

Phonological Variations in Waziri and Marwat Dialects

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Abstract

The aim of the study is to examine and analyze the phonological variations in Waziri and Marwat dialects. The process of data collection is done through structured interviews with 28 sample sizes. For the present study, a mixed research design is selected. After the collection process of the data, the data is processed under the analytical and descriptive theoretical framework of Pashto dialectology. The study found that the variations in the mentioned two dialects more often occurred in vowel sounds and less in consonant sounds. The study found that the long vowel sound /o:/ changed into the long vowel sound /a:/ in the Marwat dialect and the same vowel sound /o:/ changed into the vowel sound /a:/ along with consonant sound /w/ in Marwat dialect, because of the consonant sound /y/ when it is followed by vowel sound /o:/ in Waziri dialect. Moreover, the vowel sounds /i/ and /ε/ in the Waziri dialect changed into vowel sounds /ɔ/ and /ə/ respectively in the Marwat dialect. Besides, the two vowel sounds /ε/ and /i/ changed into one vowel sound /ɔ/ in the Marwat dialect when occurred at the beginning of words in the Waziri dialect. While the consonant sound /s/ changed into another consonant sound /ʃ/ and the same consonant sound /s/ in the Waziri dialect was unchanged in the Marwat dialect or the change took place due to some other consonant sounds instead of /ʃ/ sound, but the later change is rare. Also, the study found some irregular patterns regarding some phonological variations in the two dialects. Thus, the variations of Waziri and Marwat dialects in the form of vowels highlight a regular shifting pattern in the mentioned dialect and due to the irregular patterns and changing nature of some sounds with combinations of other sounds, a comprehensive study is recommended on these sounds to investigate their pattern systematically. There is a dire need for a comprehensive study of the syntactical and morphological variations among Marwat, Waziri dialects, Banochi, and Khattak dialects on the various levels of Pashto dialectology.

Introduction

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, including its structure, properties, and use as a system of communication. It includes phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics, with the goal of understanding language's fundamental principles, variations, and universals, as well as how it conveys meaning, shapes identity, and connects people across cultures.

Language is a sophisticated and dynamic communication system made up of rules, symbols, and conventions for conveying meaning and expressing thoughts, ideas, and emotions. It is an essential component of human society, culture, and identity, and it serves to facilitate social contact, collaboration, and understanding. Humans use different languages to communicate with one another. Every language has distinct varieties that are called dialects. The study of dialects is done under the domain of dialectology.

Dialectology is the scientific study of dialects, which are regional or social variations of a language that are different from the standard language in pronunciation, vocabulary,

syntax, and idiomatic expressions. It analyzes the geographical, social, and cultural elements that influence dialect development and use, as well as their relationship with the standard language and other dialects.

Pashto dialectology is the study of Pashto dialects, which are part of the Indo-European language family and spoken by around 50 million people in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other areas of the world. It examines the geographical, social, and cultural factors that have influenced the development of various Pashto dialects, including differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and idioms, in regions such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Balochistan, and cities such as Peshawar, Quetta, and Kabul. Pashto dialectology investigates the intricate connections in regional dialects like Southern Pashto (spoken in Kandahar and Quetta), Central Pashto (spoken in Kabul and Peshawar), Northern Pashto (spoken in Kunduz and Jalalabad), and Eastern Pashto (spoken in FATA and Bannu), as well as social dialects like Kabuli Pashto.

The current study is focused on variations in the Marwat and Waziri dialects of the Pashto language at the phonological level. The study identifies phonological differences in the two Pashto dialects and collects data through structured interviews conducted in two main areas: Domel city and its surrounding areas (Waziri dialect) and Naurang city and its surrounding areas (Marwat dialect). The study's aim is to investigate the phonological variations in the Marwat and Waziri dialects of the Pashto language and contribute to a better understanding of the linguistic diversity within the Pashto language.

