language" to refer to a communication system that developed to support cooperative activity and extend cooperative networks. Such theories of grammar , called "functional", view language as a tool that emerged and is adapted to the communicative needs of its users, and the role of cultural evolutionary processes are often emphasized over that of biological evolution. This is analogous to practice in other sciences: Prescription , on the other hand, is an attempt to promote particular linguistic usages over others, often favouring a particular dialect or " acrolect

". This may have the aim of establishing a linguistic standard , which can aid communication over large geographical areas. It may also, however, be an attempt by speakers of one language or dialect to exert influence over speakers of other languages or dialects see Linguistic imperialism. An extreme version of prescriptivism can be found among censors , who attempt to eradicate words and structures that they consider to be destructive to society. Prescription, however, may be practised appropriately in the teaching of language , like in ELT , where certain fundamental grammatical rules and lexical terms need to be introduced to a second-language speaker who is attempting to acquire the language. Anthropology[edit] The objective of describing languages is often to uncover cultural knowledge about communities. The use of anthropological methods of investigation on linguistic sources leads to the discovery of certain cultural traits among a speech community through its linguistic features. It is also widely used as a tool in language documentation , with an endeavour to curate endangered languages. However, now, linguistic inquiry uses the anthropological method to understand cognitive, historical, sociolinguistic and historical processes that languages undergo as they change and evolve, as well as general anthropological inquiry uses the linguistic method to excavate into culture. In all aspects, anthropological inquiry usually uncovers the different variations and relativities that underlie the usage of language. Sources[edit] Most contemporary linguists work under the assumption that spoken data and signed data are more fundamental than written data. Nonetheless, linguists agree that the study of written language can be worthwhile and valuable. For research that relies on corpus linguistics and computational linguistics , written language is often much more convenient for processing large amounts of linguistic data. Large corpora of spoken language are difficult to create and hard to find, and are typically transcribed and written. In addition, linguists have turned to text-based discourse occurring in various formats of computer-mediated communication as a viable site for linguistic inquiry. The study of writing systems themselves, graphemics , is, in any case, considered a branch of linguistics. Analysis[edit] Before the 20th century, linguists analysed language on a diachronic plane, which was historical in focus. This meant that they would compare linguistic features and try to analyse language from the point of view of how it had changed between then and later. However, with Saussurean linguistics in the 20th century, the focus shifted to a more synchronic approach, where the study was more geared towards analysis and comparison between different language variations, which existed at the same given point of time. At another level, the syntagmatic plane of linguistic analysis entails the comparison between the way words are sequenced, within the syntax of a sentence. For example, the article "the" is followed by a noun, because of the syntagmatic relation between the words. The paradigmatic plane on the other hand, focuses on an analysis that is based on the paradigms or concepts that are embedded in a given text. In this case, words of the same type or class may be replaced in the text with each other to achieve the same conceptual understanding.

Chapter 4 : "Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages: Chim-a-kum" by Myron Eells

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Jeans jacket, love locket, comb in back pocket, and goggles on eye socket 1. Those who come here find themselves bombarded by new expressions, new terms, and new slang. Often these are simply lexical differences between North American English and British English with which Indian English has more terms in common , but sometimes Indians can be surprised when they try to translate a North American English expression into their own languages. Shah related a story about one of her relatives who ran into this problem: I mean, he just came to U. So, he was going to somewhere in Chicago. He was traveling by the train, and he was sitting on the seat somewhere over there. So he made it into Gujarati, so he said, "The sky. Some Indians whose names have similar sounding words in English find U. Americans poking fun at them. One example is A. A friend of mine whose name is Mani was constantly chided by U. So, when he came back, he was wearing this really thick, woolen jacket around, and sporting it around and it was summertime in India. He was walking around with it, and he kept saying, "Your India is so hot! Your India is so hot! It is used by many upper class Indians to show off their status. All of my informants agreed that while many people respect a person for being able to speak English, they also feel that English-speakers are snobbish 1. In fact, using English in the wrong situations can lead to a serious scolding, as B. I am not very familiar with my mother tongue. So I went there, and this was the time I went alone. So I started talking to him in English, and like that fellow got really pissed. He was telling - like he was real mad. It was all for booking of a silly room. All I had to do was get a room" 2. Such reactions mostly depend on the individual attitude of the person one is dealing with. However, it seems that a person is given respect not only for knowing English, but also for knowing when to use it. Indian English as it is spoken between Indians is quite different from what I recorded during the discussions. One obvious reason for this was my presence as an active participant in the discussion, thereby necessitating the use of English in a way that would be understandable to me. Another reason is that there is a predominating preoccupation with many Indians in regard to approximating British English when they are speaking -- particularly when they are conversing with a native North American English or British English speaker. Outright discussions about the correctness of a particular word or usage arose several times during both discussions 1. They cite many examples of words they use in common with the British -- not realizing that when analyzed on deeper linguistic levels, Indian English differs from British English just as much as North American English. The question to raise then is - who really cares what is correct? They are all mutually distinct varieties, and that uniqueness should be valued and appreciated. Ultimately, I think they do. It has been said that Indians have made English into a native language with its own linguistic and cultural ecologies and sociocultural contexts. My informants indicated that in many ways, Indian English is very much their own. Its special functions have engraved English into the cultural life of India, and it is very much a part of the experience of being Indian -- even if one does not speak it. Many Indians feel that the use of English should be actively encouraged because of the many advantages it confers - the greatest of which is its universal character. The Indian writer and philosopher Raja Rao wrote, "Truth, said a great Indian sage, is not the monopoly of the Sanskrit language. Truth can use any language, and the more universal, the better it is. And as long as the English language is universal, it will always remain Indian It would then be correct to say as long as we are Indian -- that is, not nationalists, but truly Indians of the Indian psyche -- we shall have the English language with us and amongst us, and not as a guest or friend, but as one of our own, of our caste, our creed , our sect and our tradition" quoted in Kachru , p. English has changed Indian languages in many ways -- mostly through the incorporation of new words. However, the population of English speakers in India, though socially influential, is a small minority compared to the rest. Also, most of these individuals are conversant in at least one, if not two or three, other languages, and unless the situation necessitates English, they usually

