

Phonological and Morphological Variations between Lasi and Standard Sindhi

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history

RECEIVED: 05-Jul-21

REVISED: 09-Sep-21

ACCEPTED: 14-Sep-21

PUBLISHED: 30-Nov-21

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Citation: Muhammad Amin and Zahid Ali (2021). Phonological and Morphological Variations between Lasi and Standard Sindhi. *Hor. J. Hum. & Soc. Sci. Res.* 3 (2), 181–194. <https://doi.org/10.37534/bp.jhssr.2021.v3.n2.id1109.p181>.

ABSTRACT

The current study focuses on phonological and morphological variations found in Lasi and Sindhi. This study investigates variations through phonological processes. Sindhi is one of the oldest languages of the world. It belongs to Indo Aryan language family (Ali, Z., 2016). Besides other dialects (Lari, Kachi, Vicholi, Utraadi, Thari), Lasi is one of the dialects of Sindhi (Baloch, 2008). Historically, the Sindhi language has adopted words from different languages, Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, etc. (Jokhio, 2012). The situation is same with Lasi dialect; it also adopts words from surrounding languages (Asad, 2019). Lasi being has a lot of similarities with Standard Sindhi, but observation of the researchers (Asad, 2019; Azam, 2018) shows that there are also variations between the two. To show and verify these variations, the researchers have analysed the examples from Lasi and Standard Sindhi. This study is a qualitative research, and the data are collected through interviews, discussions, observations, online available dictionaries and other internet sources are also used. Findings show that Lasi speakers have gone through various phonological and morphological processes to make the changes in the words of Sindhi for their ease of communication, and it is also observed that in some cases Sindhi speakers are doing the same things as well. To find out the reasons of such variations, the researchers studied the origin version of words from online dictionary by Turner (2000) and verified through it. Deletion, insertion, palatalization, nasalization, vowel lengthening etc. were seen in such variations between the dialects. The other dialects of the Sindhi language are also briefly explained in the next sections of the paper.

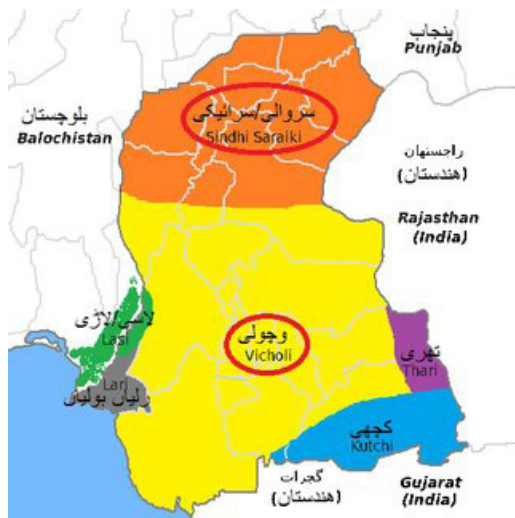
Keywords: Lasi, Lexical Variation, Phonological Variations, Sindhi.

Introduction

The basic unit of communication among human beings is a language. It is the language through which human being communicate and convey their message to others. Thus, language is a tool of communication between two persons, societies or countries. The history is enriched with different studies on different languages. Although there are some formal and systematic processes and others are not in a proper way (Ali, 2016). The acquisition of knowledge about language is a systematic and scientific process. The role of science spread and brought changes

in different fields, and in the same way, the study of language also evolved, and systematic, scientific procedures were developed to study language in this era. There are many linguistic processes that languages go through, one of them is language or dialectal variations (Jokhio, 2012). Therefore, the current study is going to investigate phonological variations between Lasi dialect and Standard Sindhi. Sindhi is an Indo-Aryan language with its roots in the Lower Indus River Valley (Jokhio, 2012). It is widely communicated in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh, one of the rich cultural provinces of Pakistan. Sindhi was given the status of an official language in the province of

Sindh (Cole, 2006). According to the 1998 census, there are 30.4 million Sindhi speakers; statistics also declared officially on the government website of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (Keerio, 2010). Sindhi is written in extended Arabic script in Pakistan and Devanagari and Grumukhi script in India (Veesar, 2015a; 2015b; Ali, 2016). Sindhi has six dialects: Vicholi, Thareli, Kachchi, Lari, Lasi and Utradi (Northern) (Grierson, cited in Allana, 1998). The geographical locations in Sindh name various dialects in Sindhi. For instance, Vicholi is spoken in central Sindh, i.e., Hyderabad, Jamshoro. Thareli is spoken in Thar i.e., Tharparker. Kachchi dialect is spoken in Gujrat, India. Lari is spoken in Lar. Lasi dialect is spoken in Lasbela, Baluchistan. Utradi dialect is spoken in upper (Northern part of Sindh) Sindh.



Many researchers such as Grierson (1919: 01) classified Sindhi as belonging to a northwestern sub-group of Indo-Aryan, under the Indo-Iranian branch of Indo-European family. The Sindhi language has been growing for a period of 2500 years. This period was going along with eight waves of migration of Soythians, people from Southern Iran.

Lasi dialect is spoken in district Lasbela, Balochistan, Pakistan. In Lasbela, Sindhi is mainly used as a language of communication. (Grierson, 1919:158). The dialect of Sindhi, spoken in Kohistan and in Las (spoken in Lasbela, Balochistan) is called Lasi (Grierson, 1919:10). Sindhi spoken in Las is named Lasi. It is the language of common people at Lasbela. Balochi is most spoken at the eastern and western ends of the state, and Brahui in the north, while Lasi is the language of the rest (Grierson, 1919:158; Asad, 2019).