Statement of the Problem

Linguistics, the scientific study of language, has several sub-fields, including dialectology, which studies regional and social language variations. Dialectology analyzes the different characteristics and variations of languages such as English, Persian, French, Chinese, and Pashto. The Pashto language is rich in respect to its variations, called dialects. Pashto dialectology is a sub-field of dialectology that studies the distinctive features and variations of Pashto dialects, such as phonological, lexical, and grammatical variations to comprehend the language's diversity and nuances. However, the current study is focused on the phonological differences in Marwat and Waziri Pashto dialects as to how the speakers of Marwat and Waziri dialects are different in pronunciation when pronouncing the same words or sentences with identical meanings.

Research Objectives

1. To investigate the phonological variations in Waziri and Marwat dialects in the Pashto language.
2. To examine and analyze as to how the phonological variations occur in Waziri and Marwat dialects in the Pashto language.

Research Questions

1. What are the phonological variations in Waziri and Marwat dialects in the Pashto language?
2. How do the phonological variations occur in Waziri and Marwat dialects in the Pashto language?

Significance of the Study

This study on Pashto dialects advances the area of Pashto linguistics by providing new insights into phonological differences in the Marwat and Waziri dialects of the Pashto

language. Besides, this study establishes the framework for future scholars to conduct their research on Pashto dialectology. The present study will motivate future students and scholars to conduct their study on Pashto dialectology at various levels such as BS, M.Phil., and PhD.

Literature Review

Linguistics is the comprehensive study of a language, including its structure, meaning, and use in different contexts and communities. Dialectology is a field of linguistics that studies dialects, which are language variants unique to a single set of speakers. Dialectology investigates the geographical, social, and historical aspects that influence the formation and variation of dialects within a language. Linguistics and dialectology share a common interest in studying language diversity and change. Linguists use dialectical methods and theories to study language differences across regions, social groupings, and periods. Dialectologists, on the other hand, frequently examine and interpret the characteristics of specific dialects using observations from broader linguistic theories (Chambers & Trudgill, 1998).

Dialectology

Labov's (1972) approach to dialectology emphasizes the scientific investigation of language variation, focusing on understanding why and how people speak differently. He argues that linguistic differences, such as accents or word choices, are not random but instead follow systematic patterns influenced by social, cultural, and historical factors. In his book *Sociolinguistic Patterns* (1972), Labov sheds light on the complexities of language variation, highlighting the role of social factors in shaping linguistic diversity. He introduces methods such as the study of apparent time and the use of sociolinguistic interviews to gather data on language use in different contexts.

Additionally, Labov's (1994) contributions to dialectology are extensive, and his work has significantly shaped the field. In his research, he emphasizes the dynamic nature of language variation and the social factors that influence it. One of his key insights is that language variation is systematic and can be studied scientifically. Labov's seminal book discusses how language changes over time and the mechanisms that promote these changes. He also emphasizes the importance of studying language variation in its social context, emphasizing the role of factors such as social class, ethnicity, and gender.

Dialectology, according to Yule (2014) is all about studying dialects. Dialects are variations of a language that different regions or social groups speak. Yule (2014) talks about how dialects exist on a continuum, meaning that as you move from one place to another, the language gradually changes without clear boundaries. He also explores the different linguistic features that can be different across dialects, like pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure. Yule (2014) emphasizes that dialects are not "wrong" or "inferior", (p. 241), but instead reflect unique expressions of language shaped by geography, history, and social factors. Additionally, Yule (2014) discusses how dialects can be influenced by language contact, where different languages or dialects interact and influence each other.

Similarly, Crystal (2003), a well-known linguist, has written extensively about dialects and their significance in the study of language. Crystal (2003) examines dialects in his work *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, which includes information on their historical development, geographical distribution, and social implications. He shows dialects' broadness and diversity, arguing that they should not be viewed as inferior forms of language. He emphasizes the necessity of understanding dialects as key components of linguistic variety and cultural identity (Crystal, 2003).