speak in their native language. It seems that multiple languages can function together when they each have their particular domains of use. English is in a slightly more precarious position. Although it has a strong base in the elite class of India and in the general culture, it could easily fall victim to an anti-English movement -- if one ever arose. Public fervor is known to be especially forceful in India, and a skillful leader could use it to create such a movement. Hopefully, this will not happen. Indians have a lot to gain from knowing English, and the world has a lot to gain from Indians knowing English. Some Indians complain that English brings in too much Western thought, but English in India also exports a vast amount of Indian culture and thought to the rest of the world. This increases the diversity of experience that people around the world receive as part of their education. Rather than worrying about whether or not English should be used, people should focus on extending an education to more children which allows them to learn and use English, but which also puts a great emphasis on using and understanding their native languages. I was a fourth-year student majoring in anthropology at the University of Toledo, when I wrote this paper. My mother was very much into Indian philosophy, so I grew up in a rather Vedantically oriented environment. I came to Toledo in the fall of , and that winter, I became friends with Kota Murali Krishna and several other Indian graduate students. Last year, I lived in the same apartment with Kota, S. Singh one of my informants , and Matt Meyers. Americans and two Indians in one apartment, many things about the different ways we spoke were discussed frequently. I am able to read Spanish, I can get by in conversational and written Hindi, and I am minimally acquainted with Arabic. I am presently in the Ph. She grew up in Bombay and attended only English-medium schools. She is currently a graduate student in psychology at the University of Toledo. She grew up in Ahmedabad and attended an English-medium school until fourth standard grade and completed the rest of her education in Gujarati-medium schools. Neha and her family have lived in Chicago for several years. Her native language is Gujarati, and she also speaks English and Hindi. She is an undergraduate pharmacy student at the University of Toledo. Shah was born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on April 4, She grew up in Bombay and attended Gujarati-medium schools until tenth standard, after which she studied in English-medium schools. Her native language is Gujarati, and she also speaks English, Hindi, and Marati. He grew up in Bahrain and studied only in English-medium schools. His native language is Telegu, and he speaks English and Hindi and can understand Tamil. He is currently a masters student in manufacturing management at the University of Toledo. He attended English-medium schools. His native language is Hindi, and he also speaks English. He is a masters student in civil engineering at the University of Toledo. Singh was born in Jamshedpur, Bihar on May 4, He studied in Hindi-medium schools until seventh standard, after which he studied in English-medium schools. He worked for several years as an engineer in India. His native language is Hindi, and he also speaks Bhojpuri and English. He is a masters student in mechanical engineering at the University of Toledo. The first six are from the discussion with Neha, Neha, and S. The last three are from the discussion with B. The excerpts are numbered so that items may be referred to in the text; thus, 2. Singh saying "so much of" in discussion two, excerpt two. This is primarily to provide examples of Indian English actually in use, rather than just reporting the things I was told explicitly. All sorts of languages. It would be, um If the person does not understand in Marati, then we can not speak, we cannot communicate with that guy in a 3 Marati. We use words from other languages also. So it gets mished. But for me, we only speaks in Gujarati, like everything, so We never even used Hindi word also4. Everything is in, like, Gujarati. Take care, and karje is do. Is kar- is it the Gujarati form of karo Hindi: Attitudes towards English speakers in India. The question is - how are people who speak English, um, you know, in India viewed by people who do not speak English in India.

