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Case Relations in Gaddi: A Language of Gaddi Tribes

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Abstract: This paper presents 'Case Relations' in Gaddi – a Tribal language of the State of Himachal Pradesh, India. This research is based on the data collected from Palampur and nearby Gaddi speaking areas of Himachal Pradesh. Gaddi exhibits ten case relations, where the nature of some postpositions is homophonous. Gaddi has split ergativity in the perfective aspect and 'case markers' in Gaddi do not encode animate-inanimate, alienable-inalienable distinctions. One of the most interesting part of case system in Gaddi is oblique case, where there is an addition of /a/ vowel word finaly if the word ends with consonant whenever a case marker is marked on. This paper explains all the cases of Gaddi in detail with their exclusive properties.

Keywords: Gaddi, case, case marker, relationship, oblique case

1 Introduction

1.1 Gaddi Tribes

Gaddis are located in many states of northern India - Surroundings of Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, south-eastern parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Panjab, and New Delhi. However most of their population is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh around Mandi, Bilaspur, Kangra district and Bharmour area of Chamba District. In 2007 there were more than

110,000 speakers of this language in India. Gaddi belongs to Indo-European language family. The tree structure is as follows:

Indo-European
   Indo-Iranian
     Indo-Aryan
       Northern zone
         Western Pahari
           Gaddi
              (Ethnologue 2014)

Map 1: Places in India where Gaddis live (both majority and minority)

Gaddi is the mother language of the Gaddi tribes. This language has not been recognized for work in offices or teaching in schools. New generations of this tribe is seen influenced by the other local languages like Hindi, Punjabi and Kangri. However the older generation still uses Gaddi. This influence can be seen more commonly in the cities where modern generation uses Gaddi only to communicate with older member of their family. However, Gaddi is still a part of daily communication amongst Gaddi Tribes in rural regions.

Gaddis consider themselves descending from Lord Shiva and Siva Ratri [the Birthday celebration of Lord Shiva] is their main festival. Although many parallels exist between the Hindus and the Gaddis, yet Gaddis do not have strong belief in cast-system as it exists in Hindus. However, they still have castes like Khatri, Brahmin, Dhangar, Rajput, Thakur & Rana. Gaddis are known for their humble nature and peaceful life-style. Members of this tribe follow strict moral and social principles. They hold strong faith in their spiritual culture, they are well known for their honesty and friendly nature. Although the Gaddis do not have a high literacy rate yet their community has a very low crime rate (based on information collected from informants at the field).

Gaddis primarily make their living by cattle herding. They raise and sell sheep, goats, mules and horses. Some of the wealthier members of the community are farmers and weavers. Being involved in cattle trading the Gaddis are not usually vegetarians.

One of the most important aspects of the Gaddi tribe is their unique dressing style. Men wear *chola, turban* or *safa* and *dor* and women wears *launchiri*. Ladies likes to wear bright colorful dresses with a thick scarf. They use a sash on their back in which they carry little children. Women of this community like gold jewelries, sometimes men also wear gold earrings. Wearing semi-precious stone is very common in the community. Gaddi's beautiful attire makes them easily distinguishable from the rest of other local communities.

1.2 Features of Gaddi Language

Gaddi is a language which has many alternate names, as Bharmauri Bhadi, Gaddyali, Gadi, Gadiali, Pahari Bharmauri, and Panchi Brahmauri Rajput. The general structure of Gaddi follows SOV (Subject-Object-Verb), but it has free phrase order like Hindi. Gaddi has interesting amount of voiceless vowels. Takri (Tankri/Takari) used to be older script of Gaddi, but now Devanagari is used for writing script throughout the Gaddi speaking belt (Ethnologue 2014).

1.3 Phonetic Charts

Oral Vowels

	FRONT	CENTRAL	BACK
HIGH	I		U
LOW HIGH	ɪ		ʊ
HIGHER MID	E		O
MEAN MID	ɛ	ə	ɔ
HIGHER LOW			
LOW			ɑ

Nasal Vowels

	FRONT	CENTRAL	BACK
HIGH	Ĩ		Ũ
LOW HIGH			
HIGHER MID	Ẽ		
MEAN MID		ə̃	
HIGHER LOW			
LOW			ã

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Retro-Flex	Alveo-Palatal	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
STOPS									
-asp	p b		t̪ d̪		ʈ ɖ			k g	
+asp	pʰ bʰ		t̪ʰ d̪ʰ		ʈʰ ɖʰ			kʰ gʰ	
FRICAT.		F		S		ʃ			h
AFFRI.									
-asp							č ǰ		
+asp							čʰ ǰʰ		
NASALS	M			N	ɳ		ɲ	ŋ	
FLAPS					ɽ				
TRILLS				R					
LATER.				L	ɭ				
APPROXI.		ʋ					j		

