Linguistic Analysis of Santhali

Sathisha.M[1], Assistant Professor, Division of Languages, School of Life Sciences, JSS AHER

Mysuru – 570015

Anand.V[2], Assistant Professor, Division of LanguagesSchool of Life Sciences, JSSAHER,

Mysuru – 570015

N. Kutty[3],Rita N Kutty, Assistant Professor, JSSAHER School of Life Sciences

Ooty– 643001

Dr. U. Shobha[4],Assistant Professor, PG Department of English, JSS College of Arts, Commerce

and Science, Ooty Road, Mysore - 570025

Lakshmisha P R[5], Assistant Professor of English, Government First Grade College, Hirisave

Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District - 572123

Abstract:

This paper is an attempt to highlight the minority status of the Santhali language, even though it was the first Indian tribal language to have its own script in the Wikipedia edition.At the turn of the 21st century there were approximately 6 million speakers of Santali, some 4.8 million of whom lived in India more than 150,000 in Bangladesh, and about 40,000 in tea districts in Nepal.(Anderson,2011). Though the language has its own Ol Chiki script, many Santhali tribal students do not have the option of studying Santhali in the secondary or higher secondary level, the reason being the lack of trained teachers and also due to lack of employment opportunities. Many Santhali tribal students even discontinue their studies due to these reasons. A lot still needs to be done till the Santhali language is treated on par with other scheduled Indian languages like Bengali, Oriya, Assamese etc.

Keywords: Santhali, Ol Chiki, digital platform.

Objectives:

- To understand about the origin of Ol Chiki, the official script of the Santhali.
- To have an overview of the grammatical rules of Santhali.

- To understand the never-ending struggle for existence of Santhali speakers in India

- To highlight the importance of the efforts that can be taken by the State and Central Governments to increase the presence of Santhali in the digital media space.

Research Methodology:

For the purpose of the study, secondary data analysis of research papers, news articles and websites were done. Books on Indegenous tribes and the tribal languages of India were also studied, to get a deep insight and understanding on the topic.

I. Introduction

Santhali is the most popular and widely spoken Austro Asiatic language of Jharkhand. It is used by the Santhal tribals living in the districts of Dumka, Devgarh, Goddha, Pakud and Sahebganj. It is also used by the Santhal tribals living in the borders of West Bengal and Odisha. Santhali has been divided into north and south regions. Like other Austro-Asiatic languages of Jharkhand, the ancient script of Santhali has also vanished. The script being used for present day Santhali language is Ol Chiki. Ancient folk literature has also been compiled in this script, along with 20th century elegant literature as well.(Singh, P.K et al., 2015).

II. Origin

The origin of the name "Santhali"has been given different interpretations. Sir, Max Mueller had grouped Santhali language under the "Munda – Dravid" group. Later, George Campbell used the word "Colriyan ", Sir Frederick used the word "Kolmunda ", Sir Thomson used the word "Kherwad"in their works. According to the opinion of Sir Skrefursrood, the word Santad was first used in the Shilda subdivision (taluk) called as *Santbhum*. The word was originally used as *Sothhod.* Over a period of time, it came to be known as *Santhal.* According to W. B. Olham, the word *Santhal* is a synonym for *similarity*. In reality, the word Santhal has originated from Santh or Sadhu (monk).(Singh, P.K et al., 2015).

III. States and countries where Santhali is spoken

The second most populated community in Bangladesh are the Santhals.The districts where the Santhals reside are Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Chapai Nawabganj and Borgra, in the north-

western region of Bangladesh. The largest population of Santhals live in Jharkhand state of India (Ali, 1998; Cavallaro and Rahman, 2009; Ahmed, 2010). Santhali language is grouped under the Eurasian language family that is Austroasiatic language family. This language is spoken by the Santhal tribes. These tribals are related to the Protoastroloid tribal family. This language is spokenin Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Assam. It is also spoken in the neighbouring countries of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. In India, Santhali is spoken by nearly 1 crore people. Among scheduled tribes in India, Santhali tribes have got the highest population. This language was included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution on 20[th]December, 2003. (Abdul,2020).

