Assimilation and incidental differences in Sindhi language

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Abstract

This research paper is an attempt to describe assimilation and incidental differences in the Sindhi language. The purpose of this study is to offer a comparative study of two dialects of the Sindhi language Vicholi and Siroli. The project examined different aspects of Sindhi phonology, as well as some features of Sindhi syntax and morphology. Although studies conducted on the Sindhi phonology are briefly described, there is still a need to analyze it further. The sample for the study is taken from ten Vicholi participants and ten Siroli participants of these two different dialects of the Sindhi language. The pronunciation of sample words was recorded first, then transcribed phonetically and then, finally analyzed. These dialects were compared to find out similarities and differences in them. This paper examines assimilation and incidental differences which are very common observable occurrences and cross linguistic features. Two main questions were posed. How can patterns of assimilation be different from one another? Is it happening all the time to come up analysis with unified patterns of assimilation? This work is based on fieldwork in region Shikarpur and Khairpur; The data collected by making recordings with different background of social such as professionals advice , different age, unpremeditated of storytelling and speech , storytelling. The results show very clear distinctions and dissimilarities among the speakers of these two different dialects of Sindhi language in Pakistan.

Keywords: Sindhi, Siroli, Vicholi , assimilation, incidental differences

Introduction

Sindhi language belongs to an Indo-Aryan family of languages with its root in the River Indus Valley (Minahan, 2012). Sindhi Language is spoken in the province of Sindh, Pakistan. It is spoken by about 40,000,000 forty million people. It is an ancient language with vast vocabulary, folk culture and literature. Sindhi language enjoys official status in the province of Sindh. Sindhi language is written with right to left direction and has a Perso-Arabic script. There are six dialects of Sindhi Language. These dialects are different and among them

Standard dialect Vicholi which was used for educational and official purposes for the period of the British rule.

1. Siroli : it is spoken in upper side of Sindh such as Shikarpur, Larkana and Naseerabad.
2. Vicholi : it is spoken in central Sindh such as Nawabshah and Hyderabad. It is considered Standard dialect in education and literature.
3. Lasi : it is spoken in western side of Sindh e.g. Balochistan region naseerabad and Lasa Bela.
4. Lari : is spoken in lower side of Sindh e.g. Umarkot, Tharparkar and Mithi
5. Kachhi : it is spoken in India southern side of Sindh
6. Thari : is spoken in Rajastan region on the southeast border of Sindh desert area (Sindhi Boli)

Sindhi language has rich in inventory phonemes or inventory sound. Sindh language has forty six distinctive phonemes, ten vowels and four implosive sound and unit of nasalization. Consonantal inventory of Sindhi language is used in this study and shown as below (Cole, 2005)

Figure: 1 Map of Sindhi language dialects and research area is given in circle
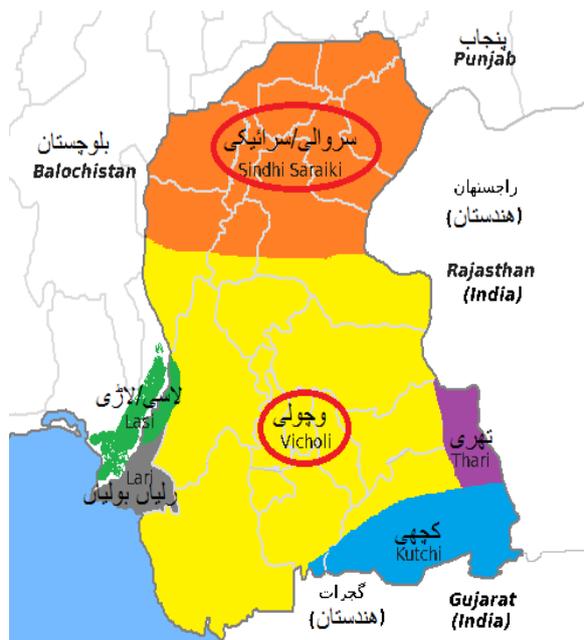
Table: 1 the chart of consonants Sindhi language

