

Principles and Parameters in Natural Language
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Lecture - 04
E vs I Language, Language as a rule governed system

We have been talking about fundamentals of language these days and I will continue the same discussion further. What we have looked at so far is what is language, what is linguistics, how we study language and what is it that we study and we have been looking at language from its external perspective we talked about differences between language and a language or languages and then we talked about E language and I language right.

These is what we are discussing is certain way to fundamental aspects of language, for us to be aware of the whole idea of language right. What we speak, what other people speak how many languages we speak in India, how many languages are spoken around the world and so on. So, let us let me introduce you to one more aspects in such direction, which are related to what we were discussing last time was what was that we were discussing last time?

Student: (Refer Time: 01:45).

We are talking about language policy state policy on language. So, we will get there, but let us look at this.

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- Language is a rule-governed system.
- Linguists/linguistics makes such rules explicit with scientific investigation.
- A famous anthropologist Heath writes:
 - Language increasingly will be a natural part of the research domains of fields ranging from computer science to industrial sociology. In the days ahead the foundational knowledge about language that has come from linguistics will be like certain principles of mathematics, physics, and biology.



We have also we have also looked at or we have mentioned that linguists or the whole domain of study of language makes underlying rules, systematic rules explicit to the community to the to whoever wants to understand about language right and such rules are part of system.

In that direction I found something very interesting, one of the one of very famous anthropologist writes about research in the area of language. This was published in annual review of anthropology. As I have told you language is also a studied by anthropologists have you heard this word anthropologists before what do they study.

Student: Civilizations human beings (Refer Time: 03:01).

Humans: humans they studies societies culture behavior and many other things from the perspective of humans right we are also studying something about humans, but we are looking at just one aspect of that which is language and there is an interaction between the two or intersection between the two which is so natural that is called anthropological linguistics or linguistic anthropology. Those things are separate; all I want you to understand is we the anthropologists are aware of aware of these things and what she writes is language increasingly will be a natural part of research domain in the fields ranging from computer science to industrial sociology. As a matter of interesting thing this she wrote this thing in 1984 not this is not a recent publication, around 1984 it was very difficult to imagine this breadth of language research.

In fact, just a few years ago or in the decade before, people had even started looking at interactions or intersections between language and computers. So, she was familiar with that and then she talks about the domains of research that it is going to be relevant for all kinds of people that is also be means by beginning from computer science to industrial sociology and then in the days ahead the foundational knowledge about language that has come from linguistics will be like certain principles of mathematics, physics and biology do you understand this part? It simply means a lot of things that has come from study of language or probably will come from study of language are going to be like general knowledge.

If we know about Newton's law that is not any more knowledge of physics of course, that part of physics, but that is not any more knowledge of physics, it is general knowledge you get my point? Similarly if we know how to calculate how to add or how to subtract or multiply and can someone claim that I know mathematics that is not mathematics that is general knowledge right that that is precisely she is talking about that that it is going to be very fascinating in the days to come and these things are going to be very significant for people studying variety of things in different domains.

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Some Questions

- How many languages does India speak?
- How many languages are there in the world?
- Keeping E-language in mind, where does one language stop and the other begins?
- What are the names of different language families?
- What is the difference between language and dialect.
- What do we mean by a variety of a language?



These are the questions we were looking at I have modified some of the questions for us to look at and. So, we speak around 1500 1600 some languages in India that is a huge number of languages which is approximately 25 to 30 percent of total languages spoken

