

A LINGUISTIC STUDY ON CONSONANT PHONOLOGY OF KUI LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Kui (ISO639-3 Code 'Kxu') is a language spoken by Kondh or Kondha (/Kɔndhɔ/) tribe. Majority of the Kui-speaking Kondhs live in the hilly and forested areas of South and central Odisha especially in the undivided districts of Kondhamal, Koraput and Kalahandi. The other language spoken by Kondhs is Kuvi which is very similar to Kui. Kondh people being an underdeveloped tribal people, study of their language, society and culture draws a lot of attention of academics, administration and other philanthropic agencies.

The objective of this study is to present the consonant sound and phonology of Kui language. The approach is data oriented and uses in general. The structuralist methodology has been followed for the analysis of the data in the present work. Data was collected from the native speakers through field visit to various Kui speaking areas.

KEYWORDS: 'Kui, Consonant Sound, Central Dravidian, Segmental Sound, Stop, Nasal, Lateral, Flap, Fricative, Voiceless, Voiced, Aspirated, Affricate

INTRODUCTION

Odisha is a land of many languages. Languages belonging to three distinct language families are spoken in this state. Apart from Odia, the major languages, around 46 tribal languages are spoken in Odisha. Many of the speakers know more than one language. According to the 2001 census the total population of Odisha is 36804660. In the language census report it is clearly mentioned that the total Odia speaking population is 30563507, this is 83.04% of the total population of Odisha. Under the tribal language population census report, in 2001 there are 916222 speakers in the Kui language. Kui is the language of Kondh tribes. It is the most popular tribal language in Phulbani (Kondhamal), Boudh, Koraput, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nabarangpur, Sonepur, Angul and Dhenkanal district of Odisha.

Kui (ISO639-3 Code 'Kxu') is a language spoken by Kondh or Kondha (/Kɔndhɔ/) tribe. Majority of the Kui-speaking Kondhs live in the hilly and forested areas of South and central Odisha especially in the undivided districts of Kondhamal, Koraput and Kalahandi. The other language spoken by Kondhs is Kuvi which is very similar to Kui. Kondh people being an underdeveloped tribal people, study of their language, society and culture draws a lot of attention of academics, administration and other philanthropic agencies. Linguistically, the Kondhs are divided into two groups, the Kui Kondh and the Kuvi Kondhs. The Kutia Kondhs found in the Muniguda, Nayagarh, Boudh, Ganjam, Phulbani (Kondhamal), G. Udyagiri and Bolangir regions, are said to speak the Kui dialect, while the Kondhs found in the Nabarangpur, Narayan Patna, Kasipur, Kalyansinghpur, Rayagada and Laximpur subdivisions speak Kuvi. But the Kondhs themselves say that they speak only one language. Although they are aware of some lexical differences between Kui and Kuvi, but it is the same language to them. This is reflected in the census return also.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to present the consonant sound and phonology of Kui language. At the first stage, a descriptive analysis of Kui language spoken by Phulbani (Kondhamal) Kondhs is carried out by analysis of primary data collected from informants and through field trips. Kui belongs to the Central Dravidian language family. It differs from other language in linguistically, socially and culturally.

Kui is the language of the Kond (Khond or Khand) people, who live mainly in the mountainous country that lies between the river Mahanadi in Odisha and the North West corner of the Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. It is one of the lesser languages of the greater Dravidian group, displaying a very near kinship to Telugu, and preserving in its grammar an essentially Dravidian formation largely unaffected by Sanskrit or other alien element. Although many of the Kondhs have lost their mother tongue and speak Odia to Telugu instead, members of some other casts and tribes especially those of the 'Pan caste', domicile among the Kondhs have adopted Kui as their language.

It should be pointed out here that the Odia language, which is the major language of the state, is surrounding the Kond village on three sides. It is also the main linguistic medium in educational, social, economical and religious spheres. Kui, therefore, is borrowing words and other linguistic features from Odia. In its district a large number of Odia words have intermingled in the ordinary speech of the Kondhs. This fluctuation is due to the amount of contact the hill-man has with the Odia people. But generally speaking Odia influence is more marked in the north and north east of the Kond country than that in the south.

