

Language Documentation and Description

ISSN 2756-1224

This article appears in: *Language Documentation and Description*,
vol 19. Editor: Peter K. Austin

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Cite this article: Ullah, Shakir, Qandeel Hussain & Uzma Anjum. 2020. Mankiyali (Pakistan) – Language Snapshot. *Language Documentation and Description* 19, 138-143.

Link to this article: <http://www.elpublishing.org/PID/214>

This electronic version first published: December 2020



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Mankiyali (Pakistan) – Language Snapshot

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Language Name:	Mankiyali
Language Family:	Indo-European → Indo-Iranian → Indo-Aryan → Dardic → Kohistani
ISO 639-3 Code:	nlm
Glottolog Code:	mank1256
Population:	around 500
Location:	34.28, 72.57 (Danna village, Mansehra district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)
Vitality rating:	EGIDS 6b (endangered)

Summary

Mankiyali is a severely endangered Indo-Aryan language spoken by around 500 people in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. It belongs to the Dardic group of Indo-Aryan and has only recently received an ISO 639-3 code (nlm). There is no established orthography or written literature. The speakers of Mankiyali are multilingual and can speak Hindko, Pashto, and Urdu. It is used in day-to-day conversations, community gatherings, festivals, and funeral ceremonies but it is not used as a medium of instruction at local schools. There is an ongoing language shift in the Mankiyali community. Speakers are migrating to the neighboring metropolitan cities and shifting to the major languages such as Hindko and Pashto. Mankiyali is in dire need of further research from a linguistic perspective. The authors are involved in the phonetic and phonological documentation of Mankiyali.

Summary (Urdu)

منکیالی ایک شدید خطرے سے دوچار ہند آریائی زبان ہے جسے مانسہرہ ، خیبر پختونخواہ (کے پی)، پاکستان میں تقریباً پانچ سو افراد بولتے ہیں۔ اس کا تعلق ہند آریائی زبانوں کے داردک گروپ سے ہے اور اسے حال ہی میں ایک ISO 639-3 (این ایل ایم) ملا ہے۔ یہاں کوئی آرٹھوگرافی یا لکھا ہوا ادب موجود نہیں ہے۔ منکیالی زبان بولنے والے کثیر لسانی ہیں اور ہندکو ، پشتو اور اردو بول سکتے ہیں۔ اسے روزانہ کی گفتگو ، کمیونٹی کے اجتماعات ، تہواروں اور آخری رسومات میں استعمال کیا جاتا ہے لیکن اسے مقامی اسکولوں میں تعلیم کے لیے استعمال نہیں کیا جاتا ہے۔ منکیالی کمیونٹی میں زبان کا تبادلہ جاری ہے۔ بولنے والے ہمسایہ شہروں میں ہجرت کر رہے ہیں اور ہندکو اور پشتو جیسی بڑی زبانوں کو اپنا رہے ہیں۔ منکیالی کو لسانی نقطہ نظر سے مزید تحقیق کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔ مصنف منکیالی کی صوتی دستاویزی کر رہے ہیں۔

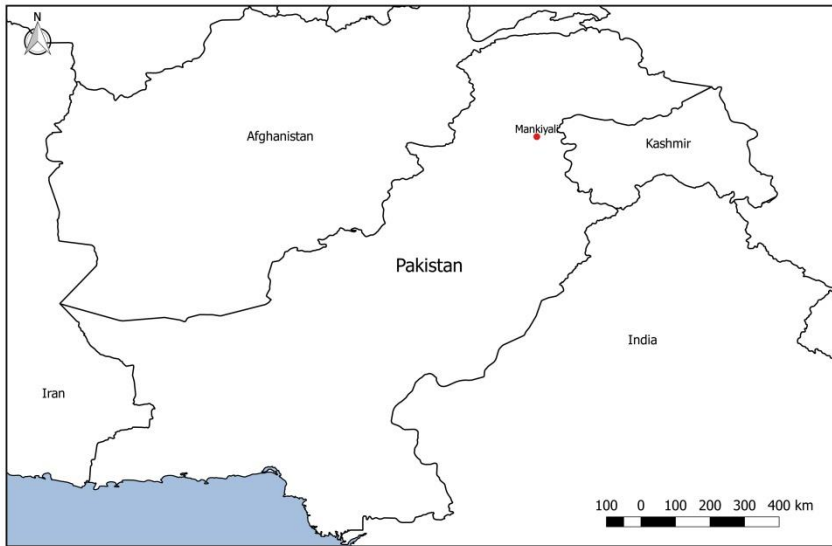


Figure 1. Map of Pakistan indicating the approximate location where Mankiyali is spoken. (c) 2020 by Shakir Ullah, Qandeel Hussain & Uzma Anjum