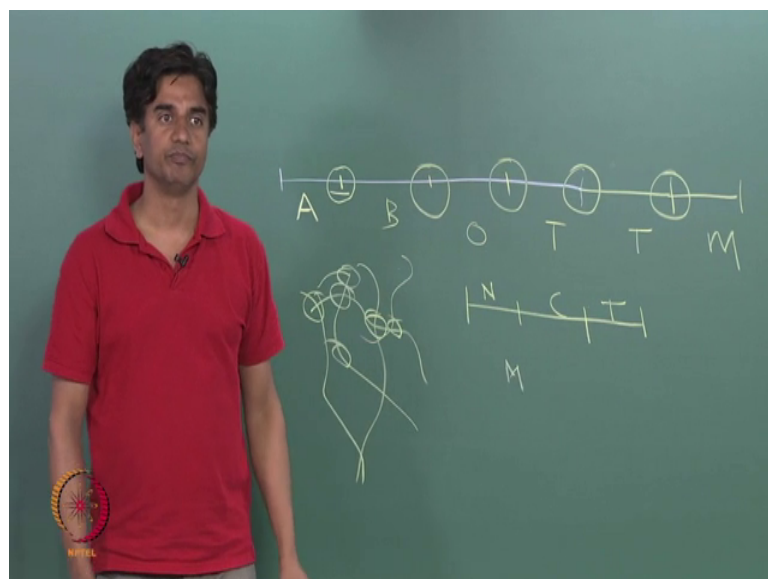
all over the world that that is a huge number. It is not very surprising for us because we have one sixth of world population too, but is still 25 to 30 percent of languages of the world spoken in this geography is a big thing, it that is what makes this place hugely diverse and linguistically diverse geography.

The next question that I want to address is keeping E-language in mind where does one stop and the other begins that is where does one language stop and the other begins. Let me clarify this question to you, do we know the let me put it this way we have two languages let us say Telugu and Tamil do you know any point in between these two states where these two languages are spoken and when I say state I am just mentioning the names of this state where one stops and the other begins.

Student: (Refer Time: 07:47).

Either any boundary line where on the other side of the boundary line people speak only Telugu and this side of the boundary line people speak only Tamil there is nothing as such. If that is true then this is true for all the languages of the world get it then how do we count them? See this thing another aspect that I want to draw your attention to is the names that we give to languages, our for the sake of convenience and when we go further right then the two languages are more separable from one another.

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Now, imagine a situation I want to use this board imagine a situation where I want to give you separate examples of let us say this is a Assamese and then this is Bengali, this is Oriya and this is Telugu are you are you familiar with a map of India geography of India now look at this carefully. As you say there is no point on the line where one stops and the other begins right, but we still now that after Assam we will find west Bengal where people speak Bengali there must be a area on that line where people speak both of them. If we look at it more carefully do people of this land speak one or the other or both or something else get my get this question.

Similarly, people here at the borders of west Bengal and Orissa do people speak Bengali Oriya both or something else and likewise here and then you we can have the same continuum for many things where we have Tamil or we have let us say Malayalam get this thing.

Now, the point is language happens to be a continuum we can cut on the same continuum chunks and say these people is speak Assamese, these people is speak Bengali, these people is speak Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam if we are looking at some other continuum we can say Marathi, Gujarati, Marathi.

Student: Kannada.

Kannada.

Student: Malayalam.

Malayalam like get it there is an interesting story on that continuum, the convergence area these things these parts are called convergence areas one of the convergence area of Marathi and Kannada has resulted into a new language does anyone know the name of that?

Student: Konkani.

Konkani right this language is no more a mixture of the two people do not look at it as mixture of the two; however, that is how it emerged there was a chunk there was an area and I do not mean it in a disrespectful way where people did not know what these guys are speaking are they speaking Marathi or Kannada and nobody would ask these

questions and those people did not need to explain this to anyone and this gives birth to something new which is called Konkani.

Now, again this name has nothing to do with this, that area is called Konkani area. People speaking either one of the two or both of both of them or a combination of the two or something else they started calling their language Konkani and that is one of the official languages of this country now whether it becomes official or not whether it becomes respectable or not, but this is the story of all the languages is this is this point clear to everybody and as the smart engineers I want you to know one more thing.

Actually this continuum does not look like this as it looks on the board. I am calling it a continuum, but it is not as neat looking as it may be. It could also look like and let us say because we do not cut languages I do not know how to draw, but this drawing is a still perfect as long as we are talking about languages we do not know the names of these languages right or for that matter let us say we know.

But all of them have different areas of such areas and they could still be continued, where the all I am trying to say is no matter how neat you want this continuum to look how ugly you want it to look, but the story does not change get my point? This has to do this has something to do with 1652 languages, where we are comfortable with the names of 1650 or 1700 whatever the numbers may be, but in that number we are not taking care of these things and I want you to be aware that whether we count them or not they exist.