Though a script called 'Kui Lipi' has been developed, but there are no available in standard literature. Therefore, it is quite natural that it does not have any written literature. Though certain translations of the Bible as a few school books have been produced in present by missionaries and certain interested bodies, they have written in the Odia script. The Kondhs are scattered in so many different districts like, Ganjam, Boudh, Phulbani (Kondhamal), Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Nayagarh, Nabarangpur and Gajapati. A clear difference of vocabulary and pronunciation in various localities can be noticed as one travels through the Kondmal in the south to Ghumusar and Udayagiri Taluka in the east and then westward to the Baliguda Taluka. Though a large number of words are commonly used in all parts among the Kond people, principally there are two dialects, such as (i) the eastern dialect spoken in Ghumusar and the neighbouring areas and (ii) the south dialect spoken in Ganjam, Koraput, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, and Boudh. But according to Grierson northern Kui speakers have come under the influence of neighboring Aryan speakers (that is Odia language).

WORKS ON KUI LANGUAGE

Schulze (1911) published two books named Kuvu grammar and vocabulary of the Kuvu-Kond language for establishing the Kui language, both of the books contained data which were a mixture of Kui and the Salur language which was spoken in Koraput. Some scholars have discussed that there are close affinities between Kui and Telugu. Besides Kuvu Kond and Telugu it has close relationship with the other Central Dravidian languages like Gondi, Kolami, Naiki, Ollari, Gadba, Parji, Pengo and Munda etc.

According to the 1891 census, number of the Kui speakers was 627388. In 1928-29 Rev. W.W. Winfield estimated 45000 Kui speaking peoples were leaving at that time. He published it in his books (i) a grammar of the Kui

language on 1928 and (ii) A vocabulary of the Kui language on 1929. Dash (1981) worked on ‘the structure of Kui language’. Pradhan (1998) worked on Kui grammar for the fulfillment of the need of school children¹. Penthoi (2013) Worked on ‘A Contrastive Analysis of Odia and Kui’.

Language Family of Kui

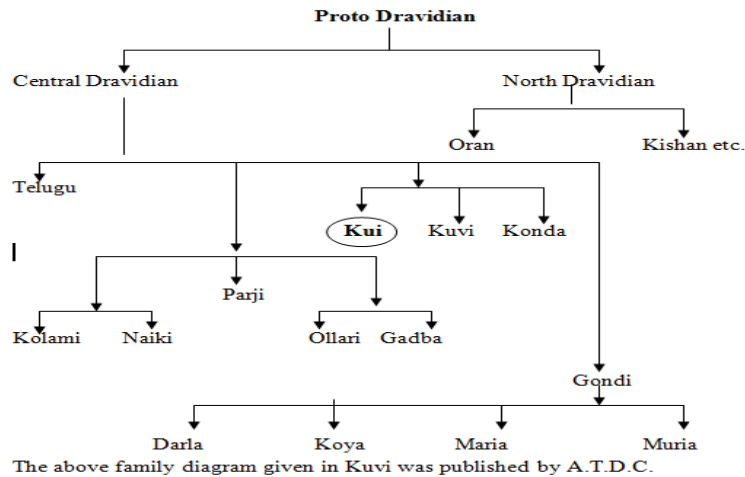


Figure 1

Census Data

According to 2001 census data, the number of Kui speakers was 916222, all of them residing in the state of Odisha. They comprised 2.48% of the total population of the state, numerically occupying the second place among the language of Odisha.

Table 1: Census Table

Languages Speaker	1981	1991	2001
Kui	521585	641662	916222
Decadal percentage increase	48.59%	23.02%	42.79%

METHODOLOGY

The approach is data oriented and uses in general. The structuralist methodology has been followed for the analysis of the data in the present work. Data was collected from the native speakers through field visit to various Kui speaking areas.

Kui Consonant Phonology

Kui has a total number of twenty-six segmental phonemes of which five are vowels and twenty one are consonants.

Description of the Phoneme

As it is necessary for the L2 learners, the articulatory description of each sounds / phonemes are given in this

section. The description and distribution of the phonemes in both of these languages have been given below. However the allophonic variation of both of the languages not discussed as the aim of the present work (common) is based on contrastive analysis rather than a descriptive one.

There are twenty one consonants of which nine are stops, one is affricate, three are fricatives, five are nasals, one is a lateral and two are flaps. The stops have voiced and voiceless varieties. All long vowels can occurs with all consonants in Kui except /p/, /h/, /r/, /ɽ/.

