A Word-and-Paradigm Analysis of Pluralization of Nouns in Rangri

Raza-E-Mustafa[1]
Behzad Anwar[2]
Shamshad Rasool[3]

Abstract

The present study tries to analyze the pluralization of nouns in Rangri language using the Word-and-Paradigm approach. Rangri is an Indo-Aryan language spoken by mostly the Rajput clans which migrated from the present-day state of Haryana. The study tries to describe, analyze and compare morphological processes of pluralization of nouns in Rangri language with those of Urdu and Punjabi described by Islam(2011) and Iqbal(2016) respectively. The data were collected using the criteria of NORM developed by Chambers and Trudgill (1998) through oral interviews with the Rangri-speaking older men and women from the rural areas of Sanghar, Nawabshah and Matiari districts of Sindh as part of a PhD research. The results showed that while most of the pluralization processes in Rangri are similar to both Urdu and Punjabi, it differs from Punjabi in vocative case forms and from Urdu in oblique and derogatory forms. The present study also proves the efficacy of Word-and-Paradigm morphology in analyzing Rangri language.

Keywords: Rangri Language, Noun Morphology, Pluralization

1. Introduction

The present study tries to analyze the pluralizationprocesses in Rangri nouns. Word-and-Paradigm (commonly called WP) approach to morphological analysis has been used as the theoretical guide for the present study (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010; Blevins, 2013). Along with analyzing the pluralization processes in Rangri nouns, the study also tries to compare the pluralization of Rangri nouns with those of Punjabi nouns (Iqbal, 2016) and Urdu nouns (Mangrio, 2016; Schmidt, 1999).The study uses WP morphology as its theoretical guide due to its advantage in

[1]Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Gujrat, Gujrat

[2]Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Gujrat, Gujrat

[3]Lecturer, Department of English, University of Gujrat, Gujrat

analyzing the morphologically complex agglutinative and fusionalIndo-Aryan languages (Baeur, 2003) like Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi etc.

Rangri is an Indo-Aryan language spoken by the Pakistani communities which migrated from the present-day Indian state of Haryana at the time of partition of the Sub-Continent.It is spoken in the central and southern districts of Pakistani Punjab like Sheikhupura, Gujranwala, Okara, Muzaffargarh etc. and in the interior Sindh regions like Sanghar, Nawabshah, Larkana and Badin districts. The reason this language is not geographically localized in Pakistan is because its speakers were settled all across Sindh and Punjab in 1947 due to administrative reasons. The language shares its roots with a number of Indian languages, most notably Haryanvi, Khari Boli, Bagri and BarjBhasa (Aslam, 2015). Since this language is mostly spoken by the Muslim Rajput Rangar communities (Madan, 1995) which migrated to Pakistan during the partition of India in 1947, the name Rangri is used only on the Pakistani side of the border. The language has its roots associated with Haryanvi language but this name is not used in Pakistan.One possible reason for the non-use of Haryanvi as the name for this language could be that the state of Haryana where this language is chiefly spoken was created in 1966 through Punjab Reorganization Act 1966[1], about 19 years after the partition of the Indian Sub-Continent. Therefore, the Rangar community of Pakistan countinues to call this language as Rangri and considers it as an important marker of their Rangar identity.

Rangri has a number of dialects, most notably Ambalvi and Karnalvi. Both dialects have a very high level of similarities, however, due to the proximity of Ambala with the state of Indian Punbjab, Ambalvi dialect is lexically and morphologically closer to Punjabi and Urdu; whereas, the Karnalvi dialect is lexically and morphologically distinct. The nouns carry slight phonological variations in both languages. The Ambalvi dialect seems to prefer more Urdu/Punjabi nominal roots, whereas, Karnalvi dialect uses Rangri roots. Table 1 shows the differences between the nominal forms of both languages.

---

[1]Reorganization of Punjab Act.Retrieved from http://csharyana.gov.in/WriteReadData/Acts/Re-Organisation/1474.pdf Accessed on April 10, 2016.