Therefore to some extent it is almost impossible to even count total number of languages. If you start looking at people and then you ask people on upon some kind of force they will tell you I speak either Telugu or Tamil, but they may be speaking something else right and this kind of situation for that matter exists within languages two right now we are talking about areas of convergence across two languages, but these are resists within language two.

Where if you are familiar with this thing, you will understand what I mean. If we talk about Malayalam we have northern Malayalam central Malayalam and Travancore Malayalam the anyone here familiar with these terms anyone here familiar with these terms anybody speaks Malayalam here you speak Malayalam great are you familiar with these terms?

Student: Yes something (Refer Time: 15:44).

So, there is something called northern Malayalam spoken in northern parts, central Malayalam and then Travancore Malayalam.

Now, the fact that this distinction exists within the language, they must exist on the basis of something and right now we are not discussing that something, that something could be on the basis of social structure, on the basis of regional structure or some differences within the language and the levels of sounds or a structure or something maybe all of them, but this distinction exists and if you study more of these things as part of E-language and bring in lots of so socio psychological, socio political into this thing.

Then you come to know that Travancore Malayalam is more prestigious than rest of the two and again the same thing happens to everything else. If we are talking about Marathi then there could be lots of different varieties of Marathi broadly speaking there are Pune Marathi and Nagpur Marathi Pune Marathi is more prestigious than Nagpur Marathi. And the reason why I am mentioning these things to you is people who speak Nagpur Marathi; they do not feel good about it when you tell them Pune Marathi is more prestigious ok.

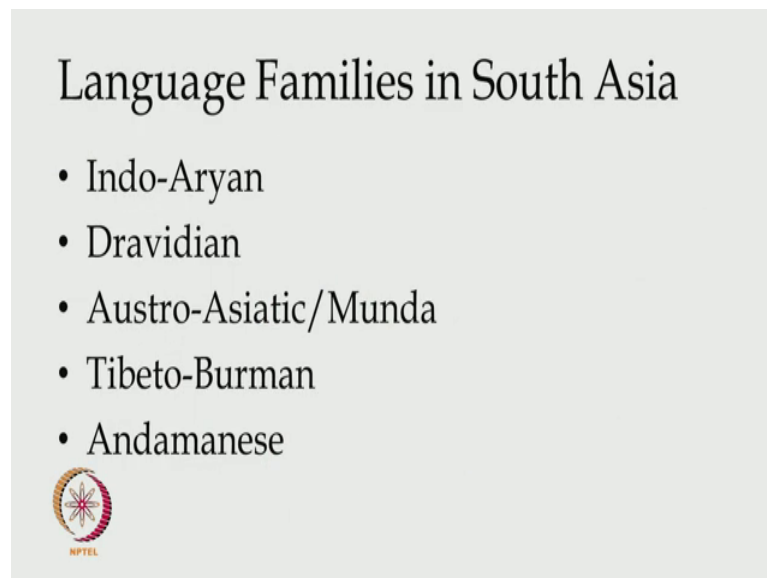
Likewise people who speak northern Malayalam or central Malayalam would not feel great if you tell them Travancore Malayalam is more prestigious and for that matter is not what I am saying that this is more prestigious than the other. They decide these things among themselves and again there are a variety of reasons, I repeat this thing again to you I am talking about these things only for us to be familiar and sensitive about these things when we get into the details of I language we have these things in our mind as well.

So, this is the story or the picture is same within the language also now. So, how do we count them it is just not even possible. Still the 1652 number comes from the which is an output of a project on linguistic survey of India done by George Grayson which was completed in 1930 and that book that survey that project report is published in 18 volumes the this thing volumes and that is a still one of the most authentic sources on different types of languages and we refer back and forth to these things, because they talk about people their lifestyle structure sounds of all those languages. So, it is basically type

of an encyclopedia or dictionary for all these length all these languages and that is how we know 1652.

Another part of that is all these languages are from 5 different language families of India and the names of these families are I will come back to this slide again. So, I want you to see.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:27)



These are the names of language families of India indo Aryan family of languages Dravidian family of languages Austro Asiatic or Munda, Tibeto Burman and Andamanese.

The family of languages within this group of Andamanese is spoken in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are we familiar with this Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Student: (Refer Time: 20:01).

