

## A NOTE ON POUNCHI PHONOLOGY

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**Abstract:**

The Present paper takes up the Phonological description of Pouchi with focus on the segmental part of the phonological system including consonants, vowels, diphthongs, syllables including their distribution and arrangement in the language.

**Key Words:** Consonants, Consonant Cluster, Pouchi, Syllable & Vowels

**1. Introduction:**

The Pouch area of the state of Jammu and Kashmir presents a wide assortment of linguistic diversity. The languages dialects spoken in this area and along the whole belt include Kashmiri Gojri, Pahari, and Punjabi. Pouchi also known as Prunts or Poonchi, is a dialect of Western Punjabi spoken by the people inhabiting Pouch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Grierson (1919) has placed Pouchi in the North-Eastern cluster of Western Punjabi. After the early sketches published in Bailey's Languages of the Northern Himalayas (1908) and Grierson (1919) it has received very little attention from linguists. It doesn't have any script of its own and uses Arabic or Devnagri script. In this backdrop the present paper aims to provide a description of Pouchi Phonology, wherein a detailed account of Pouchi sounds would be given.

**2. Methodology:**

The data used for the study was collected from the Pouchi speakers settled in Surankote tehsil of Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir state. The data was collected in the months of September and October, 2017. An extensive questionnaire consisting of words and sentences was prepared to elicit the data. The data was collected by using a highly sophisticated voice recorder. The collected data was later transcribed and subjected to analysis.

**3. Analysis:**

As already mentioned the present paper focuses on the aspects of segmental phonology of Pouchi.

**3.1 Segmentals:** The segmental inventory of Pouchi is observed to include 31 Consonants and 13 vowel sounds which are discussed below

**3.1.1 Consonants:** Based on the an analysis of the distribution of consonantal segments, the following table represents the consonant sounds of Pouchi on the basis of their place of articulation, manner of articulation and states of glottis.

Manner of Articulation	Place of Articulation								
		Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	velar	Glottal Stops
Stops	vl.unasp	p			t	ʈ		k	
	vl.asp	p <sup>h</sup>			t <sup>h</sup>	ʈ <sup>h</sup>		k <sup>h</sup>	
	vd.unsap	b			d	ɖ		g	
	vd.asp	b <sup>h</sup>			d <sup>h</sup>			g <sup>h</sup>	
Affricates	vl.unas						tʃ		
	vl.asp						tʃ <sup>h</sup>		
	vd.unas						dʒ dʒdʒdʒ		
	vd.asp								
Nasal		m			n			ŋ	
Trill					r	ɽ			
Lateral					l				
Fricative	vl		f		s		ʃ		h
	vd				z				
Semivowel			v				j		

Table 1: Consonant System of Pouchi

The following table shows the distribution of consonants at initial, medial, and final positions of words, where ever possible

Consonant	Initially	Medially	Finally
p	purnma:ʃi: 'full moon' pathar 'stone' pa:ni: 'water'	kho:pʃi: 'skull' sāpi 'snake' pa:paʃ 'papad'	ta:p 'heat'
/p/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
p <sup>h</sup>	p <sup>h</sup> ul go:bi: 'cauli flower' p <sup>h</sup> e:rje: va:la: 'hawker' p <sup>h</sup> a:ʃna: 'to break'	bap <sup>h</sup> a: 'scab'	.....
/p <sup>h</sup> / phoneme is not found at final position of a word.			
b	būʃa:l 'earth quake'	kumba: 'family'	dʒ i:b 'tongue'