2 CASE RELATIONS IN GADDI

2.1 Cases

Case is a system of marking dependent nouns for the type of relationship they bear to their heads. Traditionally the term refers to inflectional marking, and typically, case marks the relationship of a

noun to a verb at the clause level or of a noun to a preposition, postposition or another noun at the phrase level (Blake 2004, 1). Case is a semantic relationship while case markers exhibit this very relationship by some phonological word (Abbi 2001, 127).

An example of cases in Gaddi is as follows:

bəl̪ḍ-ɛ   ḍəbbu-ɟo   hɪŋɡɑ-t̪ɛ   mɑrɪ kərɪ

bull.M.3SG.ERG child.M.3SG.ACC   horn.INS   kill-do.PRF

bəɡɽɪ   mənɟ   lɑɽɑɪ ḍɪt̪t̪ɑ ha

field   in.LOC throw-give.PRS   AUX

The bull hit the child with its horns and knocked him down in the field.

In the above example, the nouns are related to the verbs, depicting different relationships. Here, /-ɛ/ is ergative marker, /-ɟo/ is accusative marker, /-t̪ɛ/ is instrumental marker and /-mənɟ/ is locative marker which demonstrate the respective relationships of nouns to the verb 'lɑɽɑɪ-ḍɪt̪t̪ɑ (thrown)'. Therefore, at clause level, the verb is considered to be the head, and the nouns are its dependents and bears different types of relations with it.

In the example below, the genetive case, demonstrates the relationship of a noun with another noun, i.e. how 'anand' is related to his 'wife' and what is the relationship between 'wife' and 'name'. Genetive markers are /-rɪ/ and /-rɑ/.

ɑnənd-ɑ-rɪ   lɑɽɪ -rɑ   nɑ   nɛnsɪ   ha

Anand.M.3SG.GEN wife.GEN   name Nancy AUX

Anand's wife's name is Nancy.

2.2 Cases in Gaddi

Gaddi has a very interesting case system. All the cases are marked by postpositions and they bring about some phonological change in the nouns they get attached to. Primarily there are 10 cases in

Gaddi with an additional 11th oblique case. Some postpositions are not only homophonous in nature but they also demonstrate a larger semantic set which comprises some other semantic fields as subsets. In the perfective aspect, Gaddi demonstrate split ergativity. Case markers in Gaddi do not encode animate-inanimate, alienable-inalienable distinctions.

Table for Case and Case Markers in Gaddi

Case	Case Marker
Nominative	/-ɸ/
Ergative	/-ɸ ~ -ɛ/
Accusative/Dative	/-ɸ ~ -ɟo ~ -jo/
Ablative	/-t̪əũ ~ -t̪ʰəũ/
Genitive	/-rɑ ~ -rɪ ~ -rɛ/
Locative	/-mɑ ~ -mənɟ ~ -pər ~ -pur ~ -putt̪ʰɪ/
Instrumental	/-soggɪ ~ -hoggɪ ~ -ɪt̪ɛ ~ -sɪtt̪ɛ ~ -t̪ɛ/
Comitative/Associative	/-soggɪ ~ -sɪtt̪ɛ/
Allative	/-mənɟ ~ -t̪ʰõ/
Vocative	/ɸ ~ -ɛ/

2.3 Nominative case

Nominative case denotes the subject of the verb and is phonologically null. Gaddi has zero case marker (ɸ) for nominative case and is marked on subject place. For example:

rəvi   so-u   kər-d̪ɑ   hɑ

Ravi.M.SG.NOM   sleep.PFV   do.3SG.M.PRS   AUX

Ravi sleeps.

bəcca	keɖɖ-ʊ	kər-ɖ̥ɑ	hɑ
Child.SG.NOM	play.PROG	do.3SG.M.PRS	AUX

Child is playing.

2.4 Ergative Case

Gaddi demonstrate split ergativity only in the perfective aspect, with variations of zero (ɸ) and /-ɛ/ as markers and is marked on subject place.