1. Overview

Mankiyali is a severely endangered Indo-Aryan language spoken in Danna village in the Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan (Figure 1). It is known as Tarawara in patwari documents¹ but the term Mankiyali is used widely among the community members. The older generation calls the language Tarawara or Tarawari, following the patwari documents, but the younger generation uses Mankiyali.² The name Tarawara is sometimes used to refer to the whole community whereas Mankiyali is the name of the language. There are currently fewer than 500 active speakers of Mankiyali (Anjum 2016). It belongs to the Indo-Iranian family, which is divided into three sub-families: Indo-Aryan, Iranian, and Nuristani. Mankiyali is classified as a member of the Kohistani group of the Dardic phylum of Indo-Aryan (Figure 2). The Dardic group of languages is mainly spoken in the mountainous regions of Northern Pakistan which stretch into Eastern Afghanistan (Radloff 1999). Khovar is considered the main Dardic language of the Chitral region, along with Palula, Kalasha, and Dameli (see Torwali 2020; Hussain & Mielke 2020). Other closely related languages of the Kohistani group include Bateri, Gowro, Kalami, and Torwali (Torwali 2020).

A large number of Mankiyali speakers live in Danna village, which is part of the Union Council Bandi Shungli (Figure 3). The closest major city to Danna village is Mansehra. Some speakers live in nearby villages such as Dimmaka and Galdar, which have more than thirty speakers. Dimmaka village has eleven homes where 15 to 18 families reside who speak Mankiyali as their home language. Galdar village has six families. The mother tongue of these families is Mankiyali but they are surrounded by Gujari and Hindko speakers. Mankiyali is still spoken locally and acquired by children, being used at homes, in day-to-day conversations, community gatherings, festivals, and funeral ceremonies, but there is an ongoing language shift to the major languages of the area (Hindko and Pashto). Most of the speakers are fluent in Hindko. Mankiyali is not a written language and not taught at local schools. Migration to the metropolitan cities is one of the main causes of language shift in the Mankiyali community.

¹ *Patwari* is a person who keeps the record of lands and their ownerships.

² It seems that the name *Tarawara/Tarawari* might be traceable to the place name *Tanawal*, but this is merely a hypothesis remaining to be tested.

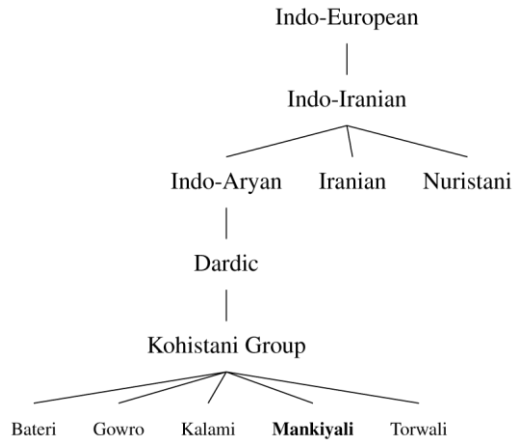


Figure 2. Classification of Mankiyali.



Figure 3. An overview of the Mankiyali-speaking area in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. (c) 2020 by Shakir Ullah, Qandeel Hussain & Uzma Anjum

2. Existing literature

Some research has been done on Mankiyali but it lacks a detailed grammar. Anjum (2016) conducted the first study and highlighted the causes of language shift, noting that most speakers are shifting towards other major languages of the area. The elderly speakers frequently use Mankiyali and have positive attitudes towards it, but usage varies across families. If a mother belongs to a different tribe (e.g., Pashto-speaking community), it is very likely that children will acquire the language of their mother. The level of education, occupation of the parents, and the area where Mankiyali speakers reside, also determine which language will be acquired by children. Anjum & Rehman (2015) presented a brief description of Mankiyali. It appears that Mankiyali, like other neighboring Dardic languages, lost voiced aspirated stops and developed tones (Baart 2014); there is a three-way tonal contrast (rising, rising-falling, and falling) which is largely restricted to word-level, as found in Punjabi (Anjum & Rehman 2015; Hussain et al. 2019).³

Anjum et al. (2018) investigated the usage of Mankiyali across families and found that male speakers are predominantly multilingual as they regularly interact with the neighboring communities. Female speakers, especially the younger generation, are also multilingual. Anjum et al. (2016) examined domains of language use and speakers' attitudes towards Mankiyali. Their findings showed that dominant languages such as English (the official language), Urdu (the national language), Pashto (mostly used at province level) and Hindko (local language) are influencing Mankiyali both lexically and sociolinguistically.⁴ The younger generation frequently uses Urdu and Hindko words in everyday conversations.

3. Current research

Though Mankiyali has been the subject of some research and identified as severely endangered, the language is still in a dire need of thorough investigation as it has not been described from a linguistic perspective. The authors are currently working on phonetic and phonological documentation of Mankiyali and developing tools for speech data analysis.⁵ The outcomes of

³ Research is still underway on the exact acoustic nature of the tonal and laryngeal contrasts.

⁴ A couple of Youtube videos are available online.
See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjWFcYpslXY>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oIx8AEy0ok> (accessed 2020-10-03).

⁵ See also ongoing work by Sadaf Munshi and colleagues.

the project will help inform other aspects of Mankiyali as well, such as its morphophonology and syntax. The data and analysis resulting from the current project will be archived at Air University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

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