	ba:ɾ 'flood' bula ba:sa: 'valley'	e:kka:ɬabar 'relatives' kobu:tar 'pigeon'	peɟa:b 'urine' ɟɪ la:b 'diarrhoea'
/b/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
b <sup>h</sup>	b <sup>h</sup> ā:ɟɪ a: 'sister's son' b <sup>h</sup> edɟ ina: 'to send' b <sup>h</sup> ā:ɟɪ i: 'sister's daughter'	ba:b <sup>h</sup> i: 'brother's wife' bida:n sab <sup>h</sup> a: 'assembly' əb <sup>h</sup> ine:j 'acting'	.....
/b <sup>h</sup> / phoneme is not found at final position of a word.			
t	ta:p 'heat' təla:b 'pond' təvi: 'river'	re:gista:n 'desert' kudrəti: 'nature' darti: 'world'	re:t 'sand' se:ht 'health' ɬa:t 'ring'
/t/ phoneme is found at all three position of a word.			
t <sup>h</sup>	t <sup>h</sup> uki 'saliva' t <sup>h</sup> a:li: 'plate' t <sup>h</sup> am 'pillar'	pat <sup>h</sup> ar 'rock' ha:t <sup>h</sup> i: 'elephant' mət <sup>h</sup> a: 'forehead'	.....
/t <sup>h</sup> / phoneme is not found at all final position of a word.			
t	ɬaŋana: 'mithun' ɬu:ŋge: 'hip' ɬeɟi: 'stool'	miɬɟi: 'clay' giɟi: 'pebble' bo:ɟi: 'wife'	ko:ɬ 'coat' ɟikaɬ 'ticket' ra:ɟɪ e: na mukaɬ 'crown'
/t/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
t <sup>h</sup>	ɬ <sup>h</sup> āɟi 'cold' ɬ <sup>h</sup> uɟi: 'chin' ɬ <sup>h</sup> o:ɟi 'lip'	ko:ɬ <sup>h</sup> a: 'ceiling' paɬ <sup>h</sup> a: 'brinjal' mulaɬ <sup>h</sup> i: 'liquorice'	ɟɪ e:ɬ <sup>h</sup> 'husband's elder brother' ū:ɬ <sup>h</sup> 'camel' pe:ɬ <sup>h</sup> 'stomach'
/ɬ <sup>h</sup> / phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
d	darti: 'world' do:tra: 'daughter's son' da:di: 'father's mother'	kudrəti: 'nature' badal 'cloud' kho:da: 'eunuch' da:di: 'father's mother'	dā:d 'bull' amru:d 'guava' kuma:d 'sugarcane'
/d/ phoneme is found at all the three positions of a word.			
d <sup>h</sup>	d <sup>h</sup> u:l 'dust' d <sup>h</sup> uvā: 'smoke'	viɟva: 'widow' jud <sup>h</sup> i 'war' ad <sup>h</sup> a: 'half'	sansad <sup>h</sup> 'parliament' aɟirva:d <sup>h</sup> 'blessing'
/d <sup>h</sup> / phoneme is found at all three position of a word.			
ɟ	ɟa:l 'slope' ɟaɟu 'toad' ɟəka:r 'belch'	ɬ <sup>h</sup> āɟi 'cold' munɟa: 'boy' rəndɟi: 'prostitute'	ɟe:ɟ 'one and a half'
/ɟ/ phoneme is found at all the three positions of a word.			
k	kudrəti: 'nature' kohra: 'fog' kūva:ra: 'bachelor'	ɬɟikaɬ 'mud' ləkɟi: 'wood' gaɟkəna: 'thunder'	saɟak 'road' batak 'duck' k <sup>h</sup> urk 'itch'
/k/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
k <sup>h</sup>	k <sup>h</sup> o:da: 'eunuch' k <sup>h</sup> o:ta: 'donkey' k <sup>h</sup> u:n 'blood'	mək <sup>h</sup> i: 'fly' k <sup>h</sup> a:k <sup>h</sup> ā: 'cheek' āk <sup>h</sup> i 'eye' duk <sup>h</sup> na: 'ache'	ɟɪ ð:k <sup>h</sup> 'leech' pa:k <sup>h</sup> 'pus' mulak <sup>h</sup> 'country'
/k <sup>h</sup> / phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
g	gufa: 'cave' giɟi: 'pebble' greh 'planet'	re:gista:n 'desert' agi 'fire' ɬamgiɟaɟ 'bat'	pi:lja: ro:g 'jaundice' ba:g 'garden' as lo:g 'we'
/g/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
g <sup>h</sup>	g <sup>h</sup> usal kha:na: 'bath room' g <sup>h</sup> e:ra: 'fence'	siŋg <sup>h</sup> i 'horn'	.....
/g <sup>h</sup> / is not found at final position of a word.			
m	miɬɟi: 'clay' mo:sam 'weather' mā: 'mother'	ɟɪzəmi:n 'ground' purnma:ɟi: 'full moon' asma:n 'sky'	bu:ɬam 'earth quake' mo:sam 'weather' malham 'ointment'
/m/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
n	ane:ra: 'darkness' ne:ri: 'storm' nu: 'bride'	pa:ni: 'water' munɟa: 'boy' ɟɪ ana:ni: 'female'	re:gista:n 'desert' ɟɪzəmi:n 'ground' asma:n 'sky'
/n/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
ŋ	.....	ɟɪ ŋgal 'forest'	lo:ŋ 'clove'