That is part of us right.

Similarly, there are other group of islands that are part of us can you tell me the name.

Student: Lakshadweep.

Lakshadweep great do you know the name of language is spoken in Lakshadweep.

Student: (Refer Time: 20:18).

Sorry.

Student: Malayalam.

Malayalam is one of them there are many others, but Malayalam is one of them and now when we say many others or many languages I want you to keep this picture in mind, this is the real picture of language spoken either in India or you replace these names that becomes true for anywhere in the world. And this picture that you see about central northern Malayalam central Malayalam and Travancore Malayalam or Pune Marathi or Nagpur Marathi or let us say Punjabi Hindi, Delhi Hindi, Lucknow Hindi Banaras Hindi, Patna Hindi, Kolkata Hindi and go all the way to Agartala.

This is story of Hindi or Marathi or Bengali or a Tamil or Malayalam that we see is true for English too it is true for all the languages French German Greek. So, this is what I mean when I say this is the actual picture of language, that is beyond languages within language and this is what I mean when I say it is almost difficult to count them; however, for our convenience we still broadly divide them into Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and all.

Coming back to family of languages, so then there is a set of languages are spoken in Andaman and Nicobar islands until very recently this family was not known to many people. So, people will either think they these languages belong to indo Aryan family of languages or Dravidian family of languages, which in other words meant who cares right, but very recently a group of scholars from one of the famous universities of India they went there to study these things and found substantial evidence, to point out that these languages belong neither to indo Aryan family of languages nor to Dravidian family of languages and they have their own distinct classification system, they have their own system and then they also found that there are a lot of languages are spoken in that area it is not just one or two, it is more than 50 to 60 varieties or 660 different languages spoken there ok.

Since, I began with Andamanese now let me go to Tibeto Burman. This term Tibeto Burman has very little to do with either Tibet or Burma it is just the name of language languages is spoken in particular area and these languages under this category are a

spoken in northeastern states of our country and hills or foothills of Himalayas these are Tibet of Tibeto Burman languages and again any idea how many languages could be do you know how many states are there in east northeastern parts.

Student: 7 (Refer Time: 23:26).

So, I am sure you know the names as well right. So, if we talk about languages then what would be the languages from that that part that you can predict or. So, give me one name of one a state.

Student: Assam (Refer Time: 23:45).

Assam another.

Student: (Refer Time: 23:46) or Manipura.

Manipur.

Student: Manipuri.

So, what is the language of Manipur?

Student: Manipuri.

Is a Manipuri there are other names, but Manipuri.

Student: Yes.

Another state.

Student: Meghalaya.

Meghalaya language do not no.

Student: No.

That is other states student: Arunachal Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh languages or language?

Student: (Refer Time: 24:06).

Do not know that is fine, another.

Student: Tripura.

Tripura language or languages?

Student: Tripuri

No there is nothing called Tripuri,

Student: Sikkim

Sikkim, the Sikkim is not in that 7

Student: (Refer Time: 24:24).

Sikkim is on the other side.

Student: Mizoram.

Mizoram language?

Student: Mizo.

Mizo you see that. So, there are some languages that we know the names of some we do not, but total number of languages to your surprise the total number is more than 500 and most of those names are also representative of not their state names, but representative of their tribes and therefore, they are also called tribal languages, but I want you to know that calling a group of languages tribal languages is not insensitive or a political as long as you do not associate specific meanings to them, as long as they are just names they are all right.

Now Austroasiatic languages this group of languages is a spoken in what we know as modern Chhattisgarh and little bit outer circles of Chhattisgarh which is Jharkand, western part of West Bengal northern parts of Orissa even modern Orissa some parts of Madhya Pradesh and UP that will be the pocket where Austroasiatic languages or languages of Munda group are a spoken.

Student: (Refer Time: 25:54) why (Refer Time: 25:55) that regional isolates for example, the external regions may be an indo Aryan language.

Right.

Student: (Refer Time: 26:00). So, why is that region alone isolated in that part of (Refer Time: 26:03).

It is not about that reason, it is about these languages, languages from this group are a spoken in that that reason.

Student: I have an answer to attached to it.