Most of the speakers of district Labela, speak Lasi language, and approximately 70% people of Lasbela speak Lasi language as their mother tongue which is a dialect of Sindhi (Azam, 2018). It is a major dialect of the Sindhi

language; according to the survey of Safer magazine in 2015, there are more than 200,000 (.2 million) speakers of Lasi. Baloch (2008) has collected poetry literature written by Lasi poets. Baloch (2008) mentioned a number of Lasi poets among them the most famous are Sheikh Ibrahim, Sheikh Hemer, Sheikh Beker, Kabeer Shah, Ahmed Shah, Nem, and Dost Muhammad (Allana, 1995). In Lasi poetry 'mehdaserai, rezimgoi and wasf goi is common as in Arabic and in Persian (Allana, 1995). According to the census report of 1998, Lasi at Lasbela is 92 percent. Lasi is different from other dialects, as Baloch (2008) argues that there is always separate color and effect of the area on the language. He has defined almost nine differences from poetry of Lasi poets like Shaikh Ibrahim, Kabeer Shah, Saddiquee and Num. This poetry is rich with Persian words as well as other characteristics which are not available in the Sindhi poetry (Baloch, 2008).

The aim of this study is to explore and analyze the dialects and to compare and contrast between Standard Sindhi and Lasi. So, this study might be helpful for the speakers of Lasi particularly of the Uthal region of Lasbela, Balochistan (as shown in the above map) to understand the dialectal variations between Lasi and Sindhi as many Sindhi speakers from Sindh Province are coming here in Uthal in search of work to run their lives, and when they communicate to Lasi speakers they face difficulties to understand each other's dialect.

In the current study, the researchers will focus on variations in language use found in different geographical areas. However, according to George Yule (2004), not everyone in a single geographic area speaks in the same way in every situation. Similarly, the speakers of the same native language (single mother tongue)/district who speak different variations of the same language of different geographical areas, such as the Lasi speakers of Uthal region use different verb for the sentence i.e. "Aan school **wanji** to" (I go to School) and Bela region uses different verb for the same sentence i.e. "Aaoun school **wanja** to" (words in bold form are verbs). We are well aware of the fact that people of different areas differ in terms of education, class, religion and economic status, often speak in quite different ways. Indeed, these differences may be used directly or indirectly, as signs of relevance in different social groups and/or speech community. A speech community is a group of people who share a set of norms and expectations regarding the use of language (Yule, G., 2004). The study of the linguistic features that have social relevance for participants in those speech communities is called "sociolinguistics" (Yule, G., 2004). Meanwhile, the same difference of Lasi dialect and Sindhi occur when two people of different geographical areas communicate with each other in their

respective dialects i.e. “Chho to karein” (Lasi: What do you do?) and the same sentence in Sindhi “Chho to karein” (Why do you do?) has a very different meaning. In another example of such dialectal variation, we find a word “langaran”, it means ‘to send’ and also as ‘an abuse’ or ‘a challenge’; while it is a very common and formal term in Lasi to mean ‘to send’. When these types of dialectal variations come across between a conversation, sometimes it creates confusion for the speakers of both dialects.

Background and Literature Review

Sindhi has various dialects from which Lasi is one of the major dialects (Ali, Z., 2016). There are a number of studies on Sindhi language Grammar, Syntax, Morphology etc. but there is no proper work on the dialectal variations of Lasi and Sindhi. Therefore, this study will focus on phonological and morphological variations in Lasi and Standard Sindhi (Vicholi). This study analyses phonological differences between Standard Sindhi and Lasi dialect. The current study shows how a particular dialect is used in a specific region, and how it is considered as an identity. The current study investigates different phonological and also some morphological processes to explore the variation between these two dialects.

English words are acquired in different Languages. These words are used in various manners, linguistically. Sometime their implications get changed which is normally carried on in languages. While changing pronunciations vowel addition is extremely normal. In sound changing methodology some time consonants are subbed just as erased. Not only words are changed but pronunciation is also changed in some cases (Rehman, 2010).

The most noteworthy works in the field of linguistics before freedom of Pakistan were done in nineteenth century. In 1853 for the first time, Sindhi script was designed. First research work on Sindhi was done by European researchers. Among them Captain George Stack and Dr. Ernest Trump were the front-line researchers who began linguistic studies on Sindhi. Dr. Trump composed grammar of the Sindhi language in 1872. It was a comparative report with Sanskrit, Parakarat and Sindhi. These research studies were begun after 1843 when the British rule came into India (Pitafi, 2009).

Morphology

Rahman (2009) studied the morphophonemics of Sindhi. The author stated that Sindhi is a morphologically rich

language. He describes that Sindhi words are divided into two categories, primary and secondary. Primary words are basic words and cannot be further divided; these words are also known as free morphemes. For example, /p^hañi/ (comb), /rasto/ (path) and/ k^hatu/ (cot) are examples of primary words. Secondary words can be divided into complex and compound words. Complex words are formed when suffixes or prefixes are added to a primary word. For example, the word /ʃaṇa/ (attribute) changed into /anʃaṇu/ (without attribute) with the addition of a prefix “añu” into the word stem. In cease of /ʃañō/ (ō) is suffix of the root word and also is a bound morpheme.

Shah and Mandan (2016) have explored the morphophonemic nature of Sindhi. They stated that Sindhi is a prominent language of Indo-Aryan family because of its unique features. The morphological, phonological and syntactic aspects are the specific reasons which make it different from other languages of the region. They further elaborated that the morphemes of the Sindhi language are changed by the phoneme, which changes the syntactic properties of a word. Shah and Mandan (2016) represented the features of Sindhi nouns with gender, number, person, and case. They stated that Sindhi is unique for its grammar that is the mixture of different languages such as Perso-Arabic, Hindi and Sanskrit phonology, and morphology. It is also unique because of the presence of implosives in its phonemic inventory. The authors described another feature of Sindhi language that is the impact of phonemes on its morphology and syntax.