Table 1.1: Differences in Ambalvi and Karnalvi Dialects

Words	Ambalvi	Karnalvi
Window	/kʰɪɽki/	/jʰaŋki/
Wall	/kʌŋð/	/kaːŋð/
Cistern	/lota/	/bʌðŋa/
Boy	/tʃokra/	/tʃora/

Table 1.1 shows that the nouns in Ambalvi dialect are closer to Punjabi and Urdu as compared to Karnalvi dialect. The present study uses the Karnalvi dialect due to its lexical and morphological distinctiveness.

Although Rangri hasmore than one hundred thousand speakers in Pakistan (Aslam, 2015), it is hardly ever mentioned in the official documents and census reports. Even one the most respected language catalogues of the world, Ethnologue fails to mention this language as spoken in Pakistan. Such anonymity accorded to a language so widely spoken in a country has forced the researcher to bring it to the notice of the research community by analyzing its morphological structure viz-a-viz the pluralization processes and comparison of its morphology with two of its closest sister languages i.e. Urdu and Punjabi.

Due to the shared ancestry, Rangri is morphological similar to other Indo-Aryan languages like Urdu, Punjabi and Siraiki. Rangri nouns inflect for number, gender and case. The pluralization processes in Rangri are different from Indo-European languages since adjectives and verbs also carry plural markings in most Indo-Aryan languages. Masculine and feminine nouns as well as adjectives take different plural markers. Since Rangri nouns also inflect for case, the plural markers in different cases are also different. The present study tries to analyze the pluralization of masculine, feminine, case and derogatory forms of Rangri nouns using the WP approach and compares them with pluralization in Urdu and Punjabi nouns.

1.1 Objectives
The present study aims to:
1. Analyze the pluralization processes in Rangri nouns
2. Compare the pluralization processes of Rangri nouns with Urdu and Punjabi nouns.

2. Literature Review

Morphology as a field of study has been getting considerable attention of late. A number of studies have been carried out on the morphology of Indo-Aryan languages (Karr, 2009; Ramasamy, 2011; Saad, 2015). Mangrio (2016) has worked on the morphology of loan words in Urdu; Iqbal (2016) and (Muhabat, 2016) have worked on the morphology of Punjabi nouns; Magier (1983) on the morphology of Marwari language; Singh and Agnihotri (1997) on Hindi; Strnad (2013) on Old Hindi and Ramasamy (2011) on Tamil language. However, Rangri, despite being a relatively large language has not received any scholarly attention except a very elementary survey by the author Aslam (2015) that too under the name of Haryanvi. This paucity of research has forced the researcher to analyze the morphology of Rangri pluralization processes and compare them with those of Urdu and Punjabi pluralization processes.

Pluralization is an important morphological process which, along with gender and case marking, comprises the inflectional system of a language. Inflectional morphology has been defined as the "categories of morphology that are sensitive to the grammatical environment in which they are expressed" (Bickel & Nichols, 2001, p.1). Inflectional morphological processes create new word forms in which the word class does not change (Plag, 2002; Bauer, 2003; Booij, 2012).A number of studies have been carried out on pluralization. Pluralization of nouns in Northern Luzon languages has been discussed by Reid (2006);pluralization processes of English and French have been compared by New et al (2004); Arabic pluralization system has been discussed by Boudelaa and Gaskell (2002) and pluralization in Ibibio language have been discussed by Josiah (2004). Most of the researches on case marking and plural marking are concerned with parsing and machine translation (Ramanathan et. al, 2009).However, some descriptive and analytical studies have also been carried out(c.f. Mangrio, 2016; Iqbal, 2016;Boudelaa & Gaskell, 2002; Matthews, 1970). Schmidt (1999) and Mangrio (2016) have studied plural, gender and case markings in Urdu; whereas, Iqbal (2016) and Muhabat (2016) have studied plural markers in Punjabi.

Like most Indo-Aryan languages, Rangri is an agglutinative language. It has two numbers, a singular and plural, which are formed with plural affixes. It may have borrowed some Persian and Arabic plural markers apart from the affixes via Urdu and Punjabi. Mangrio (2016) gives a

detailed description of plural markers in Persian and Arabic loanwords in Urdu. On the one hand the lexical roots borrowed from Persio-Arabic languages also brought the plural markers from those languages, and on the one hand, the native plural markers are also attached with the words borrowed from those two languages. However, while Urdu nouns inflect for number, gender and case (Mangrio, 2016), Rangri nouns also carry a derogatory inflection which is inserted as an infix in certain nouns.