Consonants Phonemic Table (Kui)

Table 1

Manner of Articulation		Place of Articulation							
		Bl	Ldl	Dl	Al	Ret	Pl	Vel	Gl
Stop	Voiceless unasp.	p		t		ɽ		k	ʔ
	Voiced unasp.	b		d		ɽ̣		g	
Voiced un-aspirated affricates							ʃ		
Fricatives	Voiceless				s				h
	Voiced		v						
Nasal		m			n	ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	
Lateral					l				
Flap					r	ɽ			

NB: Bl → Bilabial, Dl → Dental, Ret → Retroflex, Pl → Palatal, Vel → Velar, Gl → Glottal, Ldl → Labiodental, Al → Alveolar,

Consonant

The consonant phonemes are classified on the basis of the place of articulation such as lateral, dental, retroflex, palatal, velar and glottal and the manner of articulation such as stops affricate, nasal, fricatives, laterals, trills and semi-vowels.

Stop

Closing the air passage completely at some point in the speech track produces the stop sounds. The air is composed behind this point due to the pressure from the lungs. The compressed air is released abruptly when the speech organ moves to produce the next sound. This abrupt release produces an explosive sound. The sound thus produced is called a stop. If a heavy puff of air accompanies the stop is called aspirated stop. When a regular periodic vibration generated through the action of vocal cord the sound thus produced as called voiced.

Kui there is only nine unaspirated stops are present in which a new voiceless unaspirated global stops is seen like /ʔ/, which is not present in Odia, but the aspirated stops are not present in Kui.

/p/ is a voiceless unaspirated bilabial stop. To produce this sound the soft palate raised to close the nasal passage. The air stream coming from the lungs is completely obstructed by closing the lips tightly. Then the air is exploited without heavy puff of air. There is no vibration in the vocal cords. This sound may be described as an unaspirated voiceless bilabial stop. Thus sound is resembles in both Odia and Kui and it occurs in all the three positions of Odia and in initial and medial positions in Kui as follows.

Examples

Table 2

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/pabi/	'opportunity dance'	/ḍipka/	'to light a five'	-	-
/paḍa/	'name'	/ga:psi/	'excessively much'	-	-
/paḍu/	'a tooth'	/ja:pa/	'to request a favour'	-	-
/paṅga/	'a high enable land'	/kirpeṛi/	'mangos'	-	-

/t/ to produce this sound the soft palate is raised to close the nasal passage. The air stream coming from the lungs is completely stopped by the front of the tongue against the upper teeth. The obstruction is released without any aspiration. There is no vibration in the vocal cords. It may be described as voiceless unaspirated dental stop. It presents in both of the languages and occurs in all the three positions in Odia and initial and medial positions in Kui.

Examples

Table 3

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/tṅga/	'suffer mental agony'	/ku:turi/	'pup'	-	-
/tṅka/	'theft'	/keta/	'rice field'	-	-
/tṅba/	'to eat'	/je:ḍato:spa/	'pity'	-	-
/tiri/	'holy, clean'	/putula/	'image'	-	-

/ʈ/ to produce this sound the tip of the tongue is raised towards the roof of the mouth and is curled back. The tip of the tongue touches the roof of the mouth and then suddenly, it leaves the point of articulation and explodes without releasing a heavy puff of air. The nasal passage remains closed and the vocal cords are not in vibration. This sound may be described as a voiceless unaspirated retroflex stop. This occurs in the all three positions in Odia but in Kui it does not occur in final position.

Examples

Table 4

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/ṭoi/	'parrot'	/ga:ṭi/	'a bride price'	-	-
/ṭṅda/	'lip'	/ga:ṭali/	'the check bone'	-	-
/ṭo:pa/	'a flat basket'	/paṭa/	'door, a board'	-	-
/ṭapal/	'bald'	/paṭi/	'a beam'	-	-

/k/ to produce this sound the soft palate is raised to close the nasal passage. The air stream coming from the lungs is completely checked by the back part of the tongue against the soft palate. The air is exploded without any aspiration. There is no vibration in the vocal cords. This sound is known as unaspirated voiceless velar stop. It occurs in all the three positions in Odia but does not occur in final position in Kui.

Examples

Table 5

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/kɔgi/	'small, little'	/kɔrkɔri/	'doll'	-	-
/kɔju/	'a hen'	/kɔhkɔ/	'a pelican'	-	-
/kɔpa/	'cow's hump'	/kɔ:kɔmeɖu/	'a butterfly'	-	-
/kasa/	'to sting'	/ɖukuɾi/	'a hump,hunch'	-	-

/ʔ/ In the production of this sound the air current is stopped at the glottis by bringing the vocal cords into close contact. It does not reach the oral cavity. When the vocal cords are pulled apart abruptly the air escapes to the oral cavity with slight explosion. This is called the glottal stop. It occurs in medial position particularly of words and it is in intervocalic position of the Kui. Odia does not have this sound.