Lasi is one of the dialects of Sindhi which is spoken in Lasbela district of Baluchistan Province. It is the native language of almost 70% population of district Lasbela. According to Baloch (2008), it is Sindhi language; however, this Sindhi is different from the Sindhi spoken in Sindh province. Though Lasi is one of the dialects of Sindhi, there is much difference in phonology and pronunciation between Sindhi and Lasi. Allana (1995) argues that geographically Lasbela looks separate from Sindh, and it is not a part of Sindh, but Sindh has dominated Lasbela on political, social, religious, and educational grounds. These all aspects brought change and Sindhi became dominant language of Lasbela. It turned into the language of layman as well as the language of the Jam family of Lasbela. In the phonological point of view, Lasi speakers do insertion, substitution and deletion of sound(s) at different positions (Asad, 2019). These three processes are common in Lasi. Lasi has its own method in pronunciation (Baloch, 2008: 73). Lasi speakers insert /j/ sound at word final position in almost all words. In case of lengthening, a short vowel is also felt in pronunciation at some point. Lasi speakers generally un-aspirate the aspirated sounds. Sometimes,

the two processes are involved simultaneously in a single word where one is the excluding of aspiration and second is insertion of /v/. Insertion is the mirror image of deletion. Whenever a sound is inserted alternatively another one is deleted. Insertion of /n/ is a typical and common process in Lasi. The aspirated sounds are un-aspirated like /dʒ/ from /dʒh/ (Baloch, 2008: 74).

Greirson (1919) & Baloch (2008) have conducted study on morphology and phonology of Lasi dialect. According to these authors, Lasi is different based on morphological and phonological grounds from Standard Sindhi. Lasi is like the Lari dialect, as in Lari, words are shortened; for example, 'bar' (outside) for 'bahar' (outside). Thus, in Lasi aspirated consonant changes into unaspirated like 'budo' for 'budho' (heard), and auxiliary 'tho' changes into 'to' in Lasi. The interrogative pronoun 'chha' means 'what' is produced as 'chho' in Lasi for the same meaning, while 'chho' in Sindhi gives the meaning of 'why'. However, this dialect syntactically (grammatical aspect of subject verb agreement) has been ignored. Azam (2018) in his unpublished thesis submitted for Masters/MS/M.Phil degree, analyzed and explored such differences and their possible effect on sentence structure (subject verb agreement). The author compared Lasi with English to discuss the nature of subject-verb agreement. Lashari & Soomro (2013) argue that verbs in English show agreement with their subjects in number and person in present tense, while Sindhi syntactically is exhaustive; its verb agrees with subject in number, gender, and person in all tenses. The following examples show these differences.

Standard Sindhi	Lasi	English
Aaon likhan tho	Aan likhan to	I write
Ho likhy thi	Howa likhy ti	She writes
Uhy likhan tha	Ho likhan ta	They write
Ason likhon tha	Aseen likhon ta	We write

The above examples show that the verb differently inflected for the number, gender, and person in Standard Sindhi and Lasi. The inflection 'tho' changes and produced as 'to' in Lasi, according to the number, gender and person of subject. But in English, verb is inflected with the morpheme *s, es* for third person singular. With other subjects, plain form is used. The inflection in the verb does not show the gender of its subject in English.

Phonological Process

The following are phonological processes involved in creating variation in dialects. Each of the said processes is defined in detail.

Insertion/Epenthesis

In the process of insertion, a phoneme, mostly a vowel but in some languages a consonant, is inserted to break clusters in words of source language to make them unmarked in the recipient dialect. Insertion varies from language to language. Many languages do prothesis, they insert a vowel before onset of word(s), others do epenthesis between consonant clusters and somewhere insertion takes place after coda (at the end of a word). Every language has a default epenthetic vowel. According to Kager's (1999) experiences, mostly languages prefer [i], [ə] and [ɪ] vowels. On the selection of epenthetic vowel Uffmann (2006) says that comparable consonant-vowel connections can likewise happen in grown-up phonology, for example, when a consonant's place feature decides epenthetic vowel quality, most generally including insertion of a rounded vowel after a labial consonant. Burmese is language that has a CV syllable pattern, whenever it takes words from English it breaks CC (consonant cluster) by inserting a vowel between them e.g., English word Mazda is taken as [mazəda] and Whisky as [wisəki]. Most of the Pakistani languages do not allow SK cluster on onset, whenever they borrow English words, they insert a vowel before onset e.g., *school* becomes *iskool* *station* becomes *istation*.

Deletion

Another phonological process is deletion. In this process, a phoneme or an entire segment of a word is deleted according to the needs of the recipient dialect. Mostly those languages do delete phonemes in words which do not allow maximum consonant clusters in their phonological grammar. Another cause of deletion can be lack of perception or hardness in production of clusters. Deletion can be of consonants as well as of vowels. Deletion has three types, deletion of initial sound in a word is called Aphaeresis, e.g. word *knowledge* of English is written with initial consonant /k/ but while pronouncing it English speakers do not pronounce the initial /k/. Deletion between clusters (internal) is called Syncope e.g. in pronunciation of English word *secretary* the inter-consonantal /a/ is dropped. The process of deleting final phoneme is called Apocope e.g. final /t/ in English word *restaurant* is deleted. Deletion of final phoneme in words is common in most of the languages of the World.

Substitution

Substitution is a general inclination to save sounds from cancellation, and it tries to reshape a word closer to the input structure. In substitution, a phoneme of source language is supplanted to the phonetically nearest phonemes in the borrower language (Hock, 1991). Substitution is one of the phonological processes in which one or more phonemes of a loanword are changed with some other

phoneme(s) of recipient language. Substitution can be of vowels and consonants both. Studies of Hafez (1996) suggest that English loanwords in Egyptian Arabic undergo two types of alternations: alterations of vowels and consonants. For instance, if there is a vowel /o/ in a loanword of English, Egyptian speakers substitute it with their native vowel /â/ /motor/ becomes [mâtoor], and in case if a loanword contains /i/ vowel of English, they substitute it with their /e/ vowel, and thereby /wing/ becomes [weng]. Hawaiian is a language which contains no coronal stop [t], therefore, whenever it borrows words of English it substitutes coronal obstruent /t/ and /s/ with [k], the examples are *lettuce* [lekuke], *soap* [kope] and *task* [kake] (Adler, 2006). In these examples, substitution is of one lingual place of articulation (Coronal replaced with Dorsal) for other. In French, [i] vowel is prohibited before other succeeding vowels and therefore, is substituted by the glide [j] in most cases (e.g., *lier* [lje], *Pierre* [pjɛʁ]).