Place Manner		Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex	Alveo-Palatal	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	Plosive	p b pʰ bʰ	t̪ d t̪ʰ d̪ʰ	ʈ ɖ ʈʰ ɖʰ					k g kʰ gʰ	ʔ
	Implosive	ɓ				ɗ		ʄ	ɠ	
Nasal		M			n nʰ	ɳ ɳʰ		ɲ	ɳ	
Fricative			f v		s z			ʃ	x ɣ	H
Affricative							tʃ dʒ tʃʰ dʒʰ			
Trill					r r̥ʰ					
Flap						ɽ ɽʰ				
Lateral					l lʰ					
Glide		ʋ						J		

Source: (Cole, 2005)

In Sindhi language each letter has four form such as beginning, middle, final and stand alone. Sindhi language has fifty alphabet letters and vowel or semi vowel ending. Sindhi language has primarily open syllable. In Sindhi language has twenty five stops including five nasals, four palatal affricatives, three liquids and six fricatives. The stop consonants contrast between aspiration, voicing, and pressure, suction and unvoicing. The vowel inventory long- short grouped in pairs such as i, iː, e, eː, u, uː, o, oː, ɑ, ɑː. The short vowels /e,o/ merged in the old variety with their long counterparts and the new variety speakers are different they are producing long monophthongs [e,o] and short diphthongs [aɪ ,aʊ]. Sindhi language is primary language in rural areas of Sindh province and it has an official status it is recognized government language as in province of Sindh.[1] The change does not occur only within a state or region but takes place across country, social and linguistic changes between two speech communities Vicholi and Siroli . The Sindhi language has variety of words which is not only infrequently degenerates into a useless luxuries and a mere plurality of synonym.

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[1] 'A phoneme is minimal unit in the sound system of a language. For details, see David, 1998:287

Assimilation is defined as the process of replacing a sound by another sound under the influence of a third sound which is near to it in the word sentence, the term may be extended to include cases where a or a sequence of two sounds coalesces and gives place to a single new sound different from either of the original sounds. . When the passages of natural conversation came to be analyzed, however, assimilation emerged as being one of the main means to whereby fluency and Rhythm are maintained. Assimilation has a very prices meaning when it's related to studies of language. There are four configurations found: the increase in phonetic similarity may be between adjacent segments or between segments separated by one or more intervening segments; the changes could be in reference to a preceding segment or a following one. Assimilation to an adjacent segment is vastly more frequent than assimilation to a non-adjacent one. It is not caused that many Arabic words, phrases to assimilate into Sindhi language but Sindhi writing was adopted itself from Arabic script. I look at language relationships and language change through history by studying words. Specifically, I focus on root morphemes in a variety of languages.

Literature Review

The paper offers a systematic description of study of the assimilation and incidental difference of Siroli and compares it with standard dialects of Sindhi language Vicholi . The present study is delimited to phonology, with particular focus on syntactical and morphological features. Within the phonological, syntactical and morphological differences can be found at supra-segmental level i.e. stress and intonation, and phonological variability. There can be many differences within different dialects of language. A variety is a type of language which has some uniformity in its syntax, morphology and phonology. Differences in dialects can be social, geographical and regional or occupational. In this survey of Sindhi language, Allana (2004) refers to Sindhi language on the linguistics grounds and he describes six dialects of Sindhi language keeping in view the following linguistic features: phonological and phonetic, morphological, syntactical and lexical. In the description phonological and phonetics features, he describes assimilation and intonation differences of Sindhi language. In the present study two dialects of Sindhi language have been described in a systematic way. I have discussed dialectology for which, the systematic approach to dialect differences is fundamental. In the previous studies of Sindhi language two dialects are described as if it is similar Vicholi dialect

to Siroli. The present study takes sample which is all represents highly educated and middle highly educated segment of society. Although the participants belong to different region or geographical backgrounds. This study is significant in many ways. First, it may contribute towards better understanding of consonant system, words, phrases and sentences of Sindhi language three dialects have different Phonological, syntactical and morphological than other dialects of Sindhi language. Although various studies conducted on Sindhi language as' (Mal, 1926); (Allana, Sindhi Boli Jo Bun Bunyad, 2004) in describing Sindhi language. They emphasis the need for further investigation on Sindhi language. This study intends to delve into the slipstream of this general approach while paying particular attention to the consonantal phonemes, words, phrases and sentences. Finally, Sindhi language as a province language has become essential in Sindh province in terms of education and professional development. It is essential for Sindhi students and academies. This study may also helpful for Sindhi speakers to know the differences among the dialects and hence focus on those areas which are problematic.