Examples in Kui

Table 6

Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/are ^ʔ e/	'false'	/keso ^ʔ ri/	'sorrow'
/ike ^ʔ e/	'less, partial, little bit'	/dɔ ^ʔ ɔ/	'a leaf cup'
/ide ^ʔ e aɖa/	'just now'	/be ^ʔ ɔ/	'rear'
/ene ^ʔ e/	'that way, that'	/ma ^ʔ e/	'a friend'
/ese:ka ve ^ʔ a/	'never'	/ma ^ʔ eli/	'a female friend'
/kuɾe ^ʔ e/	'knife'	/ri ^ʔ aru/	'two men or boys'

/b/ to produce of this sound the air-stream is completely obstructed by closing the lips tightly as in the production of /p/. The obstruction is released without a heavy puff of air. The soft palate is raised to close the nasal passage. The vocal cords are clearly vibrated to produce voice. This is the only difference between /p/ and /b/. This sound may be described as a voiced unaspirated bilabial stop. /b/ Occurs in both Odia and Kui, except final position in Kui, it occurs in rest of the positions in both of the languages.

Examples

Table 7

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/bɔka/	'a strong young man in his prime'	/inba/	'to say to speak'	-	-
/bɔsna/	'on the ground'	/ibga/	'to cause to fall'	-	-
/bai/	'sister in law'	/ubga/	'to strike against'	-	-
/biɟi/	'lightening'	/kabaɾi/	'work, labour'	-	-

/d/ to produce this sound the air-stream is completely stopped by the front of the tongue against the upper teeth like the production of /t/ and the stoppage is released without heavy puff of air. The soft palate is raised to close the nasal passage. The vocal cords are clearly vibrated to produce voice and this makes the difference between /t/ and /d/. This is called the voiced unaspirated dental stop; it occur all the positions in Odia and except final position of Kui.

Examples

Table 8

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/dɔŋɔ/	'waterfall'	/adangi/	'surprise, wonder'	-	-
/dɔŋɔ/	'punishment'	/ide'e-aɔa/	'just now'	-	-
/dɔ:li/	'cradle'	/kudali/	'one type of tree'	-	-
/da:ra/	'gate'	/gudu/	'broken rice'	-	-

/ɖ/ the process of articulation is similar to that of /t/ except that the sound is voiced. That is, to produce this sound the tongue is raised towards the roof of the mouth and is slightly curled back. The underside of the tongue touches the roof of the mouth and then suddenly the stoppage of air is released, with an explosion but without aspiration. The nasal passage remains closed out the vocal cords vibrate.

This sound may be described, as voiced unaspirated retroflex stop. It has a retroflex flap allophone /ɖ/ in intervocalic and final position in Odia.

Examples

Table 9

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/ɖɔʔɔ/	'a leaf cup'	/ɔɖa/	'to swear'	-	-
/ɖɔba/	'shrub'	/ɔɖri/	'rat'	-	-
/ɖɔla/	'a large brass drum for beating'	/ɔ:ɖa/	'goat'	-	-
/ɖikuŋi/	'a chisel'	/aɖa/	'only'	-	-

/g/ the process of articulation is similar to that of /k/ except that the sound is voiced. That is, to produce this sound the air stream is stopped when the back part of the tongue touches the soft palate. The air is exploded without any aspiration and the nasal passage is closed. But the vocal cords are clearly vibrated. This sound may be described as an unaspirated voiced velar stop. /g/ occurs in both the languages in all the positions of a word, except final position in Kui.

Examples

Table 10

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/gɔha/	'silk worm'	/ɔga/	'to set a trap'	-	-
/gaɟari/	'confusion'	/ɔ:ga/	'pride'	-	-
/gaɟusi/	'heel'	/argi/	'curse'	-	-
/gaɟa/	'cheek'	/ibga/	'to through down'	-	-

/g/ occurs in the final position of the word in Odia but it does not occur in final position in Kui.

Aspirated Stops

Aspirated stops are the special features of the Odia. These aspirated sounds are not found in the Kui.