Metathesis

Metathesis is another phonological process in which a phoneme or a segment changes its place with the phoneme or segment of another side. Metathesis is a word of Greek origin which means rearrangement of segments in a word. In this process, a XY cluster changes into YX cluster. Among other phonological processes, metathesis is not a regular procedure because if we see it in the context of loanword adaptation, we find that if a pair of clusters is adapted after metathesis, the same pair is also adapted without metathesis in other loans. Surprisingly, we find in literature that metathesis in Leti (an Austronesian language spoken on the island of Leti in Maluku) is a regular phonological process. According to Hume (2001), in Leti there can be two possible causes of metathesis, it is possible that it is a direct result of phrasal necessity, which demands a phrase must end with a vowel or in view of the limitations of syllable well formedness in which onset is required in a syllable and tauto-syllabic consonant clusters are not acknowledged. A cause for metathesis can also be the OCP (Obligatory Contour Principle) which demands that at the melodic level, adjacent identical elements are prohibited. An example for this is (Caldwell et al. 1977) where the word [zitkur] becomes /tizkur/, a coronal tier is broken by metathesis. According to Blevin & Garret (2004), there are four types of metatheses.

- Compensatory Metathesis
- Perceptual Metathesis
- Co-Articulatory Metathesis
- Auditory Metathesis

In compensatory metathesis, there is a sort of competition between vowels of stressed and unstressed syllables.

Vowel in an unstressed syllable becomes weaker in the presence of another vowel in a stressed syllable. If there is disyllabic word V1CV2 and the CV2 is stressed syllable, its articulatory gestures start during V1. Here are examples of Rotuman collected by Blevins and Garret (1998), in which a vowel on the syllable margin becomes weaker in quality and duration, accompanying a syllable medial vowel.

- /futi/ [fyt]
- /tiko/ [tiok]

Perceptual metathesis takes place in cases where some specific features e.g., rhoticity, lateralization, and roundness so forth, contain some extra-long duration (even exceeds to a syllable or series of syllables) due to which a listener cannot identify the exact place of a phoneme. This kind of metathesis happens because of perceptual confusion because a few components are of maximum length of time when contrasted with others in syllables. Phonemes interchange their position in a word and thus happens perceptual metathesis.

Examples of perceptual metathesis can be found in the work of Khani (2010) who quotes such examples from Cayuga by Foster (1982):

- /kahwistaʔeks/ [khawisdʔaes]
- /akekahaʔ/ [agekhaaʔ]

Studies of Blevin & Garret (2004) on co-articulatory metathesis show that in Labial-Velar stop clusters like PK>KP in a sequence like C1C2 the concluding consonant is perceived to be produced before the initial one and therefore, the sequence converses as C2C1, according to Blevin & Garret (2004) it is difficult for listeners to recoup the place of articulation for every consonant. Examples for this kind of metathesis are discussed in the work of Blust (1979) in Cebuano. According to Blust (1979) in Cebuano, for example, a coronal stop or nasal followed by a labial or velar consonant is upturned, optionally in some cases.

Following are the examples of Cebuano metathesis of coronal + non-coronal clusters:

No.	Stem	Suffixed form	Glosses
I.	/lutuk/	[lukt-un]	'put the finger in'
II.	/gitik/	[gitk-a nun~gikt-a nun]	'ticklish'
III.	/atup/	[atp-an ~ apt-an]	'roof'
IV	/inum/	[imn-a]	'drink'

(Blust, 1979)

Based on the above stated background and literature, the current study attempts to find out answers to the following questions:

Research Objectives

1. To find out which phonological processes occur in Lasi and Standard Sindhi
2. To describe the morphological variations between Lasi and Standard Sindhi

Research Methodology

This research study focuses on dialectal variation of Standard Sindhi and Lasi. The researchers' focus is on various processes through which variation in speech is found in Standard Sindhi and Lasi. This study is limited to phonological (pronunciation) and morphological variation of both Sindhi and Lasi dialects. There are phonological and morphological differences in both dialects (as well as similarities). Linguistic variables are analyzed and shown that how many linguistic variables differ from one another dialect. To do so the researchers selected a number of examples which are given in the next section.

The research design used in this study is descriptive as we can only describe these variations / differences in both dialects and to the best of our knowledge there is no other suitable research design which can help us to analyse our collected data. The method of the study is qualitative. The data were thoroughly described to meet the need of analysis and explained properly where needed. According to Creswell (2013), there are five different approaches to a qualitative inquiry. These approaches are narrative, phenomenology, ethnography, case study and grounded theory. This study follows descriptive analytical approach to achieve research objectives. This study tries to find out phonological and morphological variations between Lasi and Standard Sindhi. To accomplish this study, the researchers applied different processes to find out dialect variation by conducting different interviews and group discussions with the relevant speakers.

The data were collected from daily life conversation (with Lasi and Sindhi speakers, 5 from each), Sindhi newspaper "Kawish", (randomly from where we found suitable words to be collected for our data of study), news channel "KTN" and available standard online Sindhi dictionaries. from android mobile applications. However, most

of the data are from routine life conversation as the required data are rare in written form, especially of the Lasi dialect. In addition, the researchers observed the variation because of being native speakers. The population for this research is native speakers of Lasi from Uthal region and Sindhi speakers (from vicholi dialect region of Hyderabad) from Uthal, and Lasbela University who are basically from Sindh province and are easily available for data collection.

This research is based on primary and secondary data. The researchers collected data from native speakers of Lasi who were the residents of Uthal, Lasbela, and the data of Sindhi were collected through online Sindhi dictionaries and from Sindhi speakers of Sindh province who are luckily available here in the region of authors to confirm the difference and variation in both dialects. Primary sources of data were collected directly from the people of Uthal region. Primary data were collected through observations and group discussions from the speakers of both the dialects. Furthermore, the data were analyzed to see types of variations properly. In order to obtain more information about the study, different books, articles, journals, online Sindhi dictionaries, Sindhi TV channels, particularly from KTN and generally the ones which were we came through and found some relevant data daily newspapers specially from Kawish and internet sources have also been used.