3. Word-and-Paradigm Morphology
The word-based approaches to morphology are more advantageous in morphological analysis as compared to lexeme-based and morpheme-based approaches due to their ability to establish the form-meaning relationship in morphologically complex words where the other approaches fail to account (Stump, 2001; Bauer (2003). The Lexicalist Approach to morphology deals with the derivational morphology, whereas, Word-and-Paradigm approach primarilyfocuses on the inflectional morphology (Bauer, 2003). The WP approach is one of the oldest and the most widely used approaches to morphological analysis (Blevins, 2013) because it treats words as independent units instead of treating them as strings of several divisible units. It is a reaction against the traditional morpheme-based approaches which were too simplistic in considering the words as consisting of a series of separable morphemes. While the morpheme-based approach could work with some morphologically simple languages with little or no inflections, it proved inadequate in analyzing the morphologically complex languages like agglutinative and fusional languages (Bauer, 2003). It fails to account for allomorphy and portmanteau morphs in which one morpheme is realized in different phonological forms (Matthews, 1970).

In WP morphology, the word is taken as the basic unit of analysis despite not being the minimal unit. The word form can be achieved by applying different processes on the lexeme. So, the properties of a word are determined by its position in the paradigm and by its comparison with other word forms in the same paradigm (Bauer, 2003).Other word forms can be achieved through analogy. Since the words are the basic units of analysis and morphemes have no role to perform in it, this approach is also called a-morphous morphology (Anderson, 1992).

This approach offers the advantage of analyzing various morphological irregularities like allomorphy, suppletion and portmanteau morphemes.

For a more detailed account of the WP analysis, seeStump (2001); Bauer (2003) and Haspelmath and Sims (2010).

3.1 Pluralization of Gender Forms

Pluralization of masculine and feminine nouns in Rangri largely follows the patterns of Urdu (Mangrio, 2016) and Punjabi (Iqbal, 2016). In the masculine nouns ending with /ɑ/ sound, the last sound is replaced with /e/ sound. While the nouns ending with other sounds have the same singular and plural forms.

Table 3.1: Plural Paradigm of Rangri Masculine Nouns

Class	Singular	Plural	Gloss
1	*/gʰoɽɑ/*	*/gʰoɽe/*	Horse
2	*/basʌn/*	*/basʌn/*	Utensil

The feminine nouns on the other hand have a wider range of pluralization processes.The feminine nouns ending with /i/ sound take either /jã/ as plural markers; whereas, the feminine nouns ending with other sounds take /ã/ or /vã/ asplural markers. Table 3.1 shows the plural paradigm of feminine nouns in Rangri.

Table 3.2: Plural Paradigm of Rangri Feminine Nouns

Class	Singular	Plural	Gloss
1	*/jʰaŋki/*	*/jʰaŋki-jã/*	Window
2	*/kaːŋð/*	*/kaːŋð-ã/*	Wall
3	*/geŋ/*	*/geŋ-vã/*	Cow
4	*/bʊa/*	*/bʊa/*	Aunt

Table 3.2 shows that the feminine nouns inflect in a number of ways to mark pluralization. Apart from the greater variation in the pluralization among feminine nouns than masculine nouns, the unmarked feminine nouns are also very rare as compared to masculine nouns. These results are consistent with Iqbal's (2016) findings about Punjabi nouns.

3.2 Pluralization of Case Forms

Like other Indo-Aryan languages, Rangri nouns either mark their case inflectionally or through post-positions. Rangri nouns, like Urdu and Punjabi nouns, inflect for three cases i.e. nominative, oblique and vocative. Pluralization of Rangri case forms is slightly different from

Punjabi and Urdu case forms. Table 3 shows the pluralization processes in Rangri masculine case forms.