2.0 Methodology

This study is based on observation and interviews. These interviews were structured and questions were asked from all the interviewees. The research tool observation was used to record the participants, stipulation, desires, survey techniques, opinions and the population into insights the building of the realities. Twenty participants, who belonged different region of Sindh some of them government servants and private in the different departments were selected. All participants were chosen having the different occupation, i.e. teaching, police officers, local government and NGOs. The selected participants spoke different dialects of the Sindhi language as L1 and belonged to rural area of Sindh. The research was depended on techniques of survey pure. Twenty participants were selected and sampling technique was based on data collection. Wordlists were used for comparison of Siroli and Vicholi dialects of Sindhi language. First of all writing in roman was made by comparative analysis and the respondent's response for the phonetic form. Three to four times words listened then transcribed in phonetic transcription and the comparison of written to draw carefully. List of words of Siroli and Vicholi dialects of Sindhi language compared one by one. During comparing the word sounds of one dialect with the other similarity of phonetic was found. The form of filed in survey participants were recorded during observations. Their speech was recorded and their pronunciation transcribed. The language sample for Received Pronunciation (RP) is validated after listening to words from

a reading list. In the present study, however, it was found that most of the consonantal phonemes of the participants were not same as those of Vicholi standard dialect of Sindhi language speakers. It was found that were not exactly the same number of consonantal phonemes in dialects of Sindhi language. Sandhi is a phenomenon of combinatory phonetics produced through the combination of words in a sentence. On speaks of Sandhi, term borrowed from the ancient Hindu grammarians, which signifies junction, union. Sandhi phenomena were particularly frequent in the ancient language of India. . There are some other important aspects of the sound system that we need to consider. These do not relate to individual segments or phonemes but are associated with higher units of sound like words, phrases, clauses and sentences. The researcher selected native speakers of Sindhi language for the recording data and researcher applied those above resources and methods for get knowledge in this research. The most suitable geographic boundary selected and spent of time twenty five days in a place and data were collected carefully for a purpose of observation, collection of interviews and wordlist. The researcher accompanied native speakers for guidance, transcription and translation. This course is introduced to design researcher research namely conducting the basics essential with the choosing for investigation, narrowing down a topic sources finding credible, selecting adaption or developing tools for data collection and a research design developing. Most of the sounds which a language has seem to be similar, but they are not pronounced in the exact manner. The researcher will be appropriated to find out a research topic, original research develop from the native speakers involved in data collection and organized data analysis carefully.
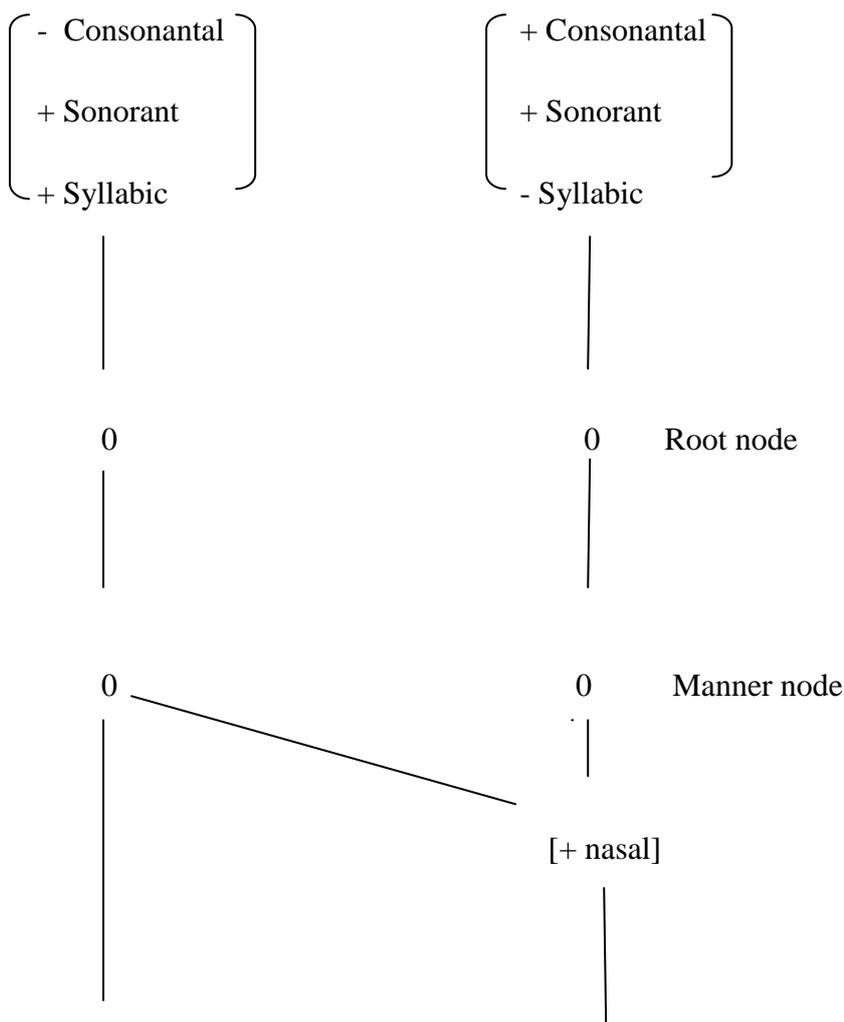
3.0 Assimilation