The researchers generally selected data from the native speakers of both dialects, and particularly 05 participants of native Lasi from Uthal, and 05 participants of Sindhi speakers from Lasbela University (available easily). The average age of the participants was 32 to 42 years. The convenient sampling technique was used for the selection of participants as researchers feel comfort/ease to utilize this sampling technique. All the participants were male and selected through convenience sampling technique in which the researchers elected a sample based on easily available participants. The reason behind choosing all the male participants were a simple one and that is still in this part of the country there are some difficulties to contact with females in comparison to males. That's why we chose all male participants which were easily available and also they cooperated very well when we need them without any trouble.

The collected data were analyzed by applying morphological and phonological processes. Sindhi is taken as a standard language, and Lasi as a dialect. Different processes like deletion, insertion, substitution, metathesis etc. were used to explain and show the variation in both of the dialects. Nasalization, consonant and vowel differences

were also recorded in the current study. The recordings were made by audio recorder from all 10 participants (5 from each Lasi and Standard Sindhi) on different occasions and several times we repeated the questions and participants' answers to verify the variation. The recordings' length was dependent on how long the talk/discussion goes on and the duration of discussion was not fixed by time, it was different on different occasions. During all this sometimes we paused the discussion and took a break. As we mentioned before both the authors are native speakers of Sindhi and Lasi respectively, so we conducted interviews in Sindhi and Lasi separately. We were feeling no difficult to translate these and where we found any difficulty and hesitation, we went to experts to translate them and verify for us.

Firstly, we selected those words which are lexically different in both dialects. Secondly, we chose morphophonemic distinct words and finally phonological different words were taken. Minor phonological differences between the two dialects were not difficult to find out and highlight because the researchers are native speakers of the two dialects. For further clearance and confirmation, the researchers used online Sindhi dictionaries but no dictionary for Lasi was used because Lasi in written form is not available and for this purpose we asked available participants to pronounce different words of their dialect. The words from both dialects were compared with origin of the words, and then researchers generalized which of the dialects has retained its original form.

To make this research authentic and reliable, different techniques and tools were used. Firstly, we observed similarities and differences of the words and their pronunciation from both dialects and collected words which are phonologically and morphologically produced differently by the speakers of both dialects. The participants were shown different pictures and asked to pronounce the words given in the pictures (as images). The participants were asked to speak out selected words for analyzing the phonemic and segmental differences one by one.

Data Analysis

The current study analyses the data to examine phonological and morphological variations between the dialects. The presented data are discussed and analyzed properly through different procedures, and the differences between the two dialects are also phonologically and morphologically described with examples.

Table 1: The following table shows the vowel raising

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Cho	tʃo	Cha	tʃa	What
Kedey	keɖe	kaɖan	kaɖā	Where
Tojo	tʃoɖʒo	Tawanjo	tʃahnɖʒo	Your
Asī	əsi	Asan	Asā	We
Awē	əwi	Awā	Awā	You
Jinawar	dʒinwar	Janwar	dʒanwar	Animal

Phonological variation

Vowel Raising

The below mentioned examples are comparison of Standard Sindhi, and Lasi words in which different vowels occur. The examples show that Sindhi words which include low central vowel /a/, are also used in Lasi but the vowel/a/ is substituted with back high vowels /i/ /u/, and mid high vowel /o/. In this case, it can be said that Sindhi has retained its original form as one of the examples from Sanskrit shows, "ka" (Turner, 2000, Entry No. 2574), was used to mean "where" and "kaɖey" is used in Sindhi, whereas in Lasi vowel is changed to "keɖe".

By viewing the above-mentioned examples, the researchers come up with the idea that Lasi speakers converted their low vowel /a/ into high vowel /o/.

/h/ Insertion in Adverbs of Place

The examples mentioned in the table below show that the adjectives of place which start with /u, i, e/ in Sindhi are produced in Lasi with insertion of /h/. The origin of Indo-Aryan Languages shows that in Sanskrit adverb of place started with vowel like; "ittha" (Turner, 2000: Entry No. 1564) which means "here".

The researchers can generalize by describing these examples that Sindhi has retained its original form in adverb of place whereas Lasi has inserted /h/ at onset position.

Addition of /r/ or /l/

Below mentioned examples show that Sindhi speakers add /r/ or /l/ at the end of those Lasi words which end

Table 2: The following table shows /h/ insertion in Adverb of Place

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Hothy	hoɖe	Uty	uɖe	There
Huwa	Huwa	Uwa	Uwa	That
Hunam	hunʌm	Unam	unʌm	Into that
Heday	heɖe	Eday	eɖe	Here

Table 3: The following table shows Addition of /r/ or /l/

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Amma	Amma	Ammar	ammaɾ	Mom / Mother
Jeeja	ɖʒi:ɖʒa	Jeejal	ɖʒi:ɖʒal	Respected (for woman)
Wato	waɫ o	Watal	waɫ al	Bought
Bela	bela	Belar	bela:r	Winding up of harvest
Unjo	uʃ'o	Unjial	uʃal	Thirsty
Khuti	k ^h uti	Khutal	k ^h utal	Incomplete
Wand	Wand	Wandkai	wan ɖ kai	Free
Khado	k ^h aɖ o	Khadal	k ^h aɖ al	Eaten
Wanch	Wā: tʃ	Wanchro	Wā:tʃro	Storm

mid high /o,i,ə/ and low central /a/ vowels in Lasi. In this case, Lasi is similar to Punjabi, Saraiki, and Urdu as in Punjabi and Urdu the word for mother is “ammi” and the word for mother in Saraiki is “amma”.

In short, Sindhi speakers add /r/ or /l/ at the end of some words. We can generalize these types of words as Sindhi has the addition of /r/ and /l/ at the coda position, while the Lasi words end with mid high and low central vowels.

Loss of Breathy Voicing

The literature shows that Sindhi and Hindi have retained breathy voiced stops but Lasi speakers have lost breathy voiced /bh, dh, gh/ and they produce plain voiced stops /b, d, g/ instead. Punjabi also has lost breathy voiced (Masica, 1991), in this case Lasi is like Punjabi. Some examples of breathy voiced sounds are mentioned in Table 4 which are produced with plain voiced stops in Lasi.