IV. Script

A system of writing adapted to a particular language is known as its script. In the main area of reading and writing, the scripts of Bangla, Roman, Hindi, Oriya, and the new script "Olchik"are being used as the script for the Santhali literature. Pandith Raghunath Murmu created the Santali script in the 1930's. This script is known as 'Ol Cemet', 'Ol Chiki', or simply 'Ol'. Pandit Raghunath Murmu, a renowned Indian educationist. He made tremendous efforts to promote Santali culture (Lotz, B,2004; Carrin, 2008).

The Santali Script uses thirty letters and five basic diacritics, and includes six basic and three additional vowels. the Roman alphabet was established as the preferred script for Santali during the British rule. (Cavallaro & Rahman, 2009). The first alphabet of Santali language was created by a Norwegian Missionary and linguist whose name was Paul Olaf Bodding. [3]The Santali script uses thirty letters and five basic diacritics, and includes six basic and three additional vowels. From the linguistic point of view, Devanagari script is considered sufficient for the Santhali language. Words in Devanagari script are written in the same manner as they are spoken and pronounced. Since Devanagari script is widely used for publishing literary works in Hindi, the national language, it is consideredideal to be used as the script for Santhali language. For literary progress and study of Santhali language, Devanagari script   has been used by maximum number of people.

V. Grammatical rules of the Santhali language:

Given below are some grammatical rules of the Santhali language which make it a unique language in its own right.(Singh, P.K et al., 2015).

5.1 Santhali language is a summative language. While constructing sentences in Santhali, it is essential to join the relational element.

5.2   In sentences in the Santhali language, the position of the verb is very important. This has been illustrated in the example given below:

Table 1[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Jomang	Main khana khaoonga.	I will be having food now.

In the above Santhali word "Jomang", "Jom" is the verb and translated to English means having food.

5.2 In the Santhali language, the suffix "ya, "ye ", "ey", is used for descriptive nouns. But these suffixes are not used for non-descriptive nouns. The distinction between male and female is accomplished by prioritising the descriptive and non-descriptive nouns.

5.3 While constructing sentences, there is a continuous change in the order of words. This is because there is no definite place for words in the sentences. The meaning remains the same even though the words are interchanged. This is illustrated by the following examples:

Table 2[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Ram dakay joma.	Ram khana khayega.	Ram will have his food now.
2.	Jomay Ram daka.	Ram khana khayega.	Ram will have his food now.
3.	Daka jomay Ram.	Ram khana khayega.	Ram will have his food now.

5.5 Santhali language gives importance to affixes. This affix can be placed in any position that is before, middle or after the word. There are three types of affixes in the Santhali language:

5.5.1 Prefix:

Table 3[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Kheyal	Mat	Opinion
2.	Okheyal (prefix "o" has been added).	Jiska koi mat nahin.	One who has no opinion.

5.5.2 Infix

Table 4[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Manjhi	Eek Maasi	One aunt
2.	Mafjhi (infix "f "has been added).	Kayi maasiyan	Several aunts.

5.5.3 Suffix

Table 5[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Mota	Mota	Fat
2.	Motayich (the suffix "yich"has been added)	Bohut mota vyakti	A very fat person

5.6. In the Santhali language, unlike Hindi, verb remains the same for both masculine and feminine genders. The same verb is used for male and female, living and non-living objects.

Table 6^2

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Latha chala kanay	Latha ja rahi hai	Latha is going.
2.	Suraj chala kanay.	Surajja rahahai.	Suraj is going.
3.	Gaadi chala kana.	Gaadi ja rahi hai.	The vehicle is going.
4.	Hod ye chala kana	Aadmi ja raha hai.	The man is going.

