

Dogri language

Not to be confused with Dogrib language.

Dogri (डोगरी or ڈوگری) is an Indo-Aryan language spo-



Areas in India and Pakistan where Dogri and related dialects are spoken

ken by about five million people^[3] in India and Pakistan, chiefly in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, but also in northern Punjab, other parts of Jammu and Kashmir, and elsewhere.^[4] Dogri speakers are called Dogras, and the Dogri-speaking region is called Duggar.^[5] Since Kashmiri, Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi are spoken in a region that has witnessed significant ethnic and identity conflict, all have been exposed to the dialect-versus-language question. Each of these languages possesses a central standard on which its literature is based, and from which there are multiple dialectal variations. At various times, Dogri and Himachali have been claimed to be dialects of Punjabi. Similarly, some Western Pahari languages (such as Rambani) have been claimed to be dialects of Kashmiri.^{[6][7]} Dogri is a member of the Western Pahari group of languages.^[6] The language is referred to as Pahari (पहाड़ी or پهاڑی) in Pakistan. Unusually for an Indo-European language, Dogri is tonal,^[8] a trait it shares with other Western Pahari languages and Punjabi.

1 Script

Dogri was originally written using the Takri script,^[6] which is closely related to the Sharada script employed by Kashmiri^[6] and the Gurmukhī script used to write Punjabi. It is now more commonly written in Devanāgarī in India, and in the Nasta'liq form of Perso-Arabic in Pak-

istan and Pakistani-administered Kashmir.

2 Some common words

3 Tonality

Western Pahari languages, Punjabi and Punjabi dialects are frequently tonal, which is very unusual for Indo-European languages (although Swedish and Norwegian are tonal also).^[9] This tonality makes it difficult for speakers of other Indo-Aryan languages to gain facility in Dogri,^[8] though native Punjabi speakers (especially speakers of Northern dialects such as Hindko and Mirpuri) may find it easier to make the transition. Some common examples are shown below.

4 Historical references

The Greek astrologer Pulomi, accompanying Alexander in his 323 B.C. campaign into the Indian subcontinent, referred to some inhabitants of Duggar as “a brave Dogra family living in the mountain ranges of Shivalik.”^[10] In the year 1317, Amir Khusro, the famous poet of Hindi and Persian, referred to Duger (Dogri) while describing the languages and dialects of India as follows: “*Sindhi-o-Lahori-o-Kashmiri-o-Duger.*”^{[11][12]}

5 Theories on name origin

Intellectuals in the court of Maharaja Ranbir Singh s/o Gulab Singh of Jammu and Kashmir, described 'Duggar' as a distorted form of the word 'Dwigart,' which means “two troughs,” a possible reference to the Mansar and Sruinsar Lakes.^[13]

The linguist George Grierson connected the term 'Duggar' with the Rajasthani word 'Doonger,' which means 'hill,' and 'Dogra' with 'Dongar.'^[13] This opinion has lacked support because of the inconsistency of the ostensible changes from Rajasthani to Dogri (essentially the question of how Doonger became Duggar while Donger became Dogra), and been contradicted by some scholars.^[14]

Yet another proposal stems from the presence of the word 'Durger' in the Bhuri Singh Museum (in Chamba, Hi-

machal Pradesh). The word Durgar means 'invincible' in several Northern Indian languages, and could be an allusion to the ruggedness of the Duggar terrain and the historically militarized and autonomous Dogra societies. In Himachal, Dogri is majorly spoken in Una, Chintpurni, Kangra, and Bilaspur regions.

In 1976, the experts attending the Language Session of the 'All India Oriental Conference' held in Dharwar, Karnataka could not reach consensus on the 'Dwigart' and 'Durgar' hypotheses, but did manage agreement on a Doonger-Duggar connection. In a subsequent 'All India Oriental Conference' held at Jaipur in 1982, the linguists agreed that the culture, language and history of Rajasthan and Duggar share some similarities. It was also suggested that the words 'Duggar' and 'Dogra' are common in some parts of Rajasthan. Specifically, it was asserted that areas with a large number of forts are called Duggar, and their inhabitants are accordingly known as Dogras. The land of Duggar also has a large number of forts, which may support the opinion above. An article by Dharam Chand Prashant in the literary magazine Shiraza Dogri suggested that "the opinion that the word 'Duggar' is a form of the word 'Duggarh' sounds appropriate."^[15]

The Turkish *Döger* is also the name of a Turkmen Oğuz tribe originating in Central Asia and also found amongst the Kurds. In Turkey one of the towns named after them can be written as Doker, Duger, Döker and Düğer.