		pangɨ 'feather' aŋgli: 'finger'	
/ŋ/ phoneme is not found at initial position of a word.			
r	re:gista:n 'desert' re:t 'sand' rəndʒi: 'prostitute'	ane:ra: 'darkness' kudrəti: 'nature' baraf 'ice'	pathar 'stone' dʒ uva:r 'high tide' lehar 'wave'
/r/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
ɫ	.....	a:ɾe: 'ember' gaɾkəna: 'thunder' saɾak 'road'	ba:ɾ 'flood' ʃikaɾ 'mud' gi:daɾ 'jackal'
/ɾ/ phoneme is found only at medial position of a word.			
l	lƏkɾi: 'wood' lehar 'wave' lo:mɟi: 'fox'	təla:b 'pond' pi:li: 'ant' ba:lu: 'bear'	büɟa:l 'earth quake' dʒ i:l 'lake' ɟa:l 'slope'
/l/ phoneme phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
f	faki 'husk' fu:ɾi: 'mat' fo:ɟu: 'picture'	gufa: 'cave' fe:ɟa: 'lung' ka:fi: 'coffee'	baraf 'ice'
/f/ phoneme phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
v	vidʰva: 'widow' vəki:l 'advocate' vja:m 'exercise'	dʒ uva:r 'high tide' təvi: 'river' hava: 'air'	nov 'nine'
/v/ phoneme phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
s	saɾak 'road' səɟ i: 'ash' su:raɟ 'sun'	re:gista:n 'desert' mo:sam 'weather' asma:n 'sky'	sasi 'mother in law' o:s 'dew' ma:s 'flesh'
/s/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
ʃ	ʃe:r 'lion' ʃiri:r 'body' ʃehad 'honey'	purnma:ʃi: 'full moon' pe:ʃa:b 'urine' ʃi:ʃa: 'mirror'	ba:riʃ 'rain' khuʃ 'happiness' danuʃ 'bow'
/ʃ/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
z	.....	be:zti: 'insult'	taraz 'mercy' hava:ʒi: dʒ ahaz 'aeroplane'
/z/ phoneme is not found at initial position of a word.			
dʒ	dʒaŋgal 'forest' dʒi:l 'lake' dʒuva:r 'low tide'	səɟ i: 'ash' bəti:dʒ i: 'brother's daughter' ʃüɟ i 'beak'	su:raɟ 'sun' mara:dʒ 'bridegroom' məri:dʒ 'patient'
/dʒ/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
ɟ	ʃikaɾ 'mud' ʃa:ni 'moon' ʃuva: 'mouse'	büɟa:l 'earthquake' baɟpan 'childhood' biʃu: 'scorpio'	ka:li: maɾɟ 'black pepper' na:ɟ 'dance' ba:d viʃ 'after'
/ɟ/ phoneme is found at all the three positions of a word.			
ɟʰ	ʃʰä: 'shade' ʃʰa:ti 'chest' ʃʰa:la: 'boil'	pəŋɟi: 'bird' maɟɟi 'crocodile' məɟi: 'fish'	pü:ɟʰ 'tail'
/ɟʰ/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
h	har e:k gal 'echo' hava: 'air' hira:n 'deer'	lehar 'wave' kohra: 'fog' məhma:n 'guests'	greh 'planet' bijah 'marriage' mü:h 'face'
/h/ phoneme is found at all three positions of a word.			
j	judʰi 'war' ja:d karna: 'to remember' dʒ a:gi: je:na: 'to wake up' ja: 'or'	pijo: 'father' ta:ja: 'father's brother' bijah 'marriage'	.....
/j/ phoneme is not found at final position of a word.			

Table 2: Initial, Medial and Final Positions of Consonants of Pouchi

**3.1.2 Vowels:** On the basis of the analysis of data Pouchi has 13 vowels which are arranged in the table below

	Front	Mid	Back
High	/i/ /i:/	/i/	/u/ /u:/

Mid	/e/ /e:/	/ə/	/o/ /o:/
Mid Low	/ɛ/		
Low		/a/ /a:/	

Table 3: Vowel System of Pouchi

The following table shows the distribution of vowels of Pouchi at initial, medial and final positions of words wherever possible.