Table 3.3: Plural Paradigm of Rangri Masculine Case Forms

Class	Nom-Sg	Nom-Pl	Obl-Sg	Obl-Pl	Voc-Sg	Voc-Pl	Gloss
1	*/bʌnða/*	*/bʌnð-e/*	*/bʌnð-e/*	*/bʌnð-jã/*	*/bʌnð-e/*	*/bʌnð-jo/*	Man
2	*/pʌŋgi/*	*/pʌŋgi/*	*/pʌŋgi/*	*/pʌŋgi-jã/*	*/pʌŋgi/*	*/pʌŋgi-o/*	Sweeper

Table 3.3 shows that while Nominative forms in Rangri are similar to both Urdu and Punjabi, there are certain differences in vocative and oblique forms.Rangri is similar to Punjabi but different from Urdu in oblique forms of nouns; whereas, it is similar to Urdu but different from Punjabi in vocative forms. The oblique plural of the word */bʌnða/* is*/bʌnð-õ/* in Urdu, while in Rangri it is */bʌnð-jã/* which is same in Punjabi also.While the vocative form the word*/bʌnða/* is */bʌnð-ja/*in Punjabi, it is */bʌnð-e/*in Rangri which is consistent with Urdu. In class 2 nouns also, the vocative form of the word*/pʌŋgi/* would be */pʌŋgi-a/*in Punjabi, it is unmarked in Rangri like Urdu.

Similarly, the pluralization of feminine case forms also differs from Urdu and Punjabi. Table 4 shows the pluralization Rangri feminine case forms.

Table 3.4: Plural Paradigm of Rangri Feminine Case Forms

Class	Nom-Sg	Nom-Pl	Obl-Sg	Obl-Pl	Voc-Sg	Voc-Pl	Gloss
1	*/masi/*	*/masi-ã/*	*/masi/*	*/masi-ã/*	*/masi/*	*/masi-o/*	Aunt
2	*/geŋ/*	*/geŋ-vã/*	*/geŋ/*	*/geŋ-vã/*	*/geŋ/*	*/geŋ-võ/*	Cow

Table 3.4 shows that while most of the case forms for the singular feminine nouns do not show any variations, the plural forms show considerable variation mainly due to the fact that feminine plurals have greater variation in Rangri (See Table 3.2). Like their masculine counterparts, the Rangri feminine nouns carry similarities as well as differences with both Urdu and Punjabi feminine nouns.

3.3 Pluralization of Derogatory Forms
Some Rangri nouns inflect to mark derogation. The derogatory inflection is present in Punjabi but is absent in Urdu. The following table shows the pluralization of Derogatory infections in Rangri.

Table 3.5: Plural Paradigm of Derogatory Inflections in Rangri

Class	Noun	Der-sg	Der-pl	Gloss
1	*/godɑ/*	*/godɽa/*	*/godɽe/*	Knee
2	*/bʊdʰi/*	*/bʊdʰɽi/*	*/bʊdʰɽi-ã/*	Old Woman

The derogatory inflection, most commonly */ɽ/* is inserted before the terminal vowel sound and all nouns do not carry derogatory inflections. Only some nouns (both masculine and feminine) ending with vowel sounds i.e. */a/* or */i/*carry the derogatory inflection. While Punjabi clearly has the derogatory inflection, Urdu does not. The following table shows the complete paradigm schema of pluralization of Rangri nouns.

Table 3.6: Paradigm Schema of Rangri Noun Plurals
MASCULINE:

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	*/tʃɑtʃa/*	*/tʃɑtʃ-e/*
Oblique	*/tʃɑtʃe/*	*/tʃɑtʃ-jã/*
Vocative	*/tʃɑtʃe/*	*/tʃɑtʃ-jo/*
Derogatory	*/tʃɑtʃɽa/*	*/tʃɑtʃ-ɽe/*

FEMININE

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	*/tʃɑtʃi/*	*/tʃɑtʃi-ã/*
Oblique	*/tʃɑtʃi/*	*/tʃɑtʃi-ã/*
Vocative	*/tʃɑtʃi/*	*/tʃɑtʃi-jõ/*
Derogatory	*/tʃɑtʃɽi/*	*/tʃɑtʃɽi-ã/*

4. Conclusion

Morphologically, Rangri stands between Urdu and Punjabi. It shares some features with Punjabi and some with Urdu. It is similar to Punjabi in the pluralization of oblique case forms of noun and derogatory inflections. It also shares certain features with Urdu i.e. pluralization of vocative forms. However, it differs from Punjabi in the pluralization of vocative case forms and from Urdu in the pluralization of oblique forms and derogatory inflection. Rangri is otherwise similar to both of the languages in most of the pluralization processes of its nouns. The Word-and-Paradigm approach helps in resolving the morphological complexities and this type of analysis is consistent and convenient for Indo-Aryan languages in general and for Rangri in particular.

