

KISAN
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Family affiliation

Kisan is a language of north Dravidian group of Dravidian family of languages.

Location

Kisan speakers are concentrated essentially in the two districts of Orissa - Sambalpur and Sundargarh.

Statistical data : Language, Mother tongue and Bilingualism – 1991 Census

KISAN (LANGUAGE)					KISAN (MOTHER TONGUE)				
		Persons	Male	Female			Persons	Male	Female
INDIA	T	162,088	81,091	80,997	INDIA	T	162,088	81,091	80,997
	R	151,949	75,828	76,121		R	151,949	75,828	76,121
	U	10,139	5,263	4,876		U	10,139	5,263	4,876
ORISSA		Persons	Male	Female	ORISSA		Persons	Male	Female
	T	160,704	80,345	80,359		T	160,704	80,345	80,359
	R	150,619	75,125	75,494		R	150,619	75,125	75,494
	U	10,085	5,220	4,865		U	10,085	5,220	4,865

Bilingualism :

	Total Number of Speakers	Total Numbers of Bilinguals			Major Languages of Bilingualism				Total Number of Trilinguals		
		Persons	Male	Female	Language	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
India	162,088	93,735	49,302	44,433	Oriya	89,251	46,640	42,611	14,670	10,576	4,094
					Hindi	3,421	1,680	1,741			
Orissa	160,704	93,207	49,010	44,197	Oriya	89,190	46,600	42,590	14,463	10,444	4,019

Phonology
Phonemic inventory
Segmentals
Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	<i>i</i>		<i>u</i>
Higher mid	<i>e</i>		<i>o</i>
Low		<i>a</i>	

Suprasegmentals

(a) Length of vowel / : / is phonemic

Examples

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------|---------|--------------|------------|
| 1. | <i>hessu</i> | 'paddy' | <i>he:su</i> | 'blood' |
| 2. | <i>curi</i> | 'knife' | <i>cu:ri</i> | 'bracelet' |

(b) Nasalization of vowels / ~ / is phonemic

Examples

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------|-------|-------------|---------|
| 1. | <i>hu:s</i> | 'he' | <i>hõ:s</i> | 'duck' |
| 2. | <i>oTTa</i> | 'gum' | <i>õ:Tu</i> | 'shade' |

Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop :							
Voiceless	<i>p</i>	<i>t̪</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>T</i>	-	<i>k</i>	-
Voiced	<i>b</i>	<i>d̪</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>D</i>	-	<i>g</i>	-
Aspirate:							
Voiceless	<i>p^h</i>	-	<i>t^h</i>	<i>T^h</i>	-	<i>k^h</i>	-
Voiced	<i>b^h</i>	-	<i>d^h</i>	<i>D^h</i>	-	<i>g^h</i>	-
Affricate:							
Voiceless	-	-	-	-	<i>c</i>	-	-
Voiced	-	-	-	-	<i>j</i>	-	-
Aspirate :							
Voiceless	-	-	-	-	<i>c^h</i>	-	-
Voiced	-	-	-	-	<i>j^h</i>	-	-
Fricative	-	-	<i>s</i>	-	-	-	<i>h</i>
Nasal	<i>m</i>	-	<i>n</i>	-	-	<i>M</i>	-
Lateral	-	-	<i>l</i>	-	-	-	-
Flap	-	-	<i>r</i>	<i>R</i>	-	-	-
Trill	-	-	<i>(R)</i>	-	-	-	-
Semivowel	<i>w</i>	-	-	-	<i>y</i>	-	-

[[*(R)* is a marginal phoneme]

Major allophonic variations

Vowels

Phonemes

- / *i* / [*i*] - occurs word finally. Example
a:li 'woman'
 [*I*] - occurs word-initially and word-medially. Example
IbaDa:d 'these', *gunlya* 'mosquito'.
 / *e* / [*e*] - occurs word-finally. Example:
nimhe 'your'
 [*E*] - occurs word-initially and word-medially. Example
Emba: 'sweet', *jEhari* 'niece'.
 / *u* / [*u*] - occurs word finally. Example :
margu 'horn'

