



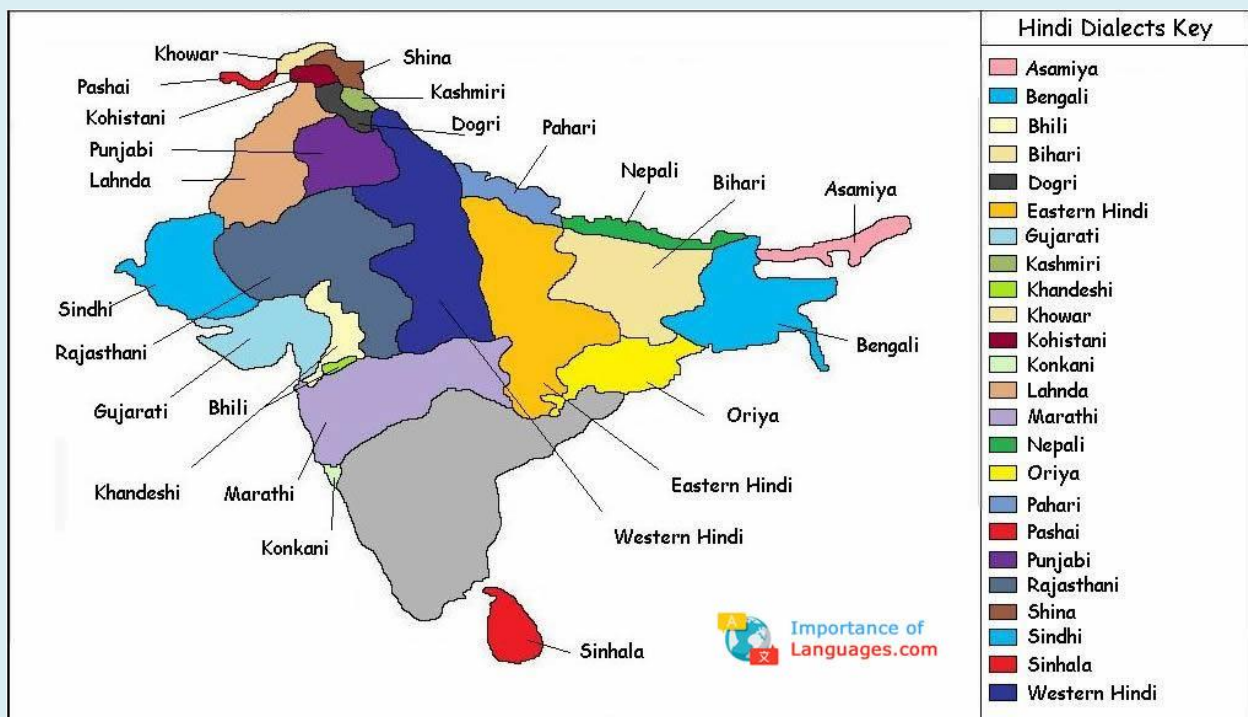
MAJOR INDIAN LANGUAGES

DIALECTS OF HINDI LANGUAGE

HISTORY AND VARIETIES

Hindi as a language acts as an umbrella underneath which there is a long belt of dialects. These dialects, despite having different undertones follow the script of Hindi. These varied dialects are spread over the entire Hindi speaking region usually referred to as Hindi Belt and constitute around 295 million native speakers of Hindi.

The region where Hindi and its varied dialects is spoken are Indian states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Hindi has more than ten variations. Hindi spoken in Rajasthan is different from Hindi spoken in Bihar or Hindi of Himachal Pradesh. Sometimes the different variations of a language are considered as separate language with their own literature.



HINDI DIALECTS MAP

Hindi can be divided into two broad dialectal zones: Western Hindi and Eastern Hindi. Both evolved from slightly different forms of the ancient Prakrit language.

Western Hindi dialects

It came from the Shauraseni (dramatic) Prakrit in the Apabhramsa form, as was used by Jain and Hindu poets.

Western Hindi dialects include:

- ✚ *Braj Bhasha*, spoken in the western region of Uttar Pradesh and some parts of Rajasthan and Haryana
- ✚ *Haryanvi*, spoken mostly in Haryana
- ✚ *Bundeli*, spoken in southwestern Uttar Pradesh and central and western Madhya Pradesh
- ✚ *Kannauji*, spoken in western and central Uttar Pradesh

Eastern Hindi dialects

It evolved from the Ardhamagadhi version of Prakrit, which was used mostly by scholars of the Jain religion.

