



## History

Explore—Journal of Research for UG and PG Students

ISSN 2278 – 0297 (Print)

ISSN 2278 – 6414 (Online)

© Patna Women's College, Patna, India  
<http://www.patnawomenscollege.in/journal>

### Inclusion of Bhojpuri in the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule of Indian Constitution

• Medha Bhushan • Alka Kumari • Priy Anjali  
• Sister Celine Crasta A.C.

Received : November 2012  
Accepted : March 2013  
Corresponding Author : Sister Celine Crasta A.C.

**Abstract :** *Bhojpuri derives its golden history from a thousand years back. It is a part of the eastern Hindi or Bengali continuum of languages which once extended from Assam and Bengal to Banaras. While the rest of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh adopted the new Hindi standard (Khadi boli), the language remained strong in areas between Patna and Banaras.*

*As per the official figures of the 2001 Indian Census, there are 33 million speakers of the Bhojpuri dialect under the Hindi*

*language sub-family. Unofficially, the number is tremendously more. An estimated 70 million people in Uttar Pradesh and 20 million people in Bihar speak Bhojpuri as their first or second language. There are 6 million Bhojpuri speakers, living outside of Bihar and Purvanchal.*

*If the numerical things matter, then no one from the recently included languages in the 8<sup>th</sup> schedule of the Indian Constitution can compete with Bhojpuri. In terms of number of speakers, Bhojpuri is certainly in an advantageous position. The 8<sup>th</sup> schedule tells us about the admissibility and patronship of Indian languages.*

#### Medha Bhushan

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,  
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,  
Bihar, India

#### Alka Kumari

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,  
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,  
Bihar, India

#### Priy Anjali

B.A. III year, History (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,  
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,  
Bihar, India

#### Sister Celine Crasta A.C.

Assistant Professor, Department of History,  
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,  
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India  
E-mail : [sr\\_celinecrasta@yahoo.com](mailto:sr_celinecrasta@yahoo.com)

**Key words:-** *Bhojpuri, Census, 8<sup>th</sup> schedule, patronship.*

#### Introduction :

In the 8<sup>th</sup> schedule of the Indian Constitution articles 344(1) and 351 contains a list of 22 scheduled languages. The Government of India is under an obligation to take measures for the development of these languages, such that they grow rapidly in richness and become effective means of communicating modern knowledge.

Yardsticks for inclusion of a language in the 8<sup>th</sup> schedule are:-

- The language must be the official language of a state from where the demand is being raised.
- It must be spoken by a large population of the state.
- It should be approved by the Sahitya Academy.
- It should be rich in literary terms.

Languages in this list are-Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujrati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malyalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu. It is estimated that Bhojpuri is spoken in an area of approximately 43,000 sq. miles. Bhojpuri is spoken in 9 districts of Bihar, 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh and 1 district of Madhya Pradesh. Of the 3 main regional languages of Bihar-Bhojpuri, Maithili and Maghi-Bhojpuri occupies the pride of position with respect to its usage among the people. The countries with presence of Bhojpuri are-Mauritius, Fiji, Surinam, Trinidad & Tobago, British Guiana, Maldives, Singapore and Myanmar.

**Objectives :**

The purpose of this study is :

- To increase awareness about Bhojpuri language and the ongoing struggle for the inclusion of Bhojpuri in the 8<sup>th</sup> schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- To highlight the history of Bhojpuri and its rich literary culture.
- To highlight the various facets of Bhojpuri in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Methodology :**

- The proposed study is a survey research based on qualitative approach.
- A study of a large number of published articles, Journals, magazines and periodicals concerning the topic.
- Research is based on primary as well as secondary data.

**Tools and Techniques :**

- Information is acquired from internet and magazines.
- Print media.
- Interview schedule of Bhojpuri speaking people.

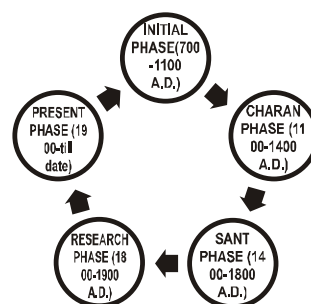
**Population using Bhojpuri in India**

Year	People using Bhojpuri in India (in crores)
1901	2.0
1951	2,87,43,629
1981	4.50
1991	5,24,47,916

Most of the Bhojpuri scholars believe that almost 20 crore people speak Bhojpuri all over the world as their first or second language.

**History of Bhojpuri Nomenclature :**

- According to Shahabad Gazetter, Dr. Greason and Durgashankar Singh Bhojdev, king of Malwa, won the area of Indo-Gangtic plain. It was on his name that the area was named as Bhojpur.
- According to Prithvisingh Mehta- The Gurjara; Pratiharruler, MihirBhoj established a fort by the name of Bhojpur (173).
- According to Dr.Uday Narayan Tiwari and Dr.K.D.Upadhaya-The language was used by the Ujjain Bhojs of Malwa & hence the name (5).
- Rig Veda[10<sup>th</sup> section, shlokas (39-47)] mentions Bhojgana. The area consisted of modernAra, Balia and Chappra districts.



**Contribution of Women to Bhojpuri :**

Women have played an important role in the development and advancement of Bhojpuri language.