Affricate

When a stop consonant is produced, the release of contact is abrupt. If instead of the speech organ in contact is withdrawn slowly the release of air will be gradual and there is no explosion. Here the closure will be followed by friction. The consonant produced like this is called the affricate. In the present study there are total four affricate sounds we can work out. One affricate sound like /ʃ/ is voiced unaspirated palatal affricate is common in both Odia and Kui. The affricates those are present in Odia are /č/, /čh/, /ʃ/, /ʃh/. However the voiceless unaspirated palatal affricate /č/ has been changed into /š/ in Kui.

/č/ to produce this sound the air passage is blocked by raising the center of the tongue to touch the hard palate. The air behind the closure is compressed by the pressure from the lungs the contact of the tongue with the hard palate is withdrawn slowly causing friction after the initial explosion. The vocal cord does not vibrate. The consonant is called the unaspirated voiceless palatal affricate. It occurs in all the positions in Odia, but in case of Kui /š/ is used for the substitute of /č/ only in initial position.

For example in Kui /š/ is used for the substitute of /č/

Table 11

Odia	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/čini/	'sugar'	/šini/	'sugar'
/č ^h ota/	'a lame man'	/šota/	'a lame man'
/č ^h oti/	'a lame girl'	/šoti/	'a lame girl'
/čapuḍa/	'a blow with flat hand'	/šapḍi/	'a blow with flat hand'
/čaita/	'the month of Chaitra'	/šaita/	'the month of Chaitra'
/čakora/	'servant'	/šakora/	'servant'
/čikita/	'oily'	/šikita/	'oily'
/čua/	'fragrant oil'	/šua/	'fragrant oil'
/četona/	'consciousness'	/šetona/	'consciousness'

/ʃ/ this sound is produced exactly like /č/ except that the vibration in vocal cords. The consonant is called the voiced unaspirated palatal affricate. It is available in Odia and Kui, occurs all the positions except the final position in Kui.

Examples

Table 12

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/ʃoki/	'a narrow space'	/aʃa/	'mother, women'	-	-
/ʃaŋgi/	'tight'	/aʃi/	'fear, terror'	-	-
/ʃili/	'cold, cool'	/uʃari/	'day light'	-	-
/ʃupi/	'the mouth of a jug'	/u:ʃu/	'meat, flesh'	-	-

/ʃ^h/ Palatal voiced aspirated affricate is produced same as /ʃ/ except aspiration. A heavy puff of air accompanies the release. The vocal cords are vibrating. It occurs in all the positions in Odia, but in case of Kui /ʃ/ is used for the substitute of /ʃ^h/.

Examples in Kui

Table 13

Initial			Medial			Final		
Odia	Kui	Gloss	Odia	Kui	Gloss	Odia	Kui	Gloss
/j ^h iɔ/	/jiɔ/	'daughter'	/boj ^h ɔ/	/bojɔ/	'load'	/buj ^h /	/buj/	'to understand'
/j ^h amu/	/jamu/	'festival'	/maj ^h i/	/maji/	'boatman'	/suj ^h /	/suj/	'repay'
/j ^h ɔt/	/jɔt/	'quick'	/mɔj ^h i/	/mɔji/	'middle'	/juj ^h /	/juj/	'to fight'

Fricatives

The palatal closure of the air passage causes friction. During the partial closure, the air passage is narrowed at some point and the air compressed by the pressure from the lungs escapes out with a hissing sound. The consonants so produced are called fricatives. /s/ voiceless alveolar fricative is produced as this: the blade of the tongue is raised towards alveolar region to form a narrow opening between the blade of the tongue and alveolar region. The tongue is contracted sideways and a groove is formed along the middle of the tongue. The air from the lungs passes through the narrow opening causing friction. The vocal cords do not vibrate. It is present in both Odia and Kui language in all three positions except final position in Kui.

Examples

Table 14

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/sɔkɔɽi/	'leaf cup'	/bi:ša/	'poison'	-	-
/sada/	'noise, sound'	/mašuɽi/	'mat'	-	-
/siŋɽa/	'cloth'	/maši/	'dirt, filth'	-	-
/suli/	'peak, pointed'	/kiša/	'to pinch'	-	-

/h/ in the production of this sound there is no stoppage of air in the mouth as the air passage is not narrowed at any point in the mouth passage. However, the glottis (the space between the vocal cords) is kept wide open and when the air passages through it a slight friction is caused. The tongue lies in its normal position in the mouth. The soft palate is raised to block the entry of air into the nasal cavity. In its production the vocal cords are vibrated to produce voice. /h/ occurs in all the three positions in Odia. But the /h/ has been changed to /s/ in Kui. As per the observation analysis made by W.W. Winfield in the year 1928, /h/ has been changed to /s/ initially in Kui. Also /h/ does not occur in initial position.