   Assimilation is defined as every consonant and every vowel is effect by its neighboring consonants and vowels. This adaption of segments to each other is sometimes referred to as assimilation. Now that I described concept of assimilation and how they related to actual pronunciation. It is very difficult for the non-native varieties. Before I make any claims about how this language works we want to listen about the pronunciation patterns of the speaker's language pronunciation patterns give rise the actual pronunciation. Assimilation depends on the context and surrounding sound how the native speaker's emerges sounds e.g. [gəʈʰɑ] , [gəhɑ] in these words /ʈʰ/ changes into /h/ both phoneme are totally different but one initial phoneme /g/ remaining same. There are three types of assimilation which were discussed below.

1. Regressive Assimilation or Anticipatory

2. Progressive Assimilation

3. Coalescent or Reciprocal Assimilation

3.1 Regressive Assimilation

The sound becomes different by the reason influence of comes after sound because. Regressive assimilation direction is predicated as right to left. If a sound change with reference to following sound e.g. kunb /n/ under the influence of /b/ and become /m/.The participants pronounce a bilabial /m/ under the influence of /b/ which is known as regressive assimilation. The word an oral segment adapts nasality form a neighboring segment then vowel becomes nasal audible.

Nasal assimilation

bʰ   æ ⟶ æ̃   n

Figure: 2 Vowel nasalization in Sindhi Language regressive assimilation

Regressive assimilation-feature added in the 1st of two segments

3.2 Progressive Assimilation

The sound becomes different for the reason that effect of coming sound these terms are very perplexing for the reason that they appear to intention on the other side done on the purpose of meaning . To keep away the problem and alternative terms which are exist in a variety. Progressive assimilation is direction as left to right or preservative, assimilation lagging. For details, see. David, 1997, p.311. e.g.[pəh.tʃəndo] becomes [pəh.to] the bilabial voiceless stop /tʃ/, nasal /n/ and alveolar stop /d/ assimilated in /t/ alveolar stop. The place of articulation involves most common form of the movement that to a position of neighboring of the coming sound in the /tʃ/, /d/ and /n/ alveolar stops. A vowel nasalizes when it is immediately followed by a nasal consonant in the same syllable and vowels must also be stressed for nasalization to occur. In the above given example feature to segment and segment to feature do not cross the line or do not exchange with each other. Further discussion in autosegmental, only three principles of autosegmental used in this research. There are three types of autosegmental process.

1. Association: feature- to- segment each autosegment (feature) associated with at least one segment by an association line.

2. Association: segment- feature each segment associated with at least one autosegment (Feature) by an association line.

3. No crossing: association lines do not cross. This is formal way of indicating the fact that one entire segment cannot be inserted inside another distinct segment. [2]

Nasal assimilation

The word [nĩːkər] of Sindhi Language is provided in phonetic transcription below the representation.