Thus,in the Santhali language. the word"gaadi ", assumes feminine "rahi"verb in Hindi, whereas it remains the same, that is "chala ", and not the feminine "chali", in Santhali. Thus, unlike Hindi, there is no change in the gender of the verb in the Santhali language. Latha and Dinu assume the feminine and masculine verbs,"rahi"and"raha", respectively in Hindi, whereas in Santhali, the verb "chala", is the same for both Latha and Dinu in Santhali.

5.8. Importance is given to the verb in the Santhali language. The place, state, shape, type etc. is indicated through the verb. Thus, the verb "katna"in Hindi which means to cut in English has different names in the Santhali language.

Table 7^2

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Geth	Ghas katna	To cut grass
2.	Geyr	Daanth se katna	To cut with the teeth
3.	Samah	Mitti katna	To cut the earth(with a spade)
4.	Iir	Dhaan katna	To cut grains
5.	Maah	Ped katna	To cut a tree
6.	Kattav	Katna	To cut

5.9. Santhali language contains glottal checkin pronunciation of its words. Examples are given below.

Table 8[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Yatha – da	Paani	Water
2.	Mah	Katna	To cut

5.10 There are several nouns related to nature in the Santhali language. Thus, Santhali language is also known as a naturalistic language.

5.11. The Santali tribes do not have the four castes of Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra created by Manu, in their society. Before the advent of Manu Smrithi, Austric or Aagney tribes lived in India. Santhalis call themselves as "Kherwal"or"Hodd". This is the reason why the words "Kherwal"and"Hodd"are used multiple times in the Santhali language.

VI. Contribution of Pandit Raghunath Murmu; the Father of Santhali Script

For several centuries, Roman, Bengali, Devnagari, Oriya was extensively used for writing Santhali. It was for this reason that some highly respected and eminent Santhals felt that a new script was required. The script would not be the Devnagiri script but an independent script which the Santhals could call their own and be proud of. A man from Rairangpur of Odisha, Pandit Raghunath Murmu devised the Santhal's own script "Ol Chiki "in 1925. During his time, authors from Bengal were using Bengali script, authors from Odisha were using Oriya script, authors from Bihar (Jharkhand State was not built then) were using Devnagari script. This was creating confusion between the Santhals of these different regions. In order to have uniformity among the Santhals of India, Pt. Raghunath Murmu devised an independent script of the Santhals. (Mandi, S&Biswas, S,2016)

Pt Raghunath Murmu was born on 5th May1905, at Dahardihi village, near Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district**.** Darege Dhan", **"**Sidhu-Kanhu"**, "**Bidu Chandan**" and "**Kherwal Bir**"** are among the most acclaimed of his works.He is popularly known as *GURU GOMKE* among the Santals, a title that was conferred on him by the Mayurbhanj Adibasi Mahasabha. Besides the

Govt of West Bengal and Orissa, several other organizations/associations including Orissa Sahitya Academy have honoured him in various ways and Hon D. Litt**.** was conferred on him by Ranchi University. The great thinker, philosopher, writer, and dramatist breathed his last breath on 1st February, 1982. (Murmu, N.C& Hansdah R.C, 2000).

After the invention of Ol Chiki, the writing script for Santhali, people from the Santhal community were finally united under a common script. Unfortunately, since Santhali was a tribal language and a linguistic minority, the Government did not pay much attention to Santhali.

Although the Ol Chiki script came into existence in 1925, it was only after a struggle of several decades, by some associations like 'Aboah Gaonta', 'Santali Literary and Cultural Society', 'Adibasi Socio Educational and Cultural Association' that finally in 1978, Ol Chiki was approved as the official script of the Santhal by the Central Government of India.

The Government of West Bengal started training some teachers to teach in Ol Chiki. In 1977, Visva-Bharati University of Kolkata made arrangements for learning Santhali.

However, from its long marching struggle the Santali language movement has already

reached a turning point, where it has got some fruitful assurances from the State Government

of Orissa and now it is waiting for its further chances. The past and present tendency of this movement clearly shows the fact that, it willcontinue till the end has not been achieved.