Examples in Initial Position

Table 15

Odia	Kui (h → ɸ)	Gloss	Kui (h → š)	Kui	Gloss
/hati/	/ati/	'elephant'	helba	/šalba/	'to go'
/hatɔ/	/atɔ/	'hand'	ha:pu	/sa:pu/	'thorn'
/hoija/	/ɔija/	'cholera'	hiɽa	/siɽa/	'not to be'
/hitɔ/	/itɔ/	'benefit'	hi:roŋji	/si:roŋji /	'water'
/hukumɔ/	/ukumɔ/	'command'	hi:va	/si:va/	'to give'

Examples in Medial Position

Table 16

Odia	Kui (h→ ø)	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/bõhi/	/bõi/	'book'	/mṛahpa /	'to burn wood'
/sahi/	/sai/	'a part of a village'	/ṛõhna/	'frequently'
/sahukarõ/	/saukarõ/	'moneylender'	/liheri/	'dew'
/sõhõrõ/	/sõ:rõ/	'town'	/vaha/	'to be fined'
/bohu/	/bõu/	'daughter-in-law'	/reha/	'pleasure'

/v/ in the production of this sound, the lower lip is raised to touch the upper teeth gently so that the air passage is not completely closed. There is a small opening between the lower lip and the upper teeth. When the air escapes through it there is friction. The vocal cords vibrate during its production. This causes voicing. This consonant is called the voiced labiodental fricative. /v/ is present in Kui but not in Odia. /v/ occurs in the initial and medial position in Kui.

Examples in Kui

Table 17

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/vaŋju /	'finger'	/va:va/	'to come'	--	--
/vaŋa/	'facial appearance'	/sa:va/	'to die'	--	--
/viga/	'long grass'	/jru:va/	'to fall off'	--	--
/vespa/	'to say'	/ara:vaka/	'a pointed stick for driving cattle'	--	--
/ve:pa/	'to beat'	/i:vi/	'these women'	--	--

The Production of Nasal Consonant

During the production of nasal sounds, the oral passage is closed completely at some point and the air passes through the nasal passage. The soft palate is lowered to keep the nasal passage open. /m/ to produce this sound we block the air current completely in the mouth by closing our lips tightly. The soft palate is lowered and air current is allowed to pass through the nasal passage. The vocal cords are clearly vibrated to produce voice. When the air is released through the nose while the lips are still closed, this sound is produced. This sound may be described as a bilabial nasal. /m/ occurs in all the positions in both Odia and Kui except in final position in Kui.

Example

Table 18

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/mõtu /	'semen'	/ḍi:mu/	'white ant'	-	-
/maḍa/	'the palm of the hand'	/ḍu:ma/	'insect'	-	-
/miṣu/	'wife's younger brother'	/ma:ma/	'maternal uncle'	-	-
/muḷḷa/	'a pond, tank'	/same?e/	'front to front'	-	-

/n/ to produce this sound, we raise the tip of the tongue and make it touch the teeth ridge. This leads to a complete closure of air current in the mouth passage. The soft palate is lowered and the air is allowed to enter into the nasal passage. When the air passes through the nasal passage this sound is produced. The vocal cords are clearly vibrated. It is a voiced alveolar nasal. It occurs in all the three positions in Odia and Kui.

Example**Table 19**

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/nɔbga/	'to wash'	/isanaŋɖa/	'here and there'	-	-
/napka/	'to be sweet'	/anaŋiki/	'where for'	-	-
/niari/	'humble'	/ene/	'that way'	-	-
/nu:ʂu/	'soft, smooth'	/kanari/	'sound'	-	-

/ŋ/ in the production of this sound the tip of the tongue is curled back and raised to touch the hard palate to block the air current. The vocal cords vibrate. The soft palate is lowered, so that the air current passes through the nasal cavity. This is called the voiced retroflex nasal. Except in initial position it occurs in medial and final position in both of the languages.

Example**Table 20**

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
--	--	/gɔ:ŋi/	'a hook'	/u:ŋ/	'to drink'
--	--	/si:ŋa/	'needle'	/pa:ŋ/	'to obtain'
--	--	/ba:ŋaŋgi/	'mad, insane'	--	--
--	--	/bɔ:ŋi/	'mina bird'	--	--

/ñ/ to produce this sound the oral passage is blocked completely by raising the center of the tongue towards the hard palate. The soft palate is lowered and the air comes out through the nose. The vocal cords vibrate. This called the voiced palatal nasal. /ñ/ sound occurs only before the palatal affricate in Kui. This sound is not present in Odia.