There is definitely see this classification is called genealogical classification, which means some aspects of associations within these languages are similar this classification is not based on formal properties of languages, by formal properties I mean structure of sentences or a structure of language for. According to formal properties of languages there are only 3 types, languages could be either verb final or verb medial like English or verb initial there are only three types of languages according to that classification.

Now, why that area is a specific to that? So, it the one of the answers could be and I would fairly accept it if it is not very convincing, that these languages are spoken in that area that is it why are Dravidian languages are spoken towards south no?

Student: Sir, why is it called Austroasiatic (Refer Time: 27:22) Austro means Australia and (Refer Time: 27:55).

No, you do not have to read then the names that way therefore.

Student: It may be because of the geography because earlier all work (Refer Time: 27:30).

No, an even if they were that way I do not know.

Student: (Refer Time: 27:32).

Like I said about Tibeto Burman it has nothing to do with either Tibet or Burma.

Student: (Refer Time: 27:42).

Similarly.

Student: (Refer Time: 27:43).

Austroasiatic has nothing to do with Australia or Asia; this is a name and if you do not like that name I have given you another one. So, you can just choose that one.

Student: Munda.

Munda languages we have Dravidian languages which you know Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and these are not just four of them there are lots of other languages spoken in this area.

Couple of the Dravidian languages are a spoken in Austroasiatic reason also, and languages of Dravidian family are a spoken Hindu Kush range of mountains do you know where Hindu Kush range of mountains are? In according to modern geo geography where is Hindu Kush located.

Student: The borders between (Refer Time: 28:43) Pakistan (Refer Time: 28:44).

Pakistan northwestern Pakistan and Afghanistan border very nice; so some of the languages of that region are also called Tibeto Burman language sorry Dravidian languages.

Now, rest of the languages that you see beginning from Kashmiri Dogri to Hindi, Punjabi, Haryanvi, Oriya, Bangla all of them are.

Student: Indo Aryan.

Indo Aryan languages and they are approximately 7 to 800 of them and to wind that part up a couple of interesting facts, do you know the major languages of Sri Lanka?

Student: (Refer Time: 29:37) Sinhalese Tamil (Refer Time: 29:38).

Tamil and?

Student: Sinhalese.

Sinhalese Tamil is the Dravidian and Sinhalese is Indo-Aryan. Sinhalese is spoken in Sri Lanka, which is not Dravidian. I am telling you this interesting fact just so that you do not associate these things.

Student: Geography.

The geography and also we see patches of Dravidian languages in Hindu Kush and in the central Austroasiatic parts. There could be reasons behind this: some speakers congregated in one area, some speakers migrated from one place to the other. This could be the reasons for that, but we do not have substantial evidence to document or show those things. Proof for that is not available in the biggest state of the northeast.

Student: Assam.

Assam language.

Student: Assamese.

Assamese: Assamese is Indo-Aryan language. Assamese is not Dravidian, sorry.

Student: (Refer Time: 30:51).

Is not Tibeto-Burman, ok.

Now, one more thing somebody was talking about Meghalaya, there are two languages spoken in Meghalaya. I mean there are many, but two prominent languages. One is out of the two, one is Khasi. Anyone has heard this name before? Khasi, no, you have not heard this name.

Student: Yes sir.

The language Khasi is interesting because you remember a formal classification that I just told you: verb initial, verb medial, verb final. English is.

Student: Verb medial.

Verb medial and Tamil is.

Student: Verb final.

Verb final; in fact, all the 1652 languages that you found are verb final languages, all of them are verb final except Khasi.

So, all the languages are spoken in India are verb final languages except that one Khasi, which happens to be verb medial language all right. So, these are some of the things we should know about our languages, languages is spoken around the world and languages that we speak.

There is one language which is missing from our discussion and I want to conclude this discussion with that, which is Sanskrit have you heard this name.

Student: Yes.

Who is speaks Sanskrit?

Student: No one (Refer Time: 32:24).

Do you know anybody who is speak Sanskrit?

Student: Kashmiri (Refer Time: 32:28).

But they do they not speak Kashmiri?

Student: (Refer Time: 32:33) there is a village in Karnataka where is speak only in Sanskrit.