References

Anderson, S. R. (1992). *A-Morphous morphology*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Aslam, M. (2015).*A Case Study of Haryanvi Language in Pakistan*. A thesis submitted to University of Management and Sciences, Lahore.

Bauer, L. (2003). *Introducing Linguistic Morphology.*(2nd Ed.). Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Bickel, B. and Nichols J. (2001).Inflectional Morphology.In T. Shopen [ed.] *Language typology and syntactic description*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Blevins, J. P. (2013). Word-based morphology from Aristotle to modern WP. In K. Allan (ed.). *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Linguistics*.OUP, Ch. 16: 375–396.

Booij, G. (2012). *The grammar of words: An introduction to linguistic morphology*. Oxford University Press.

Boudelaa, S. and Gaskell, G. (2002).A re-examination of the default system for Arabic plurals.*Language and Cognitive Processes*, 17 (3), 321–343

Frank, W. J. (1999). *Nuer Noun Morphology*. A thesis submitted to State University of New York. Buffalo.

Humayoun, M., Hammarström, H. and Ranta, A. (2007).Implementing Urdu Grammar as Open Source Software - extended abstract. For the tutorial given at *Conference on Language and Technology*, University of Peshawar, Pakistan.

Iqbal, M. (2016).*The Morphology of Punjabi Noun: An OT Analysis*. A thesis submitted to University of Gujrat, Gujrat.

Josiah, U.E. (2004). Patterns of Pluralization in Ibibio. A Paper Presented at the 11th Biennial Conference of Modern Languages Association of Nigeria, Nigeria French Language Village, Ajara, Badgry, Lagos State, At Ajara, Badgry, Lagos State

Kar, S. (2009). *The syllable structure of Bangla in Optimality Theory and its application to the analysis of verbal inflectional paradigms in Distributed Morphology* (Doctoral dissertation, Universität Tübingen).

Madan, T. N. (1995).*Muslim communities of South Asia: culture, society, and power*. University of Michigan Press.

Magier, D. S. (1983).*Topics in the Grammar of Marwari.* A thesis submitted to University of California, Berkeley.

Mangrio, R. A. (2016). *The Morphology of Loanwords in Urdu: The Persian, Arabic and English Strands*. New Castle: Cambridge Scholars Publishers.

Matthews, P.H. (1970). Recent Developments in Morphology.In J. Lyons (ed.) *New Horizons in Linguistics*. Harmondsworth: Pelican.

Muhabat, F. (2016).*Exocentric Compounds in Punjabi: An OT Analysis*. A thesis submitted to University of Gujrat.

New, B. Brysbaert, M., Segui, J., Ferrand, L. and Rastle, K. (2004).The processing of singular and plural nouns in French and English.*Journal of Memory and Language*. 51, 568–585.

Ramanathan, A., Choudhary, H., Ghosh, A. and Bhattacharyya, P. (2009). Case markers and morphology: Addressing the crux of the fluency problem in EnglishHindi SMT. In*Proceedings of the Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 4th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing of the Asian Federation of Natural Language Processing*. Pages 800–808, Suntec, Singapore.

Ramasamy, M. D. (2011). *Topics in the morphophonology of standard spoken Tamil (SST): an optimality theoretic study*.

Reid, L. A. (2006). Human noun pluralization in Northern Luzon languages.In *Streams converging into an ocean*.ed. By Henry Chang, Lillian M. Huang and Dah-an Ho, 49-70. Language and Linguistics Monograph Series, No.W-5. Taipei: Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica.

Schmidt, R. L. (1999). *Urdu: An Essential Grammar*. London: Routledge.

Singh, R. and Agnihotri, R.K. (1997).*Morphology of Hindi: A Word-based Description*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.

Strnad, J. (2013). *Morphology and Syntax of Old Hindi*. Boston: Brill.

Stump, G.T. (2001).*Inflectional Morphology: A Theory of Paradigm Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Zwicky, A.M. (1992). Some choices in the theory of morphology, in R. D. Levine (ed.), *Formal Grammar: Theory and Implementation*, 327–71, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.