In most of the cases, changes in languages occur due to markedness. This case in Lasi is one of the examples of converting marked sounds into unmarked ones.

Table 4: The following table shows Loss of breathy voicing

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Ba	Ba	Bha	b ^h a	Brother
Gar	gər	Ghər	g ^h ər	House
Bar	bər	Bhər	b ^h ər	To fill
Bag	baɖ	Bhag	b ^h ag	Destiny / fortune
Got	Got	Ghot	g ^h ot	Bride
Balo	Ba:lo	Bhalo	b ^h a:lo	Nice

Table 5: The following table shows Conversion of /v/ into /b/ and /b/

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Beh	bəh	Veh	Veh	Sit
Bebas	Bebas	Bevas	Bevas	Helpless
Basam	basʌm	Vasa mein	vas men	In hand
Bi	bi:	Beehu	bi:h	Stand

Conversion of /v/ sound into /b/ and /b/

The following examples show that the speakers of Lasi converted /v/ sound into /b/ and /b/ sound. In this case Hindi, Urdu and Lasi are similar because they converted /v/ original form into /b, b/, on the other hand Sindhi and Saraiki are same because they retained /v/ sound.

These examples show that Lasi has converted /v/ sound into implosive /b/ and bilabial /b/.

Deletion of /t/ sound

In the following examples, there is /t/ deletion occurred in Sindhi. Sindhi speakers have deleted /t/ sound from some words. Whereas Lasi has retained /t/ sound in the same words which is shown in Table 6. Lasi is similar to its original version as in the words of Sanskrit retroflex /t/ is found like; “parstha” (Turner, 2000: Entry No. 8371) which means “back or hinder part” and “karta” (ibid, Entry No.2852) which means “to cut”. The examples are shown in Table 6.

The examples show that Sindhi speakers have lost retroflex in some cases.

Conversion of /ch/ into /th/ sound

It is also observed that Lasi speakers in some cases converted /th/ sound into /ch/ sound. In this case, Sindhi is close to its original form like Sanskrit word “utthati” (entry no.1900) which includes /th/ sound. In the following examples Lasi “ch” sound is converted into Sindhi “th” sound.

Variation of Vowel sound [a] to [o]

In some cases, Sindhi converted /a/ vowel to /o/ at coda position. Whereas Lasi speakers are using /a/ vowel,

Table 6: The following table shows Deletion of /t/ sound

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Puthyan	put ^h jã	Pohyan	Pohyā̃	Behind
Kuthao	kt ^h ãõ	Kohyao	Kohjãõ	Slaughter
Lathaõ	lat ^h ãõ	Layãõ	Lajãõ	Put off
Khuto	k ^h ʌto	Khohyo	k ^h ohjo	Restless

Table 7: The following table shows Conversion of /ch/ into /th/ sound

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Uch	uʈʃ	Uth	Utʰ	Stand
Ucharanr	uʈʃarʌŋ	Utharanr	utʰarʌŋ	To awake
Ponchal	pōʈʃal	Pothal	Potal	High caliber man

similar to its original version. The word “atta” which means “brother” used in Sanskrit, had /a/ at final position. Rounding of vowel is observed in Sindhi as shown in the below chart that Lasi /a/ is converted into /o/ in Sindhi.

Above given examples are of the speakers of both dialects (Lasi and Standard Sindhi). We easily observe the vowel shift in the above examples. In Sindhi, there is a shift of vowel [a] to [o]. The low vowel /a/ is replaced with back mid and round vowel /o/. All the above examples are of such type of dialectal variation. This variation is observed mostly in the final syllable. This is an example of adding the vocalic feature [+round] word finally.

Palatalization

The following examples show the palatalization is observed in some words of Lasi, whereas the same words are produced without palatalization in Sindhi. Palatalization is also retained by Saraiki, Kashmiri, and Russian languages. In this case, Lasi is like these languages. Below are the examples.

These examples show that element of palatalization exists in Lasi.

Variation in Vowel Length

There are various cases in which vowels vary in Lasi and Sindhi. The examples given in the below table show that vowels in Sindhi and Lasi words are varied, Lasi uses long vowel and Sindhi uses short vowel. The origin form of the

Table 8: The following table shows Variation of vowel [a] to [o]

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Achan	aʈʃā	Acho	aʈʃa	Coming
Ase	asī:	Asan	Asā	We
Ada	aɖ a	Ado	aɖ o	Brother
Baba/aba	Baba	Babo/abo	Babo	Daddy / Father
Kaka	Kaka	Kako	Kako	Uncle
Nana	Nana	Nano	Nano	Grand father

Table 9: The following table shows Palatalization

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Jyaniwani	ʃʌŋiwaŋi	jaŋi waŋi	ʃʌŋiwaŋi	Consciously
Chyum	ʈʃiʌm	Chajom	ʈʃajum	Talked
Wyo	wʌo	Wajo	Wajo	Gone
Dian	ɖʌiŋ	Diyan	ɖehŋ	To give
Kyara	Kjara	Kehra	Kjhra	Which

words shows that the same words in Sanskrit were produced with long vowel, for example “sōmavāra” (Turner, 2000: Entry No. 13610). In this example, vowel is produced with long vowel, whereas in Sindhi vowel is shortened (see Table 10).

The above examples show that Sindhi has replaced the mid high back vowel /u:/ with high back vowel /u/ and long vowel /a:/ with short vowel /a/. In this case, Lasi has retained original form of vowel.

Nasalization

Nasalization is observed in Lasi dialect, as illustrated in the following examples from both dialects. Some Sindhi words are nasalized by the Lasi speakers in the first syllable. The origin of the words shows no nasalization, like; “avajjhāyati” (Turner, 2000: Entry No.771) in Sanskrit that means ‘extinguish’.

In the above examples, it is observed that Lasi dialect uses mostly nasalized sounds for those which are non-nasals [-nasal] in Sindhi.

