

## **The Hindizising of English in Bihar**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Whenever we speak a language other than our own mother tongue, we have a tendency to use the speech sound or the grammatical features which we have learned in our own mother tongue. This is called mother tongue interference. If we see the English spoken in India, we see that spoken English bears the stamp of the native language of that area or region. For example the way people speak English , from their speech it can be said to which part of the country they belong . The present paper presents how Hindi spoken in Bihar has its impact on English and consequently the spoken form of English is in a changed form in Bihar.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Bihar, English, Hindized, English Language*

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Britishers ruled over India for two centuries. During that period the whole load of official work was carried on the transport vehicle of English Language. The Lingua franca between the ruler and the ruled was English. The elite Indians adopted this language and used it with ease and mastery of the native speakers, whereas hoi polloi among the Indians also could not keep themselves confined to Hindi or their respective mother tongues. Even after the Britishers left the country the knowledge and use of English Language remained indispensable.

When we use a language other than our own mother tongue, we have some problem. When we use that language, we have the tendency to use the things which we have already learnt in our language. This is called mother tongue interference. For example , very often a typical Bengali is heard saying in Hindi - 'd yMdah tkrk gSA ,d GMdk tkrk gS A He uses the same masculine verb for both 'boy' and 'girl'

This is so because in his own language there is no gender distinction. For both boy and girl the verb used is the same- es (GMdh) tk'ps A NsGs (GMdk) tk'ps A

It is not as it is in Hindi which has separate verbs for masculine and feminine genders.

Since in his own language there is no gender distinction, a Bengali has the tendency to do the same when he uses Hindi. He uses the same verb for both the genders.

In the same manner , in spoken form of English particularly, the mother tongue interference in Bihar has brought about some change in the spoken form English language which has been described here in this paper as the Hindizising of English language.

The present paper deals with the mother tongue interference of Bihari speakers on English. Here the impact of Hindi on English will be shown with some examples which are very common among the Biharis. It is not that all Bihari speakers use this hindized version of English, there are people who speak English with correct British or American accent, but those who are not able to speak in correct accent, usually follow the speech patterns mentioned here in this paper. In this paper when I use Bihari speakers I do not mean all the Bihari speakers , I mean those whose pronunciation is faulty. For the sake of writing convenience, only the term 'Bihari speakers' has been used.

In spoken English three things are to be taken into account :-

1. The speech sounds
2. Accentual pattern
3. Intonation

Because of the magnitudinal limitation of this research paper, the Hindizising of English will be shown only by citing examples from the speech sounds.

The spoken form of R.P. English is based on forty four sounds (24 consonantal sounds & 20 vowel sounds). A number of speech sounds in English are wrongly pronounced by Bihari speakers. They use Hindi sounds for the English ones only because they wrongly think those sounds to be the same. Some of the examples are as follows:-

1. /f/ and /v/ In R.P. English are labio dental fricative sounds. In the place of /f/ and /v/ Hindi Q and Hk are used respectively. father/fa:ðz: is pronounced as Qknj and very/veri as Hksjh . The Hindi /Q/ and /Hk/ are Bilabial plosive sounds. In producing the sounds /f/ and /v/ as in 'father' and 'very', the upper teeth and the lower lip are the two articulators and not the two lips(Bilabial) as in the case of Hindi /Q/ and /Hk/

Many speakers in Bihar produce this sound wrongly by bringing the two lips in close contact where as it should be the upper teeth and the lower lip.

This Hindizising can be phonetically presented as:

	R.P. English	Bihari Speakers
father	fɑ:ðɜ:	p <sup>h</sup> a:ɖər
veri	veri	b <sup>h</sup> e:ri

2. / **θ** and / **ð** / In R.P. English are dental fricative sounds. These sounds are rarely used by Bihari speakers. The Hindi sounds which are used instead are /**tʰ**/ and /**ɖ**/ which are dental plosive sounds.

The Hindizising here can be phonetically presented as:

	R.P. English	Bihari Speakers
Thin	<b>θ</b> ɪn	tʰɪn
that	<b>ð</b> æt	ɖɛ:t

The difference between the R.P. / **θ** and / **ð** / & Hindi /**tʰ**/ and /**ɖ**/ is that of manner of articulation. For / **θ** and / **ð** / the place of articulation is Dental which is the same for R.P. English as well Hindi. The difference is that of manner of articulation. / **θ** and / **ð** / are fricative sounds and /**tʰ**/ and /**ɖ**/ are plosive sounds. In fricative sounds the two articulators do not make a tight contact. The tip of the tongue and the Upper teeth are the two articulators in R.P. English as well as in Hindi. In / **θ** and / **ð** / the two articulators- the tip of the tongue and the Upper teeth make a light contact. There is a narrow gap between the two articulators and air passes out of the mouth with a friction sound. In Hindi the two sounds /**tʰ**/ and /**ɖ**/ are plosive sounds. In plosive sounds the two articulators – the tip of the tongue and the Upper teeth make a tight contact. Bihari speakers use/**tʰ**/ and /**ɖ**/ for / **θ** and / **ð** /.

3. Another pit fall for Bihari speakers is the realization of the inflectional suffix –S( or –es, as the case may be). Many Bihari speakers at all the places pronounce /**s**/ or /**z**/ for the inflectional suffix –s.

In R.P. English the inflectional suffix –s/es is realized differently at different places

a. The inflectional suffix –s is pronounced as /**s**/ If it is preceded by voiceless consonants other than /**s**/ /**f**/ and /**tʃ**/

**Cats** /kæts/

**Cooks** /kʊks/

b. The inflectional suffix –s is pronounced as /**z**/ if it is preceded by a voiced sound other than /**z**/ /**ʒ**/ and /**dʒ**/

**Bags** /bægz/

**Comes** /kʌmz/

c. The inflectional suffix –s is pronounced as /**ɪz**/ If it is preceded by voiceless consonants other than /**s**/ /**z**/ /**f**/ /**ʒ**/ /**tʃ**/ and /**dʒ**/

**Buses** /bʌsɪz/

**Bushes** /bʊʃɪz/

4. The pronunciation of the past tense suffix –ed is another speech blemish of many speakers in Bihar. Past tense suffix –ed at all the places is commonly and wrongly pronounced as /**d**/, whereas in R.P. English it is pronounced differently at different places.

The past tense suffix –ed is realized as follows:-

a. /**ɪd**/ If it is preceded by /**t**/ or /**d**/

**hoarded** /hɔ:ɪd/

**hunted** /hʌntɪd/

b. /**d**/ If it is preceded by a voiced sound other than /**d**/

**Saved** /seɪvd/

**Tamed** /teɪmd/

c. /**t**/ If it is preceded by a voiceless consonant other than /**t**/

looked /**lukt**/  
laughed /**la:ft**/

## **II. CONCLUSION**

The above are a few examples of Hindizising of Spoken English in Bihar. There are numerous other examples. In addition to the pronunciation of the speech sounds, there is hindizising of English language in word accent and intonation. English sentences spoken without care for the correct accentuation of the syllable and spoken with Hindi intonation become Hindizised . Such speech blemishes are very common with Bihari speakers of English

## **REFERENCE**

- [1] All the phonetic Symbols used are symbols of IPA (International Phonetic Association )