In his definition of dialect and language, Petyt (1980) dispels the myth that dialects are less valuable than languages. He makes it clear that dialects are different forms of the same language. Additionally, he talks about the many dialects, such as urban, social, and regional dialects. The book explores the evolution of dialectology from the early 19th century to the 20th century. Petyt (1980) investigates the conventional methods of dialect studies, such as emphasizing regional variations and dialect usage in literature. Along with them, he examines the criticisms made at these conventional techniques and the rise of fresh ideas like structural and social-urban dialectology.

A dialect is basically how people talk differently from each other. It is not just about how they pronounce words, but also the words they choose and how they put them together in sentences. For example, if one person says, "John is a farmer" (p. 147), and another person says the same thing but pronounces "farmer" differently, like saying "fahmuh" (p. 147) that is just a small difference in accent. But if one person says, "You should not do that" (p. 147), and another person says, "Ya hadn't oughta do that" (p. 147) that is a bigger difference because they are using different words and a different way of speaking. It is a kind of spectrum, where some dialects are really different from each other, while others are more similar. So, dialects are like different flavours of language, where some are very distinct and others are more alike (Ellis, 1999).

Basically, no two people speak in the same way. In larger communities, there are different types of language called dialects. These dialects can differ greatly from one another, but they still allow for communication. It is hard to say exactly when a dialect becomes a separate language, but people generally agree on certain terms. For example, people talk about different dialects of English, like British English, American English, and Australian English. However, they would not consider Welsh and English or Irish and English as dialects of the same language, even though they are spoken in the same areas (Robins & Crystal, 2024).

A dialect is a distinctive language spoken by speakers in a certain geographic or social region; it is distinguished from other dialects of the same language by its own vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Regional dialects, such as those spoken in Appalachia or the Ozarks, are two examples of this; they display particular linguistic characteristics unique to their respective regions. Furthermore, social dialects show how language both reflects and differentiates social backgrounds. Examples of these dialects are those connected to various socioeconomic classes, such as working-class dialects in England. In addition to being linguistic phenomena, dialects are also effective tools for characterization that help us comprehend people's identities in relation to their social and geographic backgrounds (Zahra, 2020).

Currently, the study of dialects includes not just traditional dialects, but also social dialects and variations of second languages, all of which are influenced by social developments in human cultures. Due to its progress, dialectology is now an important and sophisticated topic that can greatly help in the development of language theories based on real-world information and facts. Understanding that language is both shaped by and reflects societal dynamics, dialectology takes into consideration the social changes taking place in human cultures. Although dialectology recognizes the complex and diverse nature of language change and variation, it has developed into an extensive and comprehensive science (Escobar, 2008).

A branch of linguistics known as dialectology focuses on dialects or geographical variants of a language. When a language develops and changes, dialects result. People who are close to one another communicate similarly. However, when they live far apart, their languages diverge and develop into distinct dialects. These dialects may eventually split off into their own languages. Language develops and changes in this way over time. Words can differ greatly

across dialects, including in terms of sound, structure, and vocabulary. However, when people discuss dialect, they frequently refer to grammatical and lexical variations. Accent, on the other hand, describes variations in the pronunciation of sounds, such as vowels. Thus, dialect refers to the overall context of language use, while accent is about the specific sounds of language (Boberg et al., 2018).

Sweet (1916) talks about the evolution of dialects, their relationship to language unity, and how they differ over time according to geographic variables. He investigates how language unity is maintained through uniform communication among speakers, but geographic dispersal and a lack of communication contribute to dialect formation. Natural barriers, broad rivers, and religion can separate dialects due to their distinct characteristics. Isolation and centralization can alter dialects, and standard dialects can evolve, replacing local dialects and splitting off into new local dialects. Standard dialects indicate unique language periods, but changes occur at different times in each dialect.