There is one village in Karnataka where they speak Sanskrit.

Student: (Refer Time: 32:39).

Let me refine my question and I had I have nothing to reject or deny this these things, do you know anybody around you who grew up speaking Sanskrit like you grew up speaking which language.

Student: Malayalam.

Malayalam.

Student: Yes.

You.

Student: Tamil.

Tamil.

You?

Student: Hindi.

It sounds little bit difficult to believe.

Student: Why?

Do you speak any language other than Hindi?

Student: English Hindi and English.

That is it where are you from?

Student: Indore Madhya Pradesh.

I will talk to you about that.

Student: (Refer Time: 33:13).

It sounds difficult the reason why I am say why I am saying. So, there is there is nothing sarcastic about this please do not take it otherwise. Hindi is a spoken do you know where Hindi is spoken in India.

Student: Madhya Pradesh (Refer Time: 33:28).

If we talk about Malayalam we know where it is a spoken right if we talk about Tamil we know where it is a spoken if we talk about Hindi where is it where is it spoken?

Student: (Refer Time: 33:38) Northern place (Refer Time: 33:39).

Give me the names?

Student: Madhya Pradesh (Refer Time: 33:42).

Let us be a specific.

Student: Madhya Pradesh.

Beginning from you need to spoken in Rajasthan?

Student: Yes spoken may everywhere.

Delhi?

Student: Yes.

UP?

Student: Yes.

Bihar?

Student: Yes.

Right

Student: Uttar Pradesh.

Haryana Punjab?

Student: Uttar Pradesh.

Now, let me rephrase the question; is it not a spoken in Maharashtra?

Student: (Refer Time: 34:04).

It is a spoken right; is it is Punjabi not a spoken in Delhi.

Student: (Refer Time: 34:10).

If we say Hindi is a spoken in Haryana, is Haryanvi not a spoken in Haryana? You can raise a question what are you talking about right I am talking about this and I am also talking about Hindi that it is spoken particularly nowhere and specifically everywhere. The only difference is Hindi is spoken in Delhi is very different from Hindi is spoken in Mumbai or for that matter in Kolkata right.

The reason why I said why I stopped there and I asked he asked him if there are other languages, is in that situation it is difficult to say am I speaking really Hindi or if I am is if I am speaking Hindi which Hindi? Among Hindi speakers if I can categorically figure out that you are speaking Kolkata Hindi or you are speaking Bombay Hindi or you are speaking Hindi from Delhi then with all seriousness that this question deserves we need to see that there are striking differences within the language as well more striking than probably this one.

So, are we really talking about Hindi where is this a spoken right and trust me I told you right yesterday that I am not attaching either any kind of sarcasm or emotional affiliations with these things I am only talking purely in terms of scientific aspects of these languages and on the basis of evidence and I hope you agree with these things that I am telling you. We do not need a microscope to see these things we do not need laboratory to figure out these distinctions, this is why if I can tell you at this point it is said about study of language that the laboratory for study of language begins where other laboratories end which is rest of the society; talking about Sanskrit.

So, do you know anybody? So, you know you know yourself and you know other people who grew up speaking Malayalam Tamil, Hindi also, but do you know anyone who grew up speaking Sanskrit? No some people may be a speaking Kashmiri pandit or pandit from anywhere else, they may think they are speaking Sanskrit, but do they really speak Sanskrit no.

Now again this is not a matter of fun, this is the reason why it is said the Sanskrit is dead language, which that does not mean there is no document available in Sanskrit that simply means no one speaks Sanskrit and this is the story of not Sanskrit alone this is also the story of Latin no one speaks Latin any more lat both of them used to be very prestigious and famous languages at one point in time, what is what do you think is common between the death of both?

Student: They light is (Refer Time: 37:36).

They?

Student: They light (Refer Time: 37:37).

Exactly and many things associated with that I do not want to go into that direction, the speakers of those languages Sanskrit at one point, they would not allow others to learn that language are you familiar with this? Sanskrit people who taught Sanskrit through whatever they talk they would not allow everyone to go to school. If you stopped or if you do things like that two languages, the languages do not like that and on the other part or other side of the same story, languages that you see and see with wider a spread or with maximum number of speakers are the languages that are flexible that are welcoming in incorporating everything else.