Eastern Hindi dialects include:

- ✚ *Awadhi*, spoken in northern and central Uttar Pradesh and on Fiji
- ✚ *Bagheli*, spoken in northern and central Madhya Pradesh and south-eastern Uttar Pradesh
- ✚ *Chhattisgarhi*, spoken in southeast Madhya Pradesh and northern and central Chhattisgarh

Some of the significant dialects of Hindi language prevalent in India are as follows which is used for day to day communication and transaction.

❖ Khari boli

Khari boli, consisting of two terms, *khari-* standing, *boli-* dialect, is the important dialect of Hindi. It is believed to have developed between the periods of 900- 1200 CE. It is the variation of Urdu/Hindi language and was a rural language in its early days. But after 18th century, people started using it as the literary form of Urdu as its vocabulary contains a large amount of Persian and Arabic words. It is spoken in parts of – Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and western part of Uttarakhand.

❖ Braj Bhasha

Braj Bhasha, consisting of two terms *Braj* – a region and *Bhasha* – Language, is a major dialect of Hindi. It has often been referred to as the *Dehati Zabaan* (language used in the villages) and was prominent dialect before the 19th century. It is spoken in the north-western regions of Uttar Pradesh, the eastern part of Rajasthan, and the southern part of Haryana. The speakers of this dialect belong to the region which is historically known as Braj in the Hindu epics of Mahabharata and is considered as the birth place of Hindu God, *Krishna*.

DID YOU KNOW?

- *ALMOST ALL THE SIGNIFICANT MODERN HINDI LITERATURE, AFTER 18TH CENTURY, HAS BEEN PRODUCED IN KHARI BOLI.*
 - *HINDI LITERATURE OF THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD INCLUDING BHAKTI KAL WAS COMPOSED IN BRAJ BHASHA.*
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- **The famous poets of Hindi like Surdas, Bhai Gurdas and Amir Khusro wrote in Braj Bhasha.**
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- *AMONG THE OTHER VARIATION OF HINDI, BHAYA, CHAMARI AND GHERA GOWLI ARE LESSER KNOWN DIALECTS USED IN SEVERAL REGIONS.*
 - **THE WORD DIALECT IMPLIES, "A REGIONAL VARIETY OF LANGUAGE DISTINGUISHED BY FEATURES OF VOCABULARY, GRAMMAR, AND PRONUNCIATION FROM OTHER REGIONAL VARIETIES AND CONSTITUTING TOGETHER WITH THEM A SINGLE LANGUAGE."**
 - *MANY VARY DIALECTS OF HINDI IS ALSO SPOKEN IN THE NORTH EASTERN AND SOUTHERN PARTS OF INDIA, IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FORM.*
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❖ Awadhi

Awadhi, which is also known with alternate names of *Abadhi*, *Abadi*, *Abohi*, *Ambodhi*, *Avadhi* and *Baiswari*, is another dialect of Hindi which is spoken in the historical region of Awadh (Oudh) of Uttar Pradesh and therefore the name Awadhi. Its speakers are also found in the state of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi as well as neighboring country Nepal. It is interesting to note that in Fiji, the Hindi spoken is influenced by Awadhi.

❖ Chhattisgarhi

Chhattisgarhi, is a dialect of Hindi which is also the official language of Chhattisgarh and also spoken in adjacent regions of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Jharkhand. Chhattisgarhi also two different dialects used in different regions- *Lahariya* and *Khalwahi*.

The region of Chhattisgarh is also called *Daksin Kosal* in ancient time and so the classical name of Chhattisgarhi is *Kosali* or *Dakshin Kosali* with historical significance.

❖ Kannauji

It is a dialect of Hindi which is spoken in the parts of *Kannauj* in the state of Uttar Pradesh as well as in some other regions. Many consider *Kannauji* as a separate language of its own which is closely related to Hindi. Kannauji also has its own two dialects like *Tirhari* and Transitional *Kanauji*, which is between standard Kanauji and Awadhi.

Hindi Dialects Outside of the Indian Subcontinent

As it is known that Hindi is also spoken in various forms throughout the world, either as local variants or as Creole forms of the language, many dialects of native Hindi has influenced the lingua franca in other nations. So to say various Caribbean islands use a form of Eastern Hindi mixed with Bhojpuri as a lingua franca, and South African Hindi is used by the Indian community of South Africa.

ACTIVITY

1 Mention any two other major languages which has several other dialects. Name three each.

2 Find out about the local dialects spoken in your region and fill the gap below.

What is your name? _____

I live in _____. _____

Write few lines about yourself. _____

3 Mention several dialects that are spoken in Southern part of India, that has similar phonetics with that of Dialects of Hindi Language.

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