

## Core and peripheries of ergativity in New Indo-Aryan: Some new insights

The aim of the present study is to demonstrate the main trends in the development of ergative and ergative-like patterns in early varieties of New Indo-Aryan (NIA) based on the new findings in historical and contemporary corpora.

The development of case-marking and verbal-indexing patterns in IA languages has often been portrayed as homogeneous, but recent research has shown considerable variation of major parameters defining ergativity (i.e. core argument flagging and indexation patterns in various dialectal groups) until at least the 16th century (author 2016).

Among many factors which contributed to alignment change in early NIA scholars have found so far: a) the loss of A flagging (e.g. in Rajasthani in the 16<sup>th</sup> c., in Awadhi in the 18<sup>th</sup> c., and in Dakkhini 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> c.; cf. Shamatov 1974; Khokhlova 2006); b) the development of new A flagging (e.g. in early Braj, Pahari etc. preceded by a differential ergative marking phase; cf. McGregor 2010; author 2014); c) the development of object-verb agreement (either blocked (Braj), or maintained (Rajasthani), even with explicit O flagging); d) the emergence of subject-verb agreement in the ergative domain (e.g. in Dakkhini and Pahari (Nepali, Kumaoni); cf. author 2014); e) that differential object marking was introduced at different stages of various early varieties of NIA ranging from the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> (Rajasthani) to the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Pahari).

In the present study, we will address a number of new questions crucial for advancing our understanding of alignment shift in NIA, including its core and periphery: 1) Do any traces of ergativity still persist in Awadhi after the 18th century (cf. author 2020) as Awadhi seems to be crucial in defining the zone which correlates with the division of IA languages into eastern and western ones (i.e. those having or not having ergative alignment). 2) How have the peripheral zones been shaped regarding a) attrition (e.g. some dialects of Konkani John Peterson p.c.; or Dakkhini); b) preservation (eastern dialects such as Kortha (e.g. Paudyal: in print)) or c) even reinforcement of the ergative pattern (Pahari dialects e.g. author 2014).

The study will be based on the analysis of early NIA digitalized corpora of Awadhi, Dakkhini, Braj, Rajasthani, Kumaoni, and Nepali (Chalise 2006, Jaworski 2014) as well as grammar mining of early and modern, recently published grammars of NIA languages (e.g. Strnad 2013; Peterson and Baraik 2023; Paudyal in print).

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