Chapter 5 : Sociolinguistics - Wikipedia

Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages: With Words, Phrases, and Sentences to Be Collected (Classic Reprint) Published April 23rd by Forgotten Books Paperback, pages.

Articles There are 22 major languages in India, written in 13 different scripts, with over dialects. The official Indian languages are Hindi with approximately million speakers and English, which is also widely spoken. In addition, several states in India have their own official languages, which are usually only spoken particular areas. Among them are Bengali 83 million speakers , Telugu spoken by 74 million people and Marathi 72 million speakers. However, standard Hindi, which is based on a colloquial dialect around Delhi, is taught at all schools in India. Languages in North India Hindi is spoken in north and central India. However, there are many dialects in India and Hindi is more like a rubric for different dialects. Whether a regional variation is considered Hindi or a dialect depends solely on social perceptions and not on mutual intelligibility. As a rule, the further the distance between regions in India using Hindi, the harder it will be for speakers to understand each other. The relationships between dialects far away from each other are probably roughly proportional to the relationships of Latin-derived languages, such as French, Spanish and Portuguese. Languages in South India In the south of India there is a greater diversity of languages and you will have difficulties getting along with Hindi. Languages differ even between the important industrial centers Bangalore, Madras and Hyderabad. English proves to be helpful here. However, you may have problems understanding Indian English Hinglish as there are peculiarities in grammar and vocabulary. They are all Dravidian languages and, therefore, share structural aspects. Much of the vocabulary was borrowed from languages such as Hindi, so there are often only different pronunciations and slight shifts in meaning. Indian alphabet Hindi and many Indian languages use the Devanagari alphabet, which was originally used to write Sanskrit. It is written from left to right and can be easily identified by a horizontal bar at the top of each letter. Each letter resembles a single consonant or vowel. Each Devanagari letter is resembled by a Roman character which sounds, more or less, equal to its Devanagari equivalent. Hindi You will also meet people in the north of India saying they speak Urdu. However, Hindi and Urdu are basically the same language. The only main difference is that Hindi uses the Sanskrit-based Devanagari script in contrast to the Perso-Arabic script of Urdu. The vocabulary of both languages is essentially the same. If there is no word for a concept, both will borrow words from either Sanskrit or Persian, respectively. However, speakers of Urdu and Hindi will not encounter communication difficulties in everyday conversations. Hinglish As the name indicates, Hinglish is basically English, but with traces of Hindi. Indian English is derived from British English, though it includes some elements of American English. The main difference between British English and Hinglish is its pronunciation. You will certainly have difficulties understanding Indian English in the beginning, as its pronunciation is strongly influenced by Hindi. Indians tend to stress the pre-last syllables of words, so words as liquidity will be pronounced li-qui-DI-ty, instead of li-QUI-di-ty. Indians also have a hard time pronouncing w and v as distinct letters. Words such as weather and volleyball will be pronounced using one and the same sound somewhere in the middle between w and v. The probably most uncommon construction in Indian English concerns the use of only. It is used to express limitation, just as in British English, but can also be used to emphasize a phrase. In this case, only refers to the entire phrase and stresses its meaning. Another peculiarity in Hinglish is the way of referring to small or insufficient amounts of something. By that, he means whether you have had enough food or not. Although this use of less needs some time to get used to it should be easily comprehensible. A typical example of how Hindi influences Indian English is the way of using the personal pronoun you in plural. You will often hear this expression when there is a need of distinguishing different groups of people, such as foreigners and Indians. Nevertheless, this expression is not meant to be an offense but simply a Hindi concept translated into English. There are far more differences between Indian English and British English than stated here, but most of them are fairly self-explanatory. For example, since family bonds are very

important to Indians you will hear word constructions, such as cousin-brother and cousin-sister. These are used when referring to male or female cousins simply adding gender information through brother and sister. There are also minor changes when it comes to words that are strictly plural words in British English. On the other hand, words, such as scissors, might be singularized. Hindi is not the only factor that has influenced the development of Hinglish. Even though Indians put high value on politesse, many requests, suggestions and advice will be very direct. It is common in India to express urgent requests by repeating a catch word. This will remind the waiter of your order and is not considered rude in India. Suggestions are usually expressed without using the subjunctive, as is common in British English. While you may be tempted to dismiss Hinglish as little more than an underdeveloped and less polite mish-mash of Hindi and English, you might be better off considering it an emerging English dialect. Because of Hinglish, India now boasts more English-speakers than any other country in the world, including the United States!

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