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## FOREWORD

The Linguistic Survey of India is an ongoing research project of Government of India, Office of the Registrar General, India, Language Division since Sixth Five Year Plan. This is part of the continuing efforts of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, to present the Language profiles of the Country with respect to States and Union Territories. The census is quite aware of the difference between state based study and the language based study as the States have boundaries whereas the languages don't. This is very much apparent from the languages' returns in all the Censuses as most of the languages are found in more than one state. This has social as well as linguistic implications in terms of language contacts leading to bilingualism/multilingualism and borrowing of linguistic features from one language to another and also creation of Pidgins and Creoles. Some of these aspects of language contact, borrowing etc. of linguistic features need to be studied by the linguistic survey. What is most important in first place is the grammar or linguistic description of each of the languages and varieties concerned and other aspects of study will follow. Linguistic survey is important as it opens up avenues for the study of language pedagogy, language and ethnicity, language and society, language and mind, language and communication, language and indigenous knowledge as well as language and politics. These aspects require interdisciplinary approach which also need in depth research. In such an endeavor, the linguists who are not much understood will render yeomen's service to the country.

I feel immense pleasure in presenting the LSI-Rajasthan(Part-I) Volume - the fourth one in the series of Post-Griersonian Linguistic Survey of India. Prior to this LSI volumes on Orissa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Sikkim have been completed. Orissa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Sikkim Volumes have already been released. The publication of LSI-Rajasthan (Part-I) is in line, which will be followed by subsequent presentation of LSI-West Bengal, LSI-Bihar & Jharkhand, LSI-Himachal Pradesh, LSI-Rajasthan (Part-II) and others. The Survey is planning there after to cover the Southern and North Eastern part of India before its advent towards the other left out parts of the country

The survey operation in the state of Rajasthan was started in the year of 1998 and continued up to 2001, covering the investigations on Marwari, Malvi, Mewati, Jaipuri(Dhundhari), Brajbhasha, Bundeli/Bundelkhandi (mother tongues listed under

Hindi Group since 1971 Census and Wagdi –listed under Bhili/Bhilodi group of languages. Prior to this or according to Grierson’s classification these are languages of Central Group of Indo-Aryan falling in 3 sub groups-Rajasthani, Hindi and Bhili. The present volume brings out the linguistic situation of Rajasthan state in the historical, political and social background. The peculiarity of the linguistic composition of the state lies in the existence of mother tongues like Rajasthani, Marwari, Dhundhari or Jaipuri, Bagri Rajasthani, Bagri, Mewati, Malvi, Labani, Brajbhasha, Bundeli/Bundelkhandi, Baori, Bhili/ Bhilodi, Wagdi, Panjabi, Sindhi and Urdu; many of which are also spoken in good number in other states sharing borders with Rajasthan. For instance languages like Brajbhasha is also spoken in good number in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana ; Mewati is spoken in Haryana by more speakers than in Rajasthan ; Bundelkhandi is mainly concentrated in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and Malvi is spoken by much more speakers in Madhya Pradesh than in Rajasthan. The description on Brajbhasha, Mewati, Malvi and Bundelkhandi cannot be considered complete without the state surveys of U.P, M.P and Haryana where these languages are spoken in good number. Similarly Wagdi mother tongue belonging to Bhili/Bhilodi group of languages is spoken majorly by Bhil tribes of Rajasthan. And the survey of Bhili/Bhilodi cannot be complete without the survey of M.P, Gujarat and Maharashtra where Bhili/Bhilodi as mother tongue is spoken by a good number.

Wagdi being bordered with Mewari and Gujarati shares features with Rajasthani and Gujarati. This is off course, true of all Bhili/Bhilodi languages. Marwari is bounded by the Eastern dialects of Rajasthani towards its east such as Jaipuri (Dhundari) and on its south east it has Malvi and a number of Bhili dialects. There are lots of grammatical similarities between Bhili and Rajasthani and according to some scholars Bhili could be classified with Rajasthani. Some peculiarities of Bhili keep it distinct like realization of Indo-Aryan palatal /c/ & /ch/ as /s/ , /s/ as /h/ and /h/ as /Ø/. But /s/ realized as /h/ is not strange to Bhili only as such feature is also available in Eastern Indo Aryan languages like Assamese etc.. Bhili has many features like 3 gender system common with Gujarati also. I have thought Bhili as link between Rajasthani and Gujarati. To the west of Marwari , Sindhi is spoken in Sind and to the north west of Marwari, Panjabi is spoken. Thus Marwari merges with Panjabi and Sindhi. Mewati which is identified after the language

of the Meos mostly found in Gurgaon district of Haryana, but it covers a larger tract than this. It is spoken in almost whole of the Alwar district and north-west of Bharatpur district. These last two areas do fall within Mewat. Mewati is bounded by Brajbhasha, Jaipuri and Ahirwati. Mewati itself is North-eastern Rajasthani. Mewati is bounded on the east by the Brajbhasha. On boundaries one merges into another and because of shared boundaries they share lots of features. We can see this in Ahirwati merging into the Bangaru /Haryanvi dialect through Mewati. The head-quarters of Mewati may be taken as Alwar in Rajasthan and part of Gurgaon district of Haryana adjoining Alwar and headquarter of Ahirwati is Rewari in the Haryana.. Because of this the influence of Rajasthani is observable on Brajbhasha and Bangru/Haryanvi-language of Western Hindi group.

Malvi is considered as south-central Rajasthani having affinity with both Marwari and Jaipuri of Indo-Aryan family. To its east Malvi has Bundeli dialect of Western Hindi spoken in Gwalior and Saugar. Malvi thus merges into Bundeli and Gujarati. Thus languages occur in chain and at times it becomes difficult to mark them.