VII. Glossary of words in Santhali

7.1. Names of days of the week

Table 9[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Singemaha	Ravivar	Sunday
2.	Ootheymaha	Somvar	Monday
3.	Baleymaha	Mangalwaar	Tuesday
4.	Sagunmaha	Budhvar	Wednesday
5.	Saardimaha	Guruvar	Thursday
6.	Jaarummaha	Shukravar	Friday
7.	Haapta	Saptah	Week

7.2 Names of seasons

Table 10[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Raabadh	Jada	Winter
2.	Sithudh	Garmi	Summer
3.	Lolohoy	Garam hawa	Hot wind
4.	Reyadhhoy	Thandi hawa	Cold wind

7.3 Names of colours

Table 11[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Hende	Kaala	Black
2.	Aarah	Laal	Red
3.	Pundh	Safed	White
4.	Haaryadh	Hara	Green

7.4 Nature related words

Table 12[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Ooth	Dharthi	Earth
2.	Serma	Aakash	Sky
3.	Khongor	Gufa	Cave
4.	Buru	Pahad	Hill
5.	Litiaa	Indradhanush	Rainbow
6.	Disom	Desh	Country
7.	Aatu	Gaav	Village

8.	Dhharthi	Pruthvi	Earth
9.	Gahna	Graham	Eclipse
10.	Aahaar	Talaab	pond

7.5 Names of organs

Table13[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Hodhmo	Sharir	Body
2.	Boho	Sir	Head
3.	Deya	Peeth	Back
4.	Jil	Maas	Flesh
5.	Haarta	Twacha	Skin
6.	Raama	Nakhun	Nails
7.	Moka	Bhuja	Shoulder
8.	Jaanga	Pair	Leg
9.	Chupi	Poonch	Tail
10.	In	Kaleja	Liver

7.6 Words related to Mathematics

Table 14[2]

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Ale	Sankhya	Number
2.	Elkha	Ankganith	Arithmetic
3.	Bheged	Ghatav	Subtraction
4.	Geylel	Dahayi	Ten
5.	Bijod	Asimith	Unlimited
6.	Kukali	Prashn	Question
7.	Sun	Shunya	Zero

8.	Khatote	Sankshipth	Brief
9.	Pendas	Tribhuj	Triangle
10.	Pundas	Chaturbhuj	Quadrilateral

7.7 Words related to ornaments and clothes

Table 15^2

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Goyna	Aabhushan	Ornament
2.	Batri	Pair ki anguthi	Toe ring
3.	Sakom	Chudi	Bangle
4.	Lugadi	Kapda	Cloth
5.	Gamcha	Tauliya	Towel
6.	Dahandi	Pagdi	Turban
7.	Lipur	Ghungru	Anklets
8.	Mudam	Haath ki anguthi	Ring
9.	Sadi	Sadi	Sari
10.	Paandhaad	Oodhni	Dupatta

7.8 Words related to diseases

Table 15^2

S. No.	Santhali	Hindi	English
1.	Khu	Khaansi	Cough
2.	Haasu	Dard	Pain
3.	Ghaav	Ghaav	Injury
4.	Ruva	Jwar	Fever
5.	Maada	Sardi	Cold
6.	Basantho	Chechak	Chicken pox
7.	Pilha	Piliya	Jaundice