It is observed that the branch of linguistics known as dialectology systematically examines the complex interaction in linguistic diversity and social, historical and geographical factors. In order to explain how these linguistic variations, reflect and influence cultural identities and societal dynamics over time, it does not only look at the structural elements of dialects, such as vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation but also incorporates knowledge from sociology and anthropology. In order to examine the dynamic interaction in the use of language and social context and to provide a thorough understanding of linguistic variation and change, dialectology uniquely connects empirical methodologies with theoretical frameworks.

Phonological Level

Sweet (1916) explains that phonology is a large branch of linguistics that concentrates on the complete science of speech sound. Phonology covers all aspects of speech sounds, including their history and the theories that explain how they evolve over time. It is the study of how sounds are formed, evolved, and employed in language.

According to Chomsky and Halle (1968), phonology is a distinct subsystem of language that uses rules and abstract representations to arrange speech sounds. It ensures consistency and recognition within a language by applying phonological rules to convert basic phonemic sequences into actual spoken sounds. Phonology studies patterns of permissible sound combinations, how phonemes differ in various settings, and characteristics that distinguish sounds. This concept is essential to comprehending how languages efficiently structure and produce speech.

Phonology is a branch of linguistics that studies the structuring of sound systems in languages. It differs from syntax, morphology, and historical linguistics. Phonology studies the abstract conceptual rules that govern sound patterns inside a language's grammar. Phonetics is likewise concerned with speech sounds, but it focuses on physical characteristics such as acoustic waveforms, formant values, and muscle mechanics involved in sound creation. While phonology investigates the abstract laws that control sound patterns rather than the physical production of spoken sounds (Odden, 2013).

Similarly, in linguistics, sound is studied through two branches: phonetics and phonology. Phonetics analyzes the production and transmission of sounds, involving anatomy, physiology, physics, and neurology. In contrast, phonology deals with language-specific sound systems and how sounds organize to convey meaning, related to psychological processes. It focuses on how languages like English organize sounds to convey meaning, distinct from others such as French or Welsh. Phonologists study the sound systems of languages and analyze

what both speakers and listeners must understand and learn to effectively communicate within their linguistic community (McMahon, 2002).

Phonology, according to Bybee (2001), is the study of how speech sounds' communication roles within a language system interact with their physical characteristics. It examines how language meaning is conveyed by the acoustic characteristics of sounds and how phonological patterns are developed by the use and repetition in communicative contexts.

It is observed that the area of linguistics known as phonology studies the abstract principles that control how speech sounds are arranged and changed over time in different languages. Its main goal is to comprehend how these rules systematically organize sound systems in order to efficiently communicate meaning across linguistic communities. In contrast to phonetics, which focuses on the physical creation of speech sounds, phonology studies patterns of sound combinations and their historical development to shed light on how languages use these systematic arrangements to help communication.

Pashto Dialectology

The language of Pashto, which has many dialects and sub-dialects, remains largely unstudied. Significant variations in vocabulary and pronunciation across these dialects can be observed. There are three primary regional varieties of the Pashto language: Western (Kandahar), Central (Kabul), and Eastern (Ningrahar). In contrast to the Central dialect, which is spoken in Kabul, Logar, Ghazni, and Parwan, the Western dialect is more common in southwestern Afghanistan and Baluchistan. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan and northeastern Afghanistan are home to the Eastern dialect. Speakers of one dialect typically understand those of another, despite differences in pronunciation and sound patterns. Pashto's complex historical and geographical development is reflected in its dialectal diversity (Tegey & Robson, 1996).

Pashto dialects are closely related to the tribal structures and identities of its speakers. These dialectal contrasts play an important role in expressing oneself and group differentiation. The fundamental distinctions across Pashto dialects are found in phonology and vocabulary, while morphology and sentence structure exhibit significant similarities in dialects. These dialectal variations represent the diverse cultural history and historical narratives of Pashto-speaking communities and shape their distinct cultural identities (Kaye, 1997).