əbʰɪʃekk- ɛ	ʃempu	soggɪ	munɖ	ɖ̥ʰo-u
abhishek.M.SG.ERG	shampoo	with.INS	head.ACC	clean.3SG.PST.PFV

Abhishek has washed his head with shampoo.

sɪt̪ɑ	pʰullɑ	soggɪ	kəmra	səɟɑ-u
sita.F.SG.ERG	flowers	with.INS	room.ACC	decorate.3SG.PST.PFV

Sita has decorated the room with flowers.

In case of Ergativity, the marker /-ɛ/ is attached only to nouns having C [+cons, -voc] at word finial position. Whereas, nouns with V[-cons, +voc] at word finial positon takes zero marker. This is seen clearly in the above examples, /-ɛ/ is attached to /əbʰɪʃekk/ as it is ending with consonant /k/ where /sɪt̪ɑ/ takes zero marker.

2.5 Accusative Case/ Dative Case

Accusative and Dative deals with the objects of the verb, where accusative is the direct object and dative is the indirect object. The markers which exhibit the relation of the objects to the verb are /-ɸ ~ -ɟo ~ -jo/. For example:

minɑ	cɑkku	soggɪ	pʰəɭ	bəɽɖɪ	hɑ
meena.F.SG.NOM	knife	with.INS	fruits.ACC	cut.3SG.F.PFV	AUX

Mina cut the fruits with knife.

rɑmm-ɛ	rɑvəna-ɟo	t̪ɪrɑ ɪt̪ɛ	mɑrʊ

ram.M.3SG.ERG ravan.ACC   arrow INS   kill.PST.PFV

Ram killed Ravan with arrow.

rəvi   nehɑ-ɟo   pʰəʅ   d̪ɪt̪t̪ɑ   ha

ravi.3P.SG.NOM neha.DAT fruit.ACC give.PRS AUX

Ravi gives fruit to Neha.

In this language, there is zero marker when object occupies 2ⁿᵈ objects' position, whereas /-ɟo/, /-jo/ are the markers marked on 1ˢᵗ objects' position.

2.6 Ablative case

Ablative case depicts the relation of noun and verb where there is a sense of separation or detachment. It is marked with postposition /-t̪əũ/ and /-t̪ʰəũ/ which are homophonous in nature. For example:

bɔt̪əl-ɑ t̪əũ   pɑɳɪ   d̪ʊʅɪ-go

bottle   from.ABL water   fall.PST.PFV

Water fell from the bottle.

so   rɑhʊl-ɑ   t̪əũ   d̪ur   cəlɪ-go

he.3SG Rahul.M.SG.OBL from.ABL away go.3SG.PST.PFV

She went away from Rahul.

2.7 Genitive Case

The Genitive Case signifies any relation or connection which may exist between two or more persons or things. In Gaddi, genitive case relates noun with another noun within a phrase. The genitive markers are /-rɑ/, /-rɪ/, /-rɛ/, which agrees with gender and number but does not agree with inalienable and alienable possession. The maker /-rɑ/ is marked when the possessor is masculine. Maker /-rɪ/ is marked when the possessor is feminine. And the /-rɛ/ marker is marked when possessor is plural in number. Following examples demonstrate this fact:

ʃjamm-a   ra kurʈa   bəɽa   cɛl̪-a   ha

shyam.M.3SG.OBL GEN top   very.ADV beautiful.ADJ AUX

Shyam's top (kutra) is very beautiful.

sɪʈa   rɪ   saɪkəl̪ gʰumɪ gəcʰur-ɪ   ʈʰɪ

sita.F.3SG GEN cycle   lost   go.PFV is.PST

Sita had lost her cycle.

məɳu   rɛ   duɪ   haʈʈ   ʈɛ   duɪ   pɛr   und̪ɛ

man.M.3SG GEN two.DET hand.ACC and.CONJ two.DET   leg.ACC   is.PRF

Man has two hands and two feet.

2.8 Locative Case

Locative refers to place, time, logical sequence, etc. Gaddi has many locative markers, where /-ma ~ -mənɟ/ gives sense of 'in', 'into', etc and /-pər ~ -pur ~ -puttʰɪ/ indicates a sense of 'on', 'above'. As shown in the examples:

rad̪ʰa   bʊs-a ma   əmb   kʰə-u

radha.ERG bus in.LOC mango.ACC V.eat.past

Radha ate the mango in the bus.

ləmaɾɪ   puttʰɪ   bəksa   ʈʰeura   ha

almirah on.LOC box.ACC keep.PRS AUX

The box is on the almirah.

hɛl̪a   pər   ɟ̪ũ   pjurɪ

terrace on.LOC ice.ACC fall.PRF

Snow fell on the terrace.

uɳɪ   mənɟɛ   pur   sɪʈa-ra   d̪əbba   ʈʰeura

he.M.3SG   bed   on.LOC sita.GEN box.ACC put.PRS

He put the box on the bed.