Examples in Kui**Table 21**

Odia	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
--	--	/añjɔri/	'eaves of a house'
--	--	/a:ñja/	'to admit, to agree'
--	--	/kañjaɾia:va/	'to be tempted'
--	--	/ji:ñjeɾi/	'bellows'
--	--	/paikēñju/	'a foot soldier'
--	--	/pu:ɾeñji/	'navel'
--	--	/ma [?] eñja/	'a male friend'

/ŋ/ to produce this sound the back of the tongue rises and touches the soft palate. This leads to complete closure of air current in the mouth passage. The soft palate is lowered to allow the entry of air into the nasal cavity, which results in the production of this sound. The vocal cords are vibrated. The quality of this sound is thus dependent upon the point of closure in the mouth and the release of air through the nose. This consonant is called the voiced velar nasal. It occurs medially and finally. It does not occur initially in both and finally in Kui.

Example

Table 22

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
--	--	/aŋɔ/	'mother's younger sister'	--	--
--	--	/aŋga/	'different'	--	--
--	--	/aŋgi/	'younger sister'	--	--
--	--	/ehŋgi/	'alike, thus'	--	--

Laterals

While producing these sounds the tip of the tongue touches the alveolar region or hard palate in such a way that, there is complete closure in the middle of the mouth, passage for the air to escape is left on one sides or both side of the tongue.

/l/ in the production of this sound, the tip of the tongue touches the teeth ridge and thus there is a blocked of air in the middle of the mouth. However, the sides of the tongue are not in contact with the roof of the mouth. The air is allowed to pass by the sides of the tongue, raising the soft palate closes the nasal passage. The vocal cords are vibrated. This sound may be described as a voiced lateral. It occurs in all the three position in both Odia and Kui except final position in Kui.

Example

Table 23

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/ɔtu/	'calm, quiet, stead'	/ɔli/	'a bear'	--	--
/lamba/	'length'	/e:lu/	'mind'	--	--
/liheri/	'dew'	/kɔle/	'jackal'	--	--
/lupa/	'extinguish'	/jili/	'cold, cool'	--	--

/ɭ/ in the production of this sound, the air current is blocked at the median line of the Oral cavity by curling back and raising the tongue to touch the hard palate. The air current, however, is allowed to pass by either side of the tongue. The vocal cords vibrate and the soft palate is raised. It does not occur initially in Odia. This sound is not available in Kui.

/r/ the tip of the tongue touches the teeth ridge in such a way that it results in a single quick tap or flap. The nasal passage is closed by raising the soft palate. The air stream passes through the oral cavity. The vocal cords are vibrated. The lips are not rounded by kept slightly open. The sound may be described as a voiced alveolar flap. /r/ occurs in all the three positions in Odia and Kui.

Example

Table 24

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/rɔ /	'one, certain'	/kɔ:eri/	'harvest'	/klir/	'to suit'
/rata/	'red colour'	/kira/	'a parrot'	--	--
Table 24: Contd.,					
/ri:nda/	'steady'	/deɔri/	'cradle'	--	--

/ruta/	'to set fire to'	/n̥ra/	'massage'	--	--
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/r̥/ in the production of this sound, the tip of the tongue is tapped once against the hard palate and is withdrawn immediately. Thus, only a single tap is produced unlike in the production of the trill where successions of taps are produced. The vocal cords vibrate and the soft palate is raised. This is called the voiced retroflex flap /r̥/ occurs in initial and medial position of a word in Kui, however this sound is considered as an allophone of /d/ which has been discussed earlier under the description of the consonants.

Examples in Kui

Table 25

Initial		Medial		Final	
Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss	Kui	Gloss
/r̥nda/	'to be loosened'	/anaṛiki /	'why, where for'	--	--
/r̥aki/	'hung, hooked'	/oṛo /	'after, next'	--	--
/ṛi:va/	'to weep, cry'	/kṛepka/	'to shake'	--	--
/ṛupka/	'to insent'	/kṛu:va/	'to sink into'	--	--
/ṛek/	'started'	/kṛi:pa/	'to swell'	--	--

Semi Vowel

The semi-vowels are half vowels and half consonants in the sense that they share certain characteristics of vowels and consonants. In the production of these sounds, the speech organs take the position to produce one sound fairly but move immediately to a position to produce another. Because of this articulatory feature, the semi vowels are also called glides. In the present study semi vowels do not occurs in Kui but Odia has only two semi vowels, one is bilabial and other one is palatal. They are /w/, /y/.