The present volume is an humble attempt to describe 7 languages/mother tongues spoken in Rajasthan state and its districts as per 2001 Census. All the languages except Wagdi dealt in this volume are treated under Hindi. Wagdi has been treated as synonymous to Bhili /Bhilodi so far Rajasthan is concerned. Bhili/Bhilodi as mother tongue has been returned by 17353 speakers separately in the 2001 census ranking 24th position in Rajasthan. Wagad region of Rajasthan consists of Dungarpur, Banswara and part of Udaipur district mainly Kherwara and Rishabdev. Interestingly the non Bhils in this region also identify themselves with Wagdi. The present report on Bhili/Bhilodi in the Volume may be taken for Wagdi as spoken by Bhils and it requires a detailed Sociolinguistic Survey of Wagdi - a Bhili /Bhilodi dialect in Rajasthan as it covers a big area. Certain regional and social variations have been noticed in Wagdi of Dungarpur, Banswara and Kherwara. Non-Bhil Wagdi speakers speak trill /r/ in place of retroflex lateral /L/. There are other phonological, lexical and grammatical variations which need detailed survey. Besides Wagdi, Garasia Bhili and Baori – Bhili/Bhiodi dialect speakers are found in Rajasthan in good number. There is also a concentration of Bhil tribes in Kotra tehsil of Udaipur district which need to be studied from ethno linguistic point of

view as they have contacts with Mewari and Gujarati. The study on Wagdi as well as Wagdi -Bhili will be clear after an exhaustive survey of Bhili language as spoken by Bhils in various parts of Rajasthan as well as in other states .

It has been the practice in vogue since 1971 census the dialects-Marwari, Brajbhasha, Malvi, Mewati, Bundeli/Bundelkhandi and Jaipuri covered under this volume are treated as dialects of Hindi. Prior to this Bundeli/Bundelkhandi and Brajbhasha –were treated as dialects of Western Hindi and Rajasthani was a separate group and the rest were treated under Rajasthani. Brajbhasha is also called Braj Bhakha i.e., the language of the Braj Mandal. It is also called Antarbedi, the language of the Antarbed –the holy land falling between the Ganges and the Jamna, which is not true as it is spoken far beyond this. The Braj Mandal almost exactly coincides with the modern district of Mathura, Agra, Aligarh, Etawah, Mainpuri, and Farukhabad in Uttar Pradesh. The language of Farukhabad and Etawah is Kanauji, and that of the others is Braj Bhakha with Mathura as its centre. The Braj Region is known in literature around Gokula where Lord Krishna spent his childhood with his cowherd friends with foster father Nand and foster mother Yashodha and where all his juvenile adventures were described with Gopis and friends. Instead of Braj Bhakhā, the name of the country Braj is often loosely applied to mean the language. The Braj is not confined to Uttar Pradesh as it is spoken in the west of Gwalior (M.P), and in the east of Jaipur i.e Bharatpur (Rajasthan). To the north it is spoken in the eastern part of Gurgaon (Haryana). Thus Braj covers a large area sharing its boundary with Mewati, Bundeli, Khariboli and Haryanvi. The standard form of the dialect is best illustrated by the language of Mathura. The Braj also thus requires a detailed survey to see variations within the language. When state surveys of U.P and Haryana is taken up the picture will be more clear and variations in Braj will be better understood. Besides there are pockets of Braj speakers in other parts such as Nathdwara and Rajsamant in Rajasthan who moved from Mathura long back as part of spreading Krishna cult. These speakers are in the vicinity of Mewari speakers. There is a need to study the language of such displaced persons from the point of view of pidginisation etc.

The River Chambal forms the northern and western boundary of Bundeli State of Gwalior. On the north, Bundeli not only extends to that river but crosses it into the districts of Agra, Mainpuri, and Etawah, being spoken in the southern portions. On the

west, it does not extend to the Chambal, the languages spoken in the western portion of Gwalior being Braj merges with Bundelkhandi.. On the south it extends far beyond the nominal boundaries of Bundelkhand. The language is mainly concentrated in M.P and U.P. There are only 1623 Bundeli speakers in Rajasthan which does not constitute with in 15 major mother tongues. There are mother tongues like Hindi, Harauti, Bagri, Panjabi, Sindhi etc returned by a large number are not studied in the volume. The inclusion of Bundeli in this volume does not convince under the present circumstances. Any way all the mother tongues spoken in the state should find a place in the state volumes. This is a fact that Bundeli has a large literature including a well-known epic.

The present volume devoted on the state of Rajasthan has the descriptions of 7 important languages belonging to Indo-Aryan family. The document, undoubtedly, would be useful to the researchers, planners and data users as it will provide some insight into linguistic picture of Rajasthan at a glance. It is hoped some of the deficiencies of Grierson's Linguistic Survey would be addressed by the present Linguistic Survey.

I must place on record the extensive efforts put in by the team consisting of Dr.Kakali Mukherjee, Shri S.P. Ahirwal, Dr S Ganesh Baskaran, Dr Sibasis Mukherjee, Dr N.Gopalkrishnan , Shri P Edward Vedamanickam and Dr S.P.Srivastava in preparing the description of these languages in this volume under the able guidance of Dr Kakali Mukherjee who took extra pain in going through all the descriptions and in preparing Introduction. The Introduction to this volume giving maps and statistical information about linguistic profile of Rajasthan is very useful to the researchers. I must appreciate the patience of contributors who willingly accepted my suggestions . This would not have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of Shri Devender Kumar Sikri, the Secretary and Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India in bringing out this Report.

**Mysore**  
**May, 2011**

**Professor J.C.Sharma**