8.	Mirgi	Mirgi	Epilepsy
9.	Laayachhaasu	Pet dard	Stomach pain
10.	Babath	Kuali	Itching

VIII. Inclusion of Santhali in the 8ᵗʰ Schedule Indian Constitution:

There are 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule in the Constitution of India and these are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.(Abdul,2020).From the 22 languages above, the following scripts of the Indian languages are not yet represented on the Indian Currency Note: Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Santhali, and Sindhi. A huge number of people speak Santhali in West Bengal. The Government of West Bengal has taken various steps for the Santhali and Santhali speaking people of the state in respect of the other Indian states like Odisha, Jharkhand and Assam where the Santhal population is quite high. After West Bengal, the other states have also started working on the development of the language as well. As a result of rigorous movements and agitations showed by organizations like Adibasi Socio Educational and Cultural Association and 'Santali Literary and Cultural Society' the Santhali Language made its place in the Eighth Schedule in the Indian Language Family on 22nd December, 2003. (Mandi, S&Biswas, S,2016)

After Ol Chiki was first approved in 1979 as the official script of the Santhali language, necessary steps were taken to educate Santhal children with the help of their mother tongue at the primary stage by the Government of West Bengal. Many Santhali medium schools in primary level in different districts of West Bengal, such as, Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Paschim Medinipur and Coochbehar have been set up. Text books have been drafted accordingly. The Department of Regional and Tribal Languages of Ranchi University offers M.A. studies in Santali, among nine other tribal languages, and presents a detailed and thoughtfully prepared syllabus.(Mishra, K.A,2016).

In order to increase the presence of Santhali in the digital media spacethe Governmentshould fundprojects for the digital inclusion of Santhal as well as other indigenous languages. Updates on these projects be done on regular intervals so that these projects are executed within a given time frame. In addition, current affairs, cultural history, literature, folk tales, folk songs, lifestyle

of the Santhal community can be showcased on multimedia platforms like You Tube, Instagram and Facebook in order to widen the use of Santhali language. In this way Santhali can become more accessible to the tech savvy younger generation of the Santhal community. More Educational, social and economic content (such as related to agriculture, fish breeding etc.) should be made available in the Ol Chiki script so that it is functionally useful to the Santhal community.

IX. Conclusion:

The never-ending strugglefor existence of the Santhali language is far from over. The problem of regional disparities should be abolished by making the language standardized. Although there are many students who want to learn Santhali, the lack of trained teachers is jeopardising the whole process. Though the Government of West Bengal has made various steps to promote Santhali as well as Ol Chiki, this is not enough as there is no state-of-the-art infrastructure to teach and develop the language in Ol Chiki. Unfortunately, job opportunities by learning Santhali and Ol Chiki is also very low.(Mishra, K.A,2016).

Thus, the importance of including Santhali in the digital space has to come as a motivation to save many such indigenous languages that are on the brink of extinction.

References

1. Anderson,G.D.S(2011,Jan19).*SanthaliLanguage*.Britanicca.https://www.britannica.com/topic/Santali-language.

2. Devy, G.N., Gupta R., & Singh P.K. (2015). Santhali Bhasha. In Tudu, M& Skeffasrod, L. O (Eds.), *Bhartiya Bhasha Lok Sarvekshan -Jharkhand Ki Bhashayen* (Volume13, Part1., pp. 260). The Orient Blackswan.

3. Cavallaro, F., &Rehman, T (2009). The Santhals of Bangladesh.*The Linguistics Journal, SpecialEd,*192-220.

4. Lotz, B (2004) Promoting Tribal Languages in Education: A Case Study of Santali in Orissa.*JournalofSocialSciences*,8(2),129-142.
   https://doi.org/10.1080/09718923.2004.11892409

5. Mandi, S& Biswas S. (2016). Santhali: A never ending struggle for existence. *South -Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*,3(2),118-132.

6. Murmu, N.C&Hansdah, R.C. (2019, November 11). *A Portal forSanthals*.https://wesanthals.tripod.com/id45.html.

7. Abdul. (2020, March20). *EighthScheduleof the Indian Constitution*.https://factly.forumias.com/eighth-schedule-of-the-indian-constitution.

8. Mishra, K.A. (2016). Ol Chiki Santali Script Dwindling Prestige of the Regional Languages in a Wider Context of Educational Reforms. *SSRN Electronic Journal,*1-18.doi: 10.2139/ssrn.2722488