Consonant	Initially	Medially	Finally
/i/	ili 'vulture' imli: 'tamarind' imtiha:n 'examination'	mit̪i: 'clay' re:gista:n 'desert' ʃikaɾ 'mud'	.....
/i:/	ĩ:ʃi 'brick'	ɖʒ əmi:n 'ground' ki:ɾa: 'worm' ɖʒ i:na: 'alive'	səɖʒ i: 'ash' mit̪i: 'clay' kudrəti: 'nature'
/e/	ethē: 'its'	lehar 'wave' greh 'planet' deji: ʃʰo:ɾna: 'to return'	tre 'three'
/e:/	e:kka: ʃabar 'relatives' e:nak 'spectacles' e:ki 'one'	ane:ra: 'darkness' re:gista:n 'desert' re:t 'sand'	a:ɾe: 'ember' ethē: 'its' uthē: 'itself'
/a/	ane:ra: 'darkness' aɣi 'fire' anda: 'egg'	ʃʰāɖi 'cold' ɖʒ aŋgal 'forest' ʃikaɾ 'mud'	.....
/a:/	a:ɾe: 'ember' a:lu: 'potato' a:ri: 'saw'	re:gista:n 'desert' būʃa:l 'earthquake' ba:ɾ 'flood'	gufa: 'cave' ane:ra: 'darkness' ʃʰā: 'shade'
/o/	.....	kohra: 'fog' ɖobri: 'gourd' lovha:r 'black smith'	.....
/o:/	o:s 'dew' o: 'that' o:r 'and'	mo:sam 'weather' kho:ta: 'donkey' lo:mɖi: 'fox'	lo: 'light'
/u/	ullu: 'owl' ũ:ʃʰ 'camel' uparle: ʃʰoɖi 'upper lip'	gufa: 'cave' būʃa:l 'earthquake' kūva:ra: 'bachelor'	ɖaɖu 'toad'
/u:/	.....	dʰu:l 'dust' su:radʒ 'sun' su:r 'pig'	nu: 'bride' ba:lu: 'bear' ullu: 'owl'
/ə/	əbhine:j 'acting' əlmu:nijam 'alluminium' əbrak 'mica'	səɖʒ i: 'ash' ɖʒ əmi:n 'ground' kudrəti: 'nature'	.....
/i/	.....	sipe:ra: 'snake charmer' sita:rā: 'seventeen'	ʃʰāɖi 'cold' aɣi 'fire' sasi 'mother on law'

Table 4: Initial, Medial and Final Positions of Vowels of Pouchi

**3.2 Diphthongs:** A diphthong in phonetics is a gliding vowel in the articulation of which there is a continuous transition from one position to another. It refers to two adjacent vowel sounds occurring within the same syllable. As per the data there is no diphthong observed in this language.

**3.3 Consonant Clusters:** Different types of consonant clusters are found in Pouchi language. Combinations like stop + /r/ is found at the initial place. Different types of clusters involve combination of sibilant + stop, nasal + stop, lateral + stop, stop + stop, affricate + fricative. However, tri-consonant clusters are absent in Pouchi language. Some examples are provided below.

br	bra:nda:	'verandah'
pr	pra:	'brother'
tr	triɖa:	'cockroach'
mb	bamb	'bomb'
vj	vja:m	'exercise'
ɖr	ɖra:ma:	'village show'
sʃ	sʃa:pu:	'hop scotch'
nt	ʃa:nt	'sober'
nd	nana:nd	'sister-in-law'
ht	bo:ht	'many'

**3.4 Syllable Structure:** A syllable is typically made up of a syllable nucleus (most often a vowel) with optional initial and final margins (typically, consonants). Syllables are often considered the phonological "building blocks" of words. Syllables have

internal structure: they can be divided into parts. The parts are onset and rhyme; within the rhyme we find the nucleus and coda. A syllable may or may not have an onset and a coda. In Pouchi syllabification has been done as:

- ✓ Monosyllabic
- ✓ Disyllabic, and
- ✓ Polysyllabic words

**Monosyllabic:**

• V	e:	'this'
• CV	tu:	'you'
• VC	o:r	'and'
• CVC	kun	'who'
• VCV	ut <sup>h</sup> ē:	'at'

**Disyllabic:**

• CV-CV	goɾa:	'horse'
• V-CV	e:ki	'one'
• CV-CVC	naram	'soft'
• CVC-CVC	ho:ʃja:r	'smart'
• CVC-CV	d <sup>h</sup> i:ma:	'week'

**Polysyllabic:**

• V-CV-CV	ila:ka:	'state'
• VC-V-CV	a <sup>h</sup> a:rā:	'eighteen'
• CV-CVC-CV	gilehri:	'squirrel'
• CV-CV-CV	bata:li:	'forty two'
• CV-CV-CV-CV	ʃikaka:ji:	'shikakai'

**4. Conclusion:**

The present paper presented the phonological description of Pouchi with focus on segmental part of the phonological system including consonants, vowels and diphthongs. It is observed that the consonantal system is rich consisting of 31 consonants while as 13 vowels are also present. Pouchi possess double consonant clusters at the word initial and final positions. Medial consonant clusters are absent in the Pouchi language. The present work presents insights and findings which are helpful for further study.

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