As many other writers have noted, Hallberg (1992) also discusses that there are two main dialects of Pashto: hard Pashto, which is spoken in North-Eastern Pashto, and soft Pashto, which is spoken in South-Western Pashto. The biggest distinction in the two dialects is how they pronounce the words. One particular letter is pronounced as [x] in hard Pashto and as [ʒ] in soft Pashto. Although there are differences in pronunciation and grammar among various tribes, Pashto is largely consistent throughout the region, which promotes mutual understanding. The South-Western dialect is spoken in places like Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, and among other Pashtun tribes including the Khattaks, Marwats, Nyazais, Bannuchis, and Wazirs. The Northeastern dialect is prevalent in areas like Hazara, Peshawar, and Kohat. It is commonly agreed by academics and writers that there are two distinct dialects.

The primary distinctions in different Pashto dialects are found in their sound systems, specifically in the way that particular sounds are spoken. Pashto dialects are influenced by the speakers' tribal identification as well as their geographic location. The distinctions in Pashto dialects' sounds and language interactions, with an emphasis on variances in vocabulary, stress patterns, and pronunciation in various geographical and social contexts. However, phonological differences contribute to the majority of the variations within Pashto dialects (David, 2014).

There are many varieties of Pashto, which is spoken in Afghanistan and Pakistan. A study was conducted in 2020 that revealed a maximum of five Pashto varieties. Pashto lacks a unified literary and standard dialect as well as divided orthography due to political and geographic considerations along with a lack of thorough research on the dialects. The classification, distinctions, and literary and social status of the two dialects under discussion are the primary subjects of this article. The dialects of Yusufzai and Kandahari have primarily been examined and contrasted phonologically (Dinakhel, 2020).

Phonological differences in the Pashto language spoken in Pakistan's Swat area are examined in the study. Interviews with thirty native speakers are used to gather data on verb forms in the Upper and Lower Swat regions. To find differences in verb forms, the data was evaluated. The findings of that study show that auxiliary verbs connected to tense, aspect, and tense and aspect combination were the most common way in which these phonological changes were observed (Rafiq et al., 2021).

It is observed that Pashto dialectology is the study of regional variations in the Pashto language, which include variances in phonology, lexicon, and pronunciation throughout different geographic areas and tribal communities. These differences represent historical, cultural, and geographic factors, resulting in diverse language identities and social differences among Pashto speakers. Dialectology in Pashto emphasizes mutual intelligibility among dialects despite linguistic differences, as well as the function of dialectal distinctions in strengthening cultural heritage and community identity.

The previous research has looked into the levels of linguistic variation among distinct dialects of the Pashto language, which has high dialectal diversity between areas and communities. Although many Pashto dialects are mutually understandable, there are variations in pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax for specific words that separate them from one another. However, there is still an important gap in this field of study as no comprehensive study has yet evaluated all known Pashto dialects, indicating a significant research gap in Pashto dialectology. This study tries to close this gap by concentrating on two understudied dialects: the Waziri and Marwat dialects. Its specific goal is to experimentally explore and analyze their pronunciation aspect, so improving our understanding of linguistic distinctions and similarities in Pashto dialectology.

Methodology

This section of the study discusses research design, sampling, population, data collection tools, ethical considerations, and theoretical framework. The purpose of this study is to examine the differences on the phonological level in the two Pashto dialects that are Waziri and Marwat dialects. Using a mixed-method approach, this comparative study includes qualitative and quantitative research methods. The study aims to compare the distinct phonological characteristics of the Waziri and Marwat dialects, which set them apart and contribute to the linguistic diversity of the Pashto language.

Research Design

This study employs a comparative and descriptive research design to investigate the phonological differences in the Waziri and Marwat Pashto dialects. This study uses a mixed-method approach to look into phonological differences in Waziri and Marwat dialects using both qualitative and quantitative techniques. Structured interviews are the main research instrument that is utilized to gather the data. It is used to gather qualitative information from the speakers of the Waziri and Marwat dialects of the Pashto language, comparing the two dialects' distinct pronunciations.