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[2] 'The systematically distinct shapes of a morpheme are called its Allomorphs. For details, see Thomas 2004:83
Each phoneme also called a segment. For details, see Mohammad 2011:69

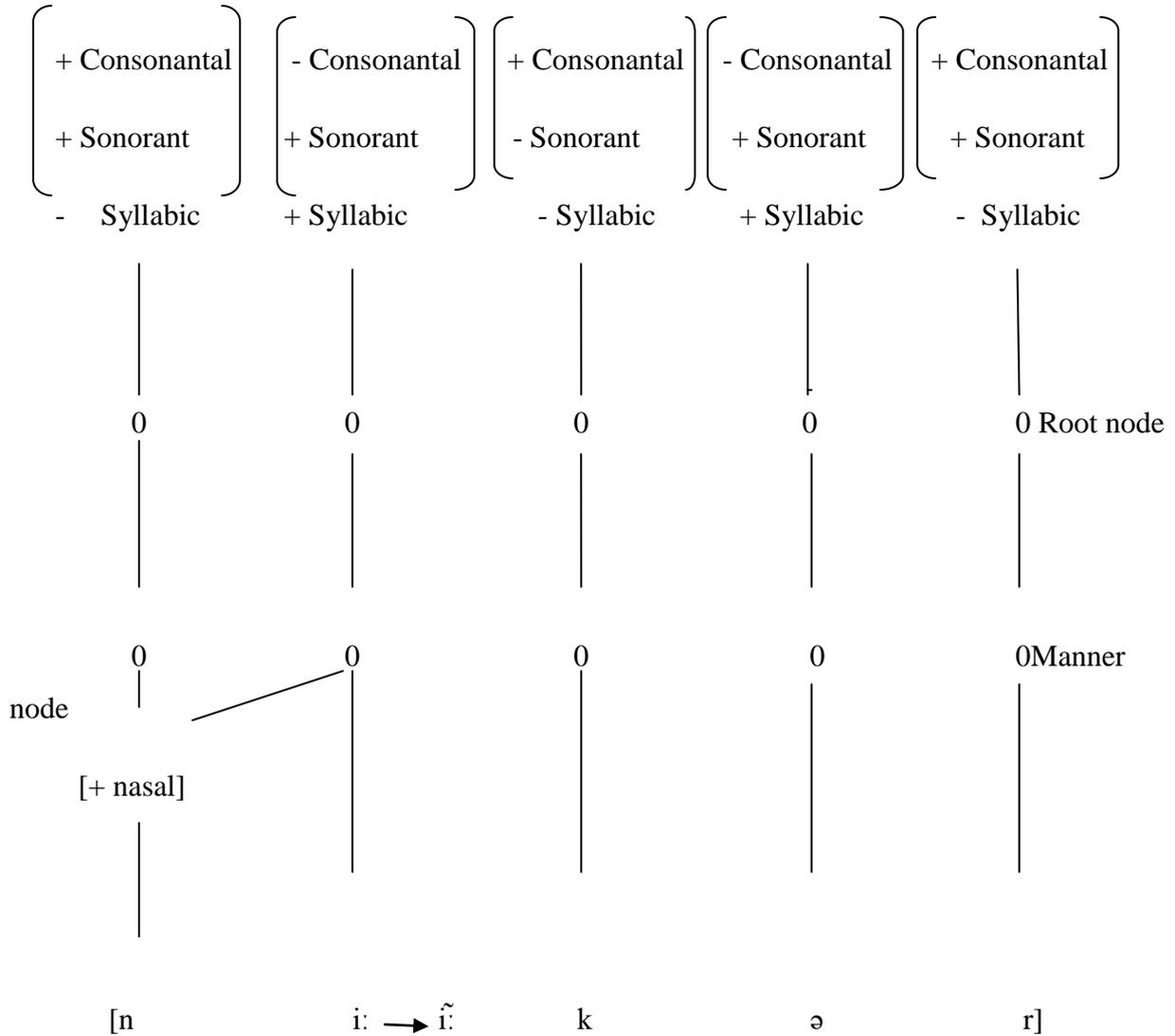The word [nĩːkər] of Sindhi Language is provided in phonetic transcription below the representation.

$$
\begin{bmatrix} + \text{Consonantal} \\ + \text{Sonorant} \end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix} - \text{Consonantal} \\ + \text{Sonorant} \end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix} + \text{Consonantal} \\ - \text{Sonorant} \end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix} - \text{Consonantal} \\ + \text{Sonorant} \end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix} + \text{Consonantal} \\ + \text{Sonorant} \end{bmatrix}
$$

- Syllabic   + Syllabic   - Syllabic   + Syllabic   - Syllabic

0   0   0   0   0 Root node

0   0   0   0   0 Manner

node

[+ nasal]

[n   iː ⟶ ĩː   k   ə   r]

Figure: 3 Vowel nasalization in Sindhi Language progressive assimilation

Note: That the Sindhi Language non- nasal vowel, but in this figure vowel nasalized due to effect of neighboring nasal sound. Each feature associated with at least one segment and each segment associated with each feature, though vowel is capable to bearing nasality.