So, if you look at the one of the reasons why English is so famous and spoken all over the world is not just because English was the language of British empire and British empire was spread all over the world. Of course, that was one of the reasons, but the other reason which is more convincing and scientific is, if you examine the vocabulary list of English, it has borrowed and neutralized and internalized vocabulary from all parts of the world so much so that sometimes even we talk that several words that you may be familiar with as words of Hindi like Jungle, Dharna dhoti Rasagulla are good words of English, they are part of oxford English dictionary, and this happens all as part of it is acceptability that is what helps spread of it.

And that is the reason of the other side of the story is the reason for death of Sanskrit. This anecdote what I wanted to say Sanskrit is not part of any one of these family. Sanskrit is neither indo Aryan nor Dravidian definitely not Munda Austro Tibeto Burman nor Andamanese.

Student: But a Sanskrit is (Refer Time: 40:11).

Sanskrit was spoken by Aryans true.

Student: So, Sanskrit come under (Refer Time: 40:16).

No again Aryan the word Aryan does refer to Aryans that we know, but Sanskrit was Sanskrit not was is part of indo European family of languages, and with these names if we go up in the tree a structure in the structure of families, then we go all the way to indo European and Sanskrit is part of indo European like Latin. Therefore, Sanskrit is closer to English than to any one of our languages and rest of the story is part of history and historical discussions, whether it is it was language of Aryans whether Aryans came from

somewhere else. And then they settled in India, therefore they brought Sanskrit all these things are part of historical disc discussions or historical examination I am not familiar with those things.

I can talk to you about what I feel, but then that is not authentic for a discussion related to our knowledge of language or knowledge about languages important is Sanskrit is not part of this Sanskrit is indo European. And then I just wanted you to be familiar with the idea why these languages are why these two languages are almost dormant or what we called dead in colloquial terms.

Let us look at one more thing. So, we talked about different names of language families and now in the remaining time quickly we want to talk about language and dialect right. So, far we have been using the term language or languages with clear distinction between what they mean what we mean by language what we mean by languages and I discuss this thing to you, whether this means simplifying the picture of language or complicating the story of language in fact, both mean the same thing ok.

Now, with this thing in mind with total number of languages of the world in mind, with languages that we speak in mind what do you think we mean when we say dialect. I am sure you have heard this word before and you have some idea about that right. So, would you like to share your ideas with me? Please do not be worried about being wrong or not being accurate I am only asking you I do have some of them I will show them to you, but I am asking you to see whether you have heard these terms and where you have heard these terms and what you mean by these terms or what you have been thinking about these terms so far that the term is dialect.

Student: Language form with minor variation major languages.

Language forms with some variations from the major language fine let me let me take a couple of them and then we talk about that something else.

Student: They generally follow the same script, but usually languages are dialect have the same script.

Have the same script. So, it has something to do with the script.

Student: Yeah.

Alright, let us take that also ok.

Student: Two people speaking different dialects can still have a conversation and talk, but people who speak different languages to you people they will not be able to converse or have long or complex conversations.

So in accordance to that what you are saying is these are dialects that is northern Malayalam, central Malayalam and Travancore Malayalam's are dialects of Malayalam, but not Telugu or Tamil is a dialect of Assamese that is why all right I will talk about that also anything else anyone else? No nobody wants to say anything do you agree with these things that these people are saying- yes.

Student: Yes.

Largely yes.

Student: Largely yes.

Yes all right and what they are saying is absolutely fine there is and I do not think they are completely wrong either we just need to refine them a little bit.

(Refer Slide Time: 45:19)

Dialect

- a particular form of a language which is peculiar to a specific region or social group
- a variety of a language that is a characteristic of a particular group of the language's speakers
- a regional speech pattern,
- dialect may also be defined by other factors, such as social class



See I also have these similar things I found it from different sources. Some people believe a particular form of a language which is peculiar to a specific region or a social group is a dialect. A variety of language that is a characteristic of a particular group of

languages speakers is dialect; a reasonable speech pattern is a dialect. A dialect may also be defined by other factors such as social class reasonable status and all other things.

Student: What you saying this slang (Refer Time: 45:56).