Sampling

Purposive sampling is used to choose native speakers of Waziri and Marwat dialects who speak Pashto fluently. This approach focuses on identifying specific individuals who match the study's criteria in order to ensure that the sample is both relevant and useful. The study's target population comprises two randomly chosen speakers from every target area of both Waziri and Marwat dialects.

Population

In order to collect the required samples, Domel city and its surrounding areas as Bodin Khel, Painsa Khel, Jangi Killa Pirba Khel, Bizen Khel, Dogar Umerzai, and Bakka Khel of Waziri dialect and the same from every target area of Naurang city and its surrounding areas including Mama Khel, Naser Khel, Nalichak, Akbar Kalla, Tanchi Abad, and Muslim Bagh (old name Teriram) of Marwat dialect.

Data Collection Tools

In this study, structured interviews (set of words and phrases) are the primary data collection strategy. It is done through video recording tools. The mentioned tool is best for such comparative study as the target populations freely respond to whatever questions are asked, providing the distinctions in dialects to be easily identified through verbal answers. The most relevant research tool for gathering data in this comparative study is a structured interview. The interviews are conducted in the target areas (Domel city and its surrounding areas, and Naurang city and its surrounding areas) of Waziri and Marwat dialects. It saves a significant amount of time and money when compared to other tools, which are more time-intensive and inappropriate for this comparative investigation of phonological variation.

Ethical Consideration

This research is focused on being both respectful and responsible. Before collecting the data, it ensures that all the participants understand the study purpose and ethically agree on the gathering of information from them. The researcher is aware of the cultural nuances and linguistic variations in the Waziri and Marwat dialects and has avoided any potential cultural misrepresentation by presenting them accurately.

Theoretical Framework

This study is conducted to examine the phonological variations in the Waziri and Marwat dialects of the Pashto language, and aims to investigate the phonological diversity of the said Pashto dialects. Besides, the field in which the current study is conducted is dialectology. Different theoretical frameworks are provided by dialectology based on the study's level and context. In order to find out the differences at the various levels, dialectology provides a descriptive research design to investigate the formal properties of any dialect. As far as Pashto dialectology is concerned, a lack of research has been conducted so far, particularly on the northern regional dialects. The variety of the Pashto language on various levels is a fascinating aspect of this rich and diverse language spoken by millions of people in Pakistan and Afghanistan alike. Pashto dialects can be very different in terms of pronunciation, tone, and accent. The pronunciation of sounds is an essential aspect of phonological variation in Pashto language. Therefore, the present study focuses on the phonological differences in Waziri and Marwat dialects. In this regard, 28 interviews are conducted in different areas of both dialects, such as Domail city and its surrounding areas such as Bodin Khel, Painsa Khel,

Jangi Kila Pirba Khel, Bizen Khel, and Doger Umerzai, and Baka Khel for Waziri dialect. Similarly, for the Marwat dialect, Naurang city and its surrounding areas including Mama Khel, Nasar Khel, Nalichak, Akbar Kalla, Tanchi Abad, and Muslim Bagh, old name Teriram are considered as target areas. However, the areas are somehow far away. Based on *A Descriptive Grammar of Pashto and its Dialects* (2014) by Anne Boyal David, the Pashto language has 46 phonemes divided into vowels and consonants. There are 7 simple vowels and 7 diphthong vowels while 32 consonant sounds in the Pashto language.

Vowels in the Pashto Language

There are 7 simple vowels and 7 diphthongs vowels in Pashto language.

Table 01 (Simple Vowels)

	Front	Central	Back
High	I		(û) u
Mid	E	ə	O
Low			Â

Table 02 (Diphthong Vowels)

	Front	Central	Back
High			ui
Mid		əI	oI
Low	ai, aw		ai, aw