3.3 Coalescent or Reciprocal assimilation

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This is type of assimilation refers in historical studies which were distinguishable originally and it is especially in units of linguistic coming together. Morphology changes in the fusional languages and most commonly phonological occur, but phoneme and allophone morphological type may occur as coalesce, as different morphemes and phonemes. Many cases of Sindhi language / tʃʰ/, for instance , in the result of reciprocal of / ʃ/ and / tʃ/. In reciprocal is adjoining each of two influences of articulation of the other and result of / dʰ/ and /j/ fusion and to produce / dʒʰ/ approximant palatal this word [sɪndʰəjɑː] beomes [sɪndʒʰɑː] (easy). The next is use of /ʃ/ and /tʃ/ become /tʃʰ/ in this word [pɪʃ tʃəm] becomes [pətʃʰəm]. Another example found Hasat (hand) becomes /\hath (s and t become th) [hæst̪] becomes [hæt̪ʰ]. When a /s/ and /t/ comes before the /h/ glottal sound adjacent and replaced by an aspirated sound voiceless stop. In this example the word structures that result when morphemes come together and the morphophonemic pattern will either involve deletion and addition of a consonant. Even if the deletion analysis were just as complicated and apparently random as the insertion analysis, still the deletion analysis would be preferred, simply because it is more natural. This is a very natural rule that basically says "whenever two vowels come together in a word, the first one deletes.[3]

4.0 Incidental Differences

Even if varieties share some inventorial system, they may be different in the incidence of particular phonemes in the sets of words. Some linguists have used different terms for this. For example, Cruttenden (2001) termed them 'lexical differences'. There incidental differences were noticed in the sample. First difference is in the use of /ʃ/ instead of /tʃʰ/. All Participants of Siroli dialect used /ʃ/ instead of /tʃʰ/ in these words: cha [tʃʰa] and machi [mə tʃʰiː]. The next is the use of / ɲ/ instead of /n/ in this difference manner of articulation is same both are nasal but place of articulation is different /n/ is alveolar and / ɲ/ is Palato-aveolar in these words such as [niːjɑːpo] (standard dialect) and [ɲɑːpo] (Siroli dialect). The use of /m/ instead of /s/ in some words such as [ĩːndus] (Standard dialect) [ĩːndum] (Siroli dialect). These differences are shown in table below.

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[3] Nasalization a phonetic feature that involves air passing through the nose, For details, see Thomas 2004:96
Syllable a phonological unit consisting of vowel or other sonorant segment, For details, see Thomas 2004:405
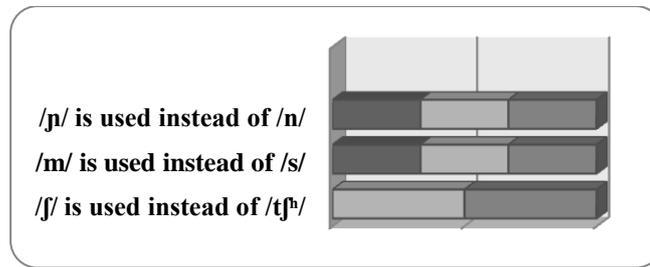
/ɲ/ is used instead of /n/
/m/ is used instead of /s/
/ʃ/ is used instead of /tʃʰ/

Figure: 4 Incidental differences in Vicholi and Siroli dialects of Sindhi Language

There are four incidental difference shown table in above. The first bar from the bottom shows that all participants used / ʃ/ instead of /tʃʰ/. The bar middle shows that all participants pronounced /m/ instead of /s/ and top bar shows the final difference that is the used / ɲ/ instead of /n/. [4]