6 Recent history

Further information: Punjabi dialects

In modern times, a notable Dogri translation (in the Takri script) of the Sanskrit classic mathematical opus *Lilavati*, by the noted mathematician Bhaskaracharya (b. 1114 AD), was published by the Vidya Vilas Press, Jammu in 1873.^[16] As Sanskrit literacy remained confined to a few, the late Maharaja Ranbir Singh had the *Lilavati* translated into Dogri by Jyotshi Bisheshwar, then principal of Jammu Pathshala.^[17]

Dogri has an established tradition of poetry, fiction and dramatic works. Recent poets range from the 18th-century Dogri poet Kavi Dattu (1725–1780) in Raja Ranjit Dev's court to Professor Ram Nath Shastri and Mrs. Padma Sachdev. Kavi Dattu is highly regarded for his *Barah Massa* (Twelve Months), *Kamal Netra* (Lotus Eyes), *Bhup Bijog* and *Bir Bilas*.^[18] *Shiraza Dogri* is a Dogri literary periodical issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, which is a notable publisher of modern Dogri literary work, another being the *Dogri Sanstha*. Popular recent songs include *Pala Shpaiya Dogarya*, *Manney di Mauj* and *Shhori Deya*. The noted Pakistani singer Malika Pukhraj had roots in the Duggar region,^[19] and her renditions of several Dogri songs continue to be popular in the region. Some devo-

tional songs, or bhajans, composed by Karan Singh have gained increasing popularity over time, including *Kaun Kareyaan Teri Aarti*.

Dogri programming features regularly on Radio Kashmir (a division of All India Radio), and Doordarshan (Indian state television) broadcasts in Jammu and Kashmir. However, Dogri does not have a dedicated state television channel yet, unlike Kashmiri (which has the Doordarshan Koshur channel, available on cable and satellite television throughout India).

Official recognition of the language has been gradual, but progressive. On 2 August 1969, the General Council of the Sahitya Academy, Delhi recognized Dogri as an "independent modern literary language" of India, based on the unanimous recommendation of a panel of linguists.^[20] (Indian Express, New Delhi, 3 August 1969). Dogri is one of the state languages of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. On 22 December 2003, in a major milestone for the official status of the language, Dogri was recognized as a national language of India in the Indian constitution.^{[21][22]} In Pakistan, the language (under the name "Pahari") continues to thrive, but is not known to have received official patronage to date. The Alami Pahari Adabi Sangat (Global Pahari Cultural Association) is a Pakistani organization dedicated to the advancement and progress of the language.^[23]

In 2005, a collection of over 100 works of prose and poetry in Dogri published over the last 50 years was made accessible online at the Central Institute of Languages, Mysore. This included works of eminent writer Dhinu Bhai Panth, Professor Madan Mohan Sharma, B.P. Sathai and Ram Nath Shastri.^[24]

7 See also

- Dogri–Kangri languages
- List of Sahitya Akademi Award winners for Dogri
- Dogri cinema
- Languages of India
- Languages with official status in India
- List of languages by number of native speakers in India

8 References

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- [8] Ghai, Ved Kumari (1991). *Studies in Phonetics and Phonology: With Special Reference to Dogri*. Ariana Publishing House. ISBN 81-85347-20-4. *non-Dogri speakers, also trained phoneticians, tend to hear the difference as one of length only, perceiving the second syllable as stressed*
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- [20] Rao, S. (2004). *Five Decades; the National Academy of Letters, India: a Short History of Sahitya Akademi*. Sahitya Akademi.
- [21] “Lok Sabha passes bill recognising Dogri, 3 other languages”. *Daily Excelsior* (Jammu and Kashmir). 2003-12-23. Retrieved 2008-10-31. Dogri among other three languages has been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution when Lok Sabha unanimously approved an amendment in the Constitution
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9 Bibliography

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10 External links

- The Dogri Language, article by Ved Kumari Ghai
- Duggar Times.com, for more on Dogri language, literature and writers
- Dailyexcelsior.com, “One Hundredth Amendment,” news report on the recognition of Dogri as a national language.
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- Pahari.org, Alami Pahari Adabi Sangat (Global Pahari Cultural Association)
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- Crulp.org, paper on tonality and intonation in Punjabi.
- Dogri computing resources at TDIL (Devanagari Script)

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11.1 Text

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