ṭerɑ glɑs rəsoɪ kəmre mənɟ rəkʰurɑ hɑ

your.M.2SG.GEN glass.ACC kitchen room in.LOC keep.PRS AUX

Your glass is in the kitchen.

pəhaɽɑ mənɟ i̯ũ peurɑ hɑ

hill on.LOC snow fall.PRS AUX

It is snowing on hills.

2.9 Instrumental case

Instrumental case depicts the use of instrument of action. Gaddi has many instrumental markers, /-soggɪ ~ -hoggɪ ~ -ɪṱɛ ~ -sɪṱṱɛ ~ -ṱɛ/. All of them are homophones in nature. Examples:

rɑm pensɪl-ɑ soggɪ lɪkʰ-ḍɑ hɑ

ram.M.SG.NOM pencil with.INS write.3SG.PRS AUX

Ram writes with pencil.

rɑmm-ɛ rɑvənɑ-ɟo ṱɪrɑ ɪṱɛ mɑrʊ

ram.M.3SG.ERG ravan.ACC arrow INS kill.PST.PFV

Ram killed Ravan with arrow.

Mɑstər-ɛ bəccɛ-ɟo hottʰɪ -soggɪ/-hoggɪ/-ɪṱɛ/-sɪṱṱɛ-/ṱɛ mɑru

teacher.3P.SG.ERG child.DAT stick INS beat.PST.PRF

Teacher had beaten the student.

nikk-ɛ kərḍl sɪṱṱɛ əmb bəḍḍ-u

boy.3PL.ERG knife INS mango cut.PST.PRF

The children cut the mango with a knife.

2.10 Comitative Case

The Comitative case denotes accompaniment in the sense of "in company with" or "together with". It is marked by /-soggɪ ~ -sɪṱṱɛ/.

rɑm   sɪt̪ɑ sɪt̪t̪ɛ   rɛn-d̪ɑ

ram.M.3P.SG.NOM   sita   with.COM   live.PRS

Ram lives with sita.

mu   səroɟɟ-ɑ soggɪ   gʱərɑ-ɟo   gɑɳɑ   ha

me.1P.SG   saroj   with.COM   home.ACC   go.FUT   AUX

I will go home with Saroj.

2.11 Allative Case

Allative exhibits a sense of giving location with movement like 'from', 'into', etc. The markers for allative are /mənɟ ~ -t̪ʰõ/.

so   d̪ɪllɪ-t̪ʰõ iccʰu   kərd̪ɑ   ha

he. M.3.P.SG   delhi.ALL   come.PROG   do.PRS   AUX

He is coming from Delhi.

bʰrəbbu   bɑɳɑ mənɟ   cʰəʟɪ   go

bear.3P.SG.NOM   forest   in.ALL   walk.PRF   go.PST

Bear went into the forest.

2.12 Vocative Case

The Vocative is the case used when a person or persons are directly addressed. In Gaddi, vocative marker is /-ɸ ~ -ɛ/. It is marked at subject position only.

d̪əbbu-ɛ   eʈɪ   əɪ-jɑ

boy.3P.SG.VOC   here   come.PRS

Boy! Come here.

kuʟɪj-ɛ   bəʟɪ-lɛ

girl.3P.SG.VOC   stop.PRS

Girl! stop. (don't go)

2.13 Oblique Case

Accusative, Ablative, Genetive, Locative, Instrumental, Comitative and Allative case markers brings about a phonological change to the nouns they are marked on. This change is the oblique case marking which adds /ɑ/ vowel word finaly if the word ends with consonant whenever a case marker is marked on, as illustrated here in:

rɑvən-ɑ ɟo (ACC)

rohən-ɑ rɪ (GEN)

bɔʈəl-ɑ ʈəũ (ABL)

bəɳ-ɑ mənɟ (LOC)

pensɪl-ɑ soggɪ (INS)

səroɟɟ-ɑ soggɪ (COM)

gʰər-ɑ ʈʰõ (ALL)

3. Conclusions

The cases in Gaddi have been explained in detail in this paper with sufficient examples. Gaddi has homophones postpositions as case markers and demonstrate split ergativity in perfective aspect. Gaddi also has an interesting oblique case phenomena.

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