

ACOUSTIC AND PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF HOMOPHONES OF PUNJABI LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

The tonal system of Punjabi language is very different as compared to other languages. For the present study, we have considered 11 homophone pairs spoken by native male speakers in the age group of 15 to 25 years. The acoustic and phonological variations of homophone pair words are analyzed. It has been found that pitch, intensity value for the second word slightly decreases as compared to first word but value of formant I and formant II is nearly the same for each homophone pair except for vowel 'I'. Spectrograms for various homophone pairs have been shown. In case of homophone pairs such as ਘੜਾ (kə'ɾa) ਘੜਾਅ(kə'ɾə), ਹਰਾ (həra) ਹਰਾਅ (həra) etc. ਅ (ə) is not spoken, it is converted to ਆ(a). when we utter ਘੜਾ (kə'ɾa), low tone appears on vowel 'ə' but in utterance of ਘੜਾਅ (kə'ɾə), low tone appears on vowel 'a'. In other words, such as ਹਰਾ (həra) ਹਰਾਅ (həra), ਤਲਾ(təla) ਤਲਾਅ (təla), ਗਲਾ(gəla), ਗਲਾਅ (gəla), appeared as level tone. there is no difference in tone between homophone pairs. In case of homophone pairs such as ਪਾ(pa) ਪਾਹ (pá), ਚਾ (tʃa) ਚਾਹ (tʃá), ਹ (h) is not spoken and appeared as high tone. In case of homophone pairs where conjunct consonant ਚ (h) is used such as (ਕੜੀ(kə'ɾi) ਕੜੀ(kə'ɾi), ਕੋੜਾ(ko'ɾa) ਕੋੜਾ (kó'ɾa), ਕੜ (kə'ɾ) ਕੜ (kə'ɾ), ਪਾੜਾ (pa'ɾa) ਪਾੜਾ (pá'ɾa), it is converted from level tone to high tone.

KEYWORDS: Tone, Punjabi, Acoustic, Phonological, Homophones, Prosody, IPA