Table 10: The following table shows Variation in vowel length

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Soomaar	Su:ma:r	Somar	Somar	Monday
Gon	gõ	Gao	gao	Cow
Achaar	a:ʈʃa:r	Achar	aʈʃar	Sunday
Oonchai	õʈʃa:i	Uchai	õʈʃa:i	Height
Uchalalan	uʈʃa:laŋ	Uchlan	uʈʃlaŋ	To throw
Saabun	sa:boŋ	Sabn	saboŋ	Soap
Utasao	Utasao	Utsa	Utasa	Enthusiasm, zeal

Table 11: The following table shows Nasalization

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Unjai	unɖʒai	Ujai	uɖʒai	To power off
Wancha	wanʈʃa	Wacha	waʈʃa	A dust storm
Unjammanr	unɖʒamaŋ	Ujamanr	uɖʒamaŋ	Exhausted
Sangar	Sangar	Sagar	Sagar	Expert

Substitution

The following examples from both dialects show that substitution process frequently occurred in the sounds of both dialects. Mostly, Lasi speakers substitute the marked sounds with unmarked ones for their ease to pronounce words. In the examples, such as, Sindhi /n/ is substituted with the Lasi /i/ and /dʒ/ with /z/ respectively.

Insertion

Following are the examples of insertion of different sounds in Lasi. The word chanda- lath was used as “indradhanuṣ” in Sanskrit (Turner, 2000: Entry No. 1577) which means rainbow. The word in Sanskrit is without /ʃt/ sound which shows insertion in Lasi.

Deletion

The process of deletion occurs in both dialects Standard Sindhi and Lasi. The word “thanwa” which means “pots” went through the process of deletion and became “than” in Lasi which means pots. On the other hand, the word “k’ra” that means “which”, Sindhi speakers have deleted palatalization from the word, and it became “kehra”.

The researchers also observed the variation of /g/ deletion. Here in the following examples, it is observed that in Sindhi, there is deletion of /g/ sound in some words of

Table 12: The following table shows Substitution

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Chai	tʃai	Chan	tʃā	Shade
Anja	ɒnɒ	Anja	Anjā	Yet
Majgoor	madʒgor	Majboor	madʒbor	Compel
Chand-lath	tʃan dʹlatʰ	Ind-lath	indʹlatʰ	Rainbow
Zanzeer	zanzɪ:r	Zanjeer	zandʒɪ:r	Chain
Pas	pʌs	Dis	dʌs	See
Chhirio	tʃʰɪrjo	Chhito	tʃʰ i tʃ o	Mad dog
Kadanr	kadaŋ	Patanr	pataŋ	To pluck
Wiyō	wʲo	Wayō	Wajo	Gone
Dago	daɡo	Dagi	daɡo	Yalk, bull
Kela	Kela	Kera	keɾa	Banana

Table 13: The following table shows Insertion

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Lapanr	lapaŋ	Lapha	Lapa	Slap
Chand-lath	tʃan dʹlatʰ	Ind-lath	indʹlatʰ	Rainbow
Barkhat	barkʰat	Barkat	Barkat	Good fortune, blessing
Apakey	Apake	Apak	Apak	Accidently
Barker	barka:r	Bakar	ʃaka:r	Cry loudly

Table 14: The following table shows Deletion

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Than	tʰā	Thanwa	tʰāwā	Kitchen wares
Nar	Nar	Nehar	Nehar	To look/see
Yanro	jāŋɔ̃	Wyanro	wjāŋɔ̃	Pillow
Kyara	kʲara	Kera	keɾa	Which
Beshabeshi	beʃabeʃi	Besabesi	Besabesi	Argument
Jagro	dʒaɡɾo	jeɾo	dʒeɾo	Fight
Jaga	dʒaɡa	Ja	dʒa:	Place
Majgoor	madʒgor	Majboor	madʒbor	Helpless
Kaang	kā:g	Kaan	kā:	Crow
Jaga	dʒaɡa	Jaai	dʒ:i	Place

Lasi, and it mostly happens in the presence of /j/ sound before /g/.

The process of deletion is common in most of the languages. Speakers of different languages delete marked sounds for ease of articulation.

Metathesis

Metathesis is a Greek word which means transposition. In this phonological process, a word or sound exchanges its position with another, a sound moves from one place to another to make changes in the word. Spencer (1996) argued that the metathesis is found in child phonology too, almost in all human languages. Hume (2001) said that in some languages of the world, people replace sounds with each other under some specific conditions. In the following examples, segments move from one position to the other. In the below examples, mostly the sounds of Sindhi move from coda position to the onset position of Lasi dialect.

Morphological Variation

There are several morphological changes which occurred in Lasi and Sindhi. Like, variations in affixation, lexemes, gender agreement markers and many more. Some of them are mentioned below.

Table 15: Followings are the examples of Metathesis

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
gowanr	gowanɾ	Uganr	ogaŋ	To clean
Budho	ʃudo	Porho	poɾho	Aged
Chand-lath	tʃan dʹlatʰ	Ind-lath	indʹlatʰ	Rainbow
Ago	Ago	Ajog	aɟog	Unfit, ill
Teski	Teski	Teksi	Teksi	Taxi
Deks	Deks	Desk	Desk	Desk, bench

Lexical Variation

The researcher observed various words in Lasi and Sindhi having different forms but same meaning. The words are mentioned in the table below.

In above mentioned examples, two different words are used for the same meaning, which shows that these two dialects have also difference in their lexemes. There are many words in Lasi and Sindhi that have different forms and pronunciation, but they all give same meanings.

Suffixes “a” and “na” for negation

In both dialects, there is a change in the prefix of negation. The following examples from both dialects show the variation in negation, Lasi speakers add “n” and “b” prefixes for the words of negation of the same words that Sindhi speakers construct negation with “a” prefix. There are also other examples of such words in Sindhi that form negatives by adding “a” prefix. The origin version of the word ‘nibago’ is “nirbhāgya” (Turner, 2000: Entry No.7362) which means ‘unfortunate’ is prefixed with /n/ which is like Lasi.