Morpheme is a minimal structural shape unit that expresses meaning. In Sindhi language word [tʃʰokər] (boy) contains two morphemes: [tʃʰokər] which expresses the main meaning of the word, and –a which expresses the meaning of plurality (more than one). The form [tʃʰokər] cannot be divided into smaller semantic units (e.g. the /tʃʰ/at the beginning does not itself express a meaning. For details, see (Payne, 2004)

5.0 Conclusion

The data analysis clearly shows that in a typical Siroli dialect incidental difference brings about change in the native variety of Sindhi language. The findings of this study confirm that in describing the characteristics of Sindhi language, incidental differences and the features of assimilation should be given considerable value. All these features become part of the linguistic system of Sindhi language. The present research has significant contribution to attain specific objectives of identifying trends in Sindhi language regarding the use of words from Siroli and Vicholi dialects. Incidental difference in Siroli dialect adjusts shape of sound in order to make more distinct from their environment but meaning remain same. Nasal assimilation in both regressive and progressive assimilation is an excellent situation for the use of nasal consonant alveolar environment vowel becomes nasal e.g. /n/→ [a place]/ --------- C 〔Plosive a place〕

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[4] 'Refer to the chart of the International Phonetic Alphabet on the inside front cover for reference to the manner and place of articulation features for consonants.

Voicing assimilation occurs in place of articulation and manner of articulation both remaining same but consonant becomes sometime voiced to voiceless and voiceless to voiced. In Sindhi Language most connected speech assimilations involve place of articulation features, although there are also a few cases of voice assimilations. In this research I also learnt that place of assimilation in Sindhi Language involves alveolar stops and voiceless which change their place of articulation to bilabial or alveolar palatal depending on the surrounding sound. Among others, assimilation varies according to speaker rate and style. The result of coalescence /j/ and/ dʰ/ fusion and to produce / dʒʰ/ approximant palatal in this word. Another fusion of sounds in this study found /dʒ/ and //tʃ to produce /dʒʰ/. The study shows that there is much difference in the Vicholi and Siroli dialects of Sindhi language and particularly in the Incidental difference. The occurrence of /m/ sounds in the words final position of Siroli dialect whereas in Vicholi this /s/ sounds. In the incidental difference this study found the use of /ʃ/ instead of /tʃʰ/ and another difference is found the use /dʒ/ instead of /dʒʰ/.the phonological rules writing between interaction of patterns and speech sounds can be called by formally in a language. The environment rules state sounds change into another sound or class. Finally the study claims that even if these dialects Vicholi and Siroli are belong to the same families yet there are no remarkable similarities among them.

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Appendix 1

List of words with phonetic transcription

S.No.	Word	Phonetic transcription
01	sha {what}	[ʃa]
02	mashi {fish}	[məʃɪ:]
03	sajr {early}	[sɑ:dʒər]
04	baj {mercy}	[ɓɑ:dʒ]
05	endum {will come}	[ĩ:ndum]
06	likhandum {will write}	[li:kʰəndum]
07	kandum {will do}	[kindum]
08	giyani {woman}	[ɲɑ:ni:]
09	gapyo {message}	[ɲɑ:po]
10	sindhia {easy}	[sɪndʰəjɑ:]
11	bhagia {luck}	[bʰɑ:gi:jɑ:]
12	satyia {true}	[səʈi:jɑ:]
13	hasat {hand}	[hæsʈ]
14	kastori	[kɪsturi:]
15	Janiya	[dʒinjɑ:]
16	{pashacham}	[pɪʃ tʃəm]
17	shuniya {blank}	[ʃʊni:jɑ:]
18	chandar {moon}	[tʃindər]
19	nandar {rest}	[nɑndər]
20	pahchando {reach}	[pəh.tʃzəndo]
21	nikar {out}	[nĩ:kər]
22	chokar {boy}	[tʃʰokər]
23	kunb {city}	[kũ:nb]
24	bhen {sister}	[bʰæ̃n]
25	malendum {will meet}	[miləndum]
26	shokara {boys}	[ʃokəra]

27	monh {face}	[mũːnhə]
28	karin {do}	[kəriː̃n]
29	nikto {out}	[nĩkto]
30	manh {buffalo}	[mæ̃nh]
31	pan {leaf}	[pɔ̃nu]
32	mazon {tables}	[mezũːn]