Field	Name
Literature	Dr. Rajeshwari Shandilya Mainavati Srivastava Dr. Sandhya Sinha
Music	Vindhyavasini Devi Sharda Sinha Malini Avasthi
Films	Jaddan Bai Kukum Gauri Khurana

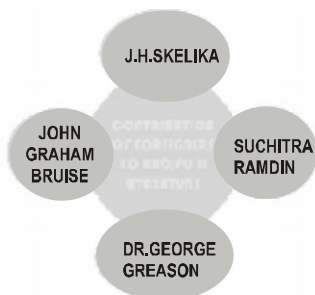
**Contribution of the Muslim Community :**

The medieval era saw the administrative control of the Muslims over entire north India. As a result Arabic, Persian & Urdu words came to be included in the regional languages, especially in Bhojpuri.



**Contribution of Foreigners to Bhojpuri Literature :**

The love for Bhojpuri is not confined to India only. Even foreigners have made remarkable contribution to this language ([www.bhojpuriassociationofindia.com](http://www.bhojpuriassociationofindia.com)).



**Sahitya Academy and Bhojpuri :**

The Sahitya Academy, India’s national academy of letters has at last started giving some recognition to Bhojpuri. It has conferred the “PRATRAM BHOJPURI SAMMAN” on Sri Motilal Upadhyay, veteran Bhojpuri song & poem writer.

**Bhojpuri Academy and Bhojpuri :**

For the development of Bhojpuri language, literature and culture, the Bihar Government established a Bhojpuri Academy in 1978. However, the condition of this organization is precarious today. Political will and administrative efficiency is needed to handle the problems facing the academy.

**Bhojpuri Media :**

Since the first Bhojpuri film in 1962 ‘Ganga Maiya Tohe Piyari Chadhaibo’ Bhojpuri cinema has started its golden journey. Films such as ‘Bidesiya’ and ‘Ganga’ were profitable and popular. The Bhojpuri cinema has given us actors like Manoj Tiwari and Ravi Kishan. In 2008, a short film ‘Udedh Bun’ by Siddhartha Sinha was selected for world premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival. Today, almost every DTH service provider is bound to offer Bhojpuri channels like Mahua, HamarTV. Planman Media has launched ‘The Sunday Indian’, a newsmagazine in Bhojpuri.

**Battle for Bhojpuri**

In 1971, the first Bhojpuri session was organized in Allahabad under the presidentship of Udai Narayan Tiwari. It was in this session that the demand for including Bhojpuri in the 8<sup>th</sup> schedule was raised for the first time. It was from here that the battle for Bhojpuri started. Till date, 24 Bhojpuri sessions have been held and this battle for Bhojpuri held an important place in each of these sessions.

**Demands from the State Government :**

The demands of the Bhojpuri organisations from the state government are:-

- Bhojpuri should be made a medium for pedagogic exchange.

- Bhojpuri Academy and Bhojpuri Bhawan should be established in states having a Bhojpuri speaking population.
- Bhojpuri lecturers, readers and professors should be appointed.
- Bhojpuri programmes should be encouraged on All India Radio and Doordarshan.
- Its magazines should be subscribed by the state libraries.
- Recently, the Patna Doordarshan has taken an initiative to telecast a Bhojpuri film every Saturday. This effort should be applauded and replicated.

#### **Demands from the Central Government :**

- The foremost demand is the inclusion of Bhojpuri in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- Eligible youth who have done higher studies and research in Bhojpuri should be appointed as employees and officers in charge of Bhojpuri programmes in All India Radio and Doordarshan.
- Bhojpuri must be included in the language list of the Sahitya Academy.

#### **Results :**

- It is the second largest language among Indian languages after Hindi.
- Bhojpuri had its own script namely 'Kaithi'.
- Ranking by numbers, it is at the 10<sup>th</sup> position after Japanese and German among world languages.
- The 'Bhojpuri Mati' had the honour to produce freedom fighters like Mangal Pandey, Chandrashekhar Azad and Veer Kunwar Singh.

#### **Suggestions :**

- A committee to study the plight of Bhojpuri speaking people should be constituted.
- The Gorakhpur station of Akashvani has done a remarkable job by launching the "Bhojpuri News Bulletin". This effort should be replicated.

- Steps must be taken to support regional cinema.
- UNESCO should constitute a committee for the survey of Bhojpuri speaking population in the world.

#### **Conclusion :**

Recently, the demand for inclusion of Bhojpuri got mass momentum as the parliamentarians have supported this demand. As the struggle for Bhojpuri enters its last lap the U.P.S.C. has proposed a constitutional amendment to delink the new entrants to the 8<sup>th</sup> schedule from its scheme of exams. If ratified by the Parliament, Bhojpuri will finally make to the list of scheduled languages.

#### **References :**

- Begum, Atia. Bhojpuri Akademi Patrika, 1995.
- Dainik Jagran 18-19 May, 2012.
- Hindustan Times 18 May, 2012.
- Mehta, Prithivisingh. 'Bihar ek Aitihāsik Dīgdarshan'.
- Ojha, Rasik Bihari. *Smarika Bhojpuria* 17-18, December, 2011.
- Prabhat Khabar 18-19 May, 2012.
- Proceedings and transactions of the 60th All India Oriental Conference, Patna, 1930. 186
- Times of India 18 May, 2012.
- [www.bhojpuriakademi of bihar.com](http://www.bhojpuriakademi of bihar.com) (18 June, 2012)
- [www.bhojpuriassociation of india.com](http://www.bhojpuriassociation of india.com) (9 July, 2012)
- [www.bhojpuri india.org](http://www.bhojpuri india.org) (18 June, 2012)
- [www.google.co.in](http://www.google.co.in) (1 June, 2012)
- [www.jaibhojpuria.com](http://www.jaibhojpuria.com) (16 June, 2012)
- [www.sahityaakademiofindia.com](http://www.sahityaakademiofindia.com) (18 June, 2012)