Table 16: The following table shows Lexical variation

Lasi	Sindhi	English
Odho	Wejo	Near
Gata	Ganra	More / a lot
Chapal	Padar	Shoes
Waando	Welo	Free
Anjoon	Lurk	Tears
Oongranr	Wehnanr	To take bath
Jero	Baahi	Fire
Mutko	Pathro	Stone
Ganra	Ketra	How much?
Tipo	Loro	To jump
Digo	Digho/Lambo	Tall
Sang	Doongar	Banana branch
Ukand	Sik	To miss or remember
Sutho	Changu	Nice
Baas	Dap	Bad smell
Phooshi	Bili	Cat
Pooi	Whnjari / ghusalkhnao	Bathroom
Chul	Radanro	Kitchen
Boondo	Bujo	To curse
Gadd	Much	Together
Baro	Bukhar	Fever
Kadanr	Patanr	To pluck

Table 17: The following table shows Suffixation for negation

Lasi	Phonetic Transcription	Sindhi	Phonetic Transcription	English
Nibago	nibaɔo	Abago	abaɔo	Unlucky
Bedango	bedaɔo	Adango	adaɔo	Unmannered

This situation describes variation in suffixation in Lasi and Sindhi.

Findings and Discussion

The history of human languages begins with a common starting point, a common language which our primitive ancestors began to use for pure communicative need. Crystal (2002) claims this proto language they used, just as humans did, took different paths over the years, giving rise later on to the gradual appearance of more than 6000 languages that are spoken throughout the globe currently.

According to Masica (1999), world languages have been divided into fourteen families. Every language is different from other based on cultural and historical development. These languages are further divided into different dialects and varieties. Lasi is the major dialect of Sindhi which belongs to Indo-Aryan language family. Lasi is widely being spoken in the district Lasbela in Baluchistan province and in some other parts of Pakistan. Lasi is the mother tongue of most of the people living in Lasbela. There are number of other languages also spoken in Lasbela. Sindhi speakers belonging to Sindh also moved to Lasbela to earn bread and in search of work. Now, they are residing here for years and when they communicate with Lasi speakers, both feel confusions and sometimes misunderstand each other due to the variation that exists in both dialects. In the previous chapter, the researchers have explained this dialectal variation in detail by giving number of examples from both dialects.

Further, the researcher has also verified and analyzed these variations through different lexical, semantic, phonological, and morphological processes with the help of descriptive, analytical method. The researchers found various similarities and dissimilarities between two related dialects. It is observed that most of the changes were made by the speakers of Lasi dialect because Sindhi being a standard language has a very strong root, but it does not mean that all the time Lasi dialect made the changes, Sindhi also did this on several occasions, and it is proved in the previous chapter while analyzing the data

and further by verifying it from the online dictionary by Turner (2000). We have discussed work in detail in the last chapter about the variations and their processes i.e., phonological, morphological, lexical and semantic, etc.

It is observed that Lasi dialect uses back high and mid high vowels in some words which have low central vowels in Sindhi, and in this case Lasi is raising the vowels. In this study, it is generalized that Sindhi has retained original version in the adverb of place, while Lasi has inserted /h/ sound at the initial position of the word. In some cases, Lasi is like Punjabi and Urdu as the example of the word “ammi or amma”, whereas Sindhi has added /r/ or /l/ sound in the same word’s final position. Lasi is also like that of Punjabi in losing breathy voicing as Lasi words “ba” and “gar” are produced with breathy voiced sound in Sindhi as “bha” and “gha”. Replacement of some sounds has also occurred in different words at different positions (detail is given in the previous chapter) i.e., /v/ sound into implosives /b, b/ sound, /th/ into /ch/ sound and /a/ to /o/ sound.

As is the case with the other languages of the world, the processes of deletion and insertion have frequently occurred here in these dialects too. The examples from both the dialects show that deletion of /t/, /g/ and insertion of some sounds at different positions occurred in many words. The variation of vowel lengthening, and metathesis is also observed in both dialects. The researchers observed the existence of palatalization and nasalization in Lasi dialect for those words which have no palatalization or nasalization in Sindhi. Thus, there are various dialectal variations found in both dialects, yet we cannot consider them two different languages.

There are some examples from both of dialects where sometimes Lasi /ch/ sound changes into /th/ sound in Standard Sindhi. In Lasi dialect /b/, changes into /v/ in Standard Sindhi.

Substitution, deletion and insertion are also observed in some words, especially /t/ and /g/ sound is deleted in some words of Standard Sindhi at different occasions. It is observed that Standard Sindhi low central vowel /a/ changes into back high vowel /i, u/ and with also mid high vowel /o/.

Adjectives of place which start with /u,i,e/ in Sindhi are produced with insertion of /h/ sound in Lasi. It is observed that Lasi dialect has lost breathy voicing sounds. In some cases, Standard Sindhi converted /a/ vowel sound into /o/ vowel at coda position. The result shows that element of palatalization exists in Lasi but the same words are

produced without palatalization in Sindhi. Nasalization in the first syllable is observed in Lasi dialect.

Conclusion

This study can be concluded with the comments that although Lasi and Sindhi (Vicholi) are two different dialects, but they also are interlinked and being dialect of Sindhi. As Sindhi is a standard language and Lasi is one of its dialects. In this study, the researchers observed many similarities as well as differences occurred between these two languages. The researchers showed (by examples) that these two vary from each other based on phonological and morphological grounds. Different variations through different processes are shown in the study which demonstrate that Lasi has gone through different development periods and became a separate language or at least near to it. At the end of the study the objectives of the study are finally obtained. Phonological processes occurred between these two dialects are found and discussed one by one. The morphological variations are also shown in the study and have been part of the discussion throughout the study. At the beginning of the research work our main aim was to find out phonological processes occurred between these two dialects and morphological variations between Lasi and Sindhi and thankfully it is achieved through the study with the help of the participants of native speakers of Lasi and Sindhi, and are also with the help of different resources that are discussed and mentioned above in the previous sections.

Competing Interest Statement

All authors have read and approved the manuscript and take full responsibility for its contents. No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

Acknowledgements

We wish to convey our thanks to the reviewers and editors of this manuscript for publishing our manuscript in this scholarly journal.

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