Slang?

Student: (Refer Time: 46:00).

Are you asking me this question what is a slang?

Student: Like (Refer Time: 46:03) Malayalam. I am saying I think like completely different not like.

Completely different what?

Student: They are not completely different language right they just have a different slang like accent.

Wait a minute these are different terms, accents slangs mean completely different things. Slang is probably the term which is used for a language or for a type of language in a more of a derogatory terms, derogatory way not derogatory derogatory, but in a derogatory sense and also that could be a common term between only a few speakers or a group of some speakers. For example, if there are certain terms that are used only on the campus of IIT Madras you can say this is IITM Slang.

Now, I want you to understand what I said is that true or not.

Student: Yes sir.

Yes that is true, but that is not really derogatory as derogatory like some like some bad words. So, what I mean is they are not bad words, but there are specific to a group or that group could be smaller and bigger. Technically there are all other names for that, but this is what we know is slang and then there could be more elaboration of that what we are what the other term that you said accent. This term accent is also used in some derogatory sense right.

For example if I say he speaks English with an accent what is what is that supposed to mean, does it mean that he speaks very good English?

Student: (Refer Time: 48:07).

No definitely no you may not know what it means, but you know for sure does this does not mean something nice am I right.

So, accent is also one of the terms, but accent is used to determine sound quality or sound system to decide whether a particular person's speech or speech of a particular group is close to a standard variety or way too far away from the standard variety and that is only related to sound system that is called accent.

Again both are used in some sort of derogatory terms, now what you are referring to these three varieties of a one language is precisely not different slangs, these are three different varieties of the same language, then again you can ask this question. So, what is the difference between a dialect and it is verity right.

So, let us first take a look at dialect and give me three four more minutes and I will be done and if we need we can discuss these things more later, but I will since I started this thing I will be done with this thing. See like I told you in the beginning keep this picture in mind right it is even difficult and I am and I am repeating this again with the help of this picture it helps us understand that it is even difficult to count languages. Can we write any language in any script I am only asking about possibility?

Student: Yes.

Not that we have to do a possibility can we use English with roman script.

Student: Yes.

We use we write Hindi with Devanagari script trust me Roman script was not designed for English likewise Devanagari script was not designed for Hindi Devanagari script was a script of Sanskrit where language died and a script was retained, because it was adapted by other languages ok.

Therefore, a language keeping or maintaining, it is writing system is no standard of language. Remember I have been telling you the object of enquiry is a spoken language, you must be familiar with people who can speak, but they do not know how to write do you know such people?

Student: Yes.

Do you can we say that they do not know language? We do not we cannot say such things. Ability to write is an additional thing that does not come with learning language. Remember that Dravidian quote I have told you have seen that we see instinctive tendency.

Student: (Refer Time: 51:21).

When we see someone a child is speak, but the ability to read write and brave is not instinctive tendency see that therefore, the capacity to write something is an additional learning thing and we can learn to write anything. As long as the discussion of a script is concerned we can write any language in any script and what is the big deal about it ok. So, script is not a parameter for language for distinction between language and dialect. At the same time you have not mentioned, but some people mentioned that availability of literature that is novels, dramas, poetry if a language has these things then that language and some other, but other things that do not have these things may be dialects.

Again that is no parameter it is just a matter of coincidence that Shakespeare wrote in English, Kali das wrote with Sanskrit and Tulsi das wrote with Avadi right Santh Jgnaneshwar wrote in Marathi and Thiruvallur wrote in Tamil it just a matter of coincidence. Therefore availability of literature in any language is no parameter for distinction between language and dialect. In a strict technical sense in a strict scientific examination there is absolutely no distinction between what we call a language and what we call a dialect.

If we want to call these three has three different varieties that is because these three varieties of a language may have more similarities among one another than dialects and I am reiterating in this thing again that there is no distinction, no scientific distinction, no technical distinction between a language and a dialect. Not even number of speakers, some languages have huge number of a speakers some languages have very few number of a speakers just now I gave you examples of indo Aryan languages and Andamanese languages, get it. So, that is not even a parameter for distinction between language and society language, language and dialect; that is simply the two concepts two ideas are socio politically motivated ideas, ok.

I stop here.