/w/ in the production of this sound, the lips is pursed together to a certain degree assuming a round shape. The back part of the tongue is raised towards the posterior part of the soft palate. However, neither it touches nor forms any aperture to cause friction. The position of tongue for /w/ is further retracted and considerably higher than /v/. The soft palate is raised to close the nasal passage. The vocal cords remain vibrating. The air compressed from the lungs passes out unobstructed. The occurrence is extremely limited in Odia compared to other consonants. It does not occur in Kui.

Examples in Odia

Table 26

Initial		Medial		Final	
Odia	Gloss	Odia	Gloss	Odia	Gloss
/wareṅo/	'summon'	/bewa/	'widow'	--	--
/wasṅṅoṅ/	'a place name'	/hawa/	'wind'	--	--
/wakmyan/	'walkman'	/tawa/	'bring pan'	--	--
--	--	/jawa/	'motor company'	--	--

/y/ to produce this sound the center of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate. The front of the tongue is

also raised a little. The height of the tongue is not high enough to produce friction, nor low enough to produce a pure vowel. The vocal cords vibrate. The sound is called the palatal semi vowel.

Examples in Odia

Table 27

Initial		Medial		Final	
Odia	Gloss	Odia	Gloss	Odia	Gloss
/yaku/	'to this one'	/b ^h ɔyɔ/	'fear'	/nyay/	'judgement'
/yaŋkor/	'for her / him'	/ayɔ/	'income'	/byɔy/	'expenditure'
/ye/	'this'	/rayɔ/	'opinion'	--	-

Table 28: Consonant Comparative Table (Odia and Kui)

Manner of articulation			Place of articulation															
			Bl		LDl		Dl		Al		Ret		Pl		Vel		Gl	
			O	K	O	K	O	K	O	K	O	K	O	K	O	K	O	K
Stop	aspirated	Voiceless	P	p			t	t			ʈ	ʈ			k	k	-	?
		Voiced	b	b			d	d			ɖ	ɖ			g	g		
	unaspirated	Voiceless	p ^h	-			t ^h	-			ʈ ^h	-			k ^h	-		
		Voiced	b ^h	-			d ^h	-			ɖ ^h	-			g ^h	-		
Affricate	aspirated	Voiceless											č	-				
		Voiced											ǰ	ǰ				
	unaspirated	Voiceless											č ^h	-				
		Voiced											ǰ ^h	-				
Fricative	ve					s	-	-	s								h	h
					-	v												
Nasal			m	m			n	-	-	n	ŋ	ŋ	-	ɲ	ɲ	ɲ		
Lateral							l	-	-	l	ɭ							
Flap							r	-	-	r	-	ɾ						
Semivowel			w	-									y	-				

CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the study is to analysis of Consonant phonology of Kui languages. Some important differences of phonology in Kui mentioned below which is not exhaustive rather than sketchy. Such points may be considered as the findings of the present work.

Similarity

- Both Odia and Kui have segmental and non-segmental phonemes.
- Both have nasalization forms out. They cluster with each phonemes, except /ʔ/, /h/, /r/, /r/ phonemes in Kui.
- Both are spoken in a similar geographical area of the district of Orissa like Phulbani, Koraput, Ganjam, Nayagarh and its adjacent areas.
- The vowel ending words are seen in both languages.

Contrasts

Contrasts in both Odia and Kui have been pointed out as follows at phonological level.

- Kui has twenty one consonants, whereas Odia has thirty one consonants.
- Eighteen different consonants are visible in Odia which is not found in the Kui, eight different consonant sounds are present in the Kui which are not present in Odia.
- Ten aspirated sounds as /ph/, /bh/, /gh/, /kh/, /dh/, /ḍh/, /th/, /ṭh/, /čh/, /jh/ are not present in Kui.
- Voiceless unaspirated palatal affricates /č/ is not present in Kui.
- Voiceless glottal stop /ʔ / is not present in Odia.
- /ʔ / And /h/ does not occur at the initial position in Kui.
- Voiced labiodental fricative /v/ is not present in Odia.

Suggestions

Findings are not the ultimatum, many more findings may be possible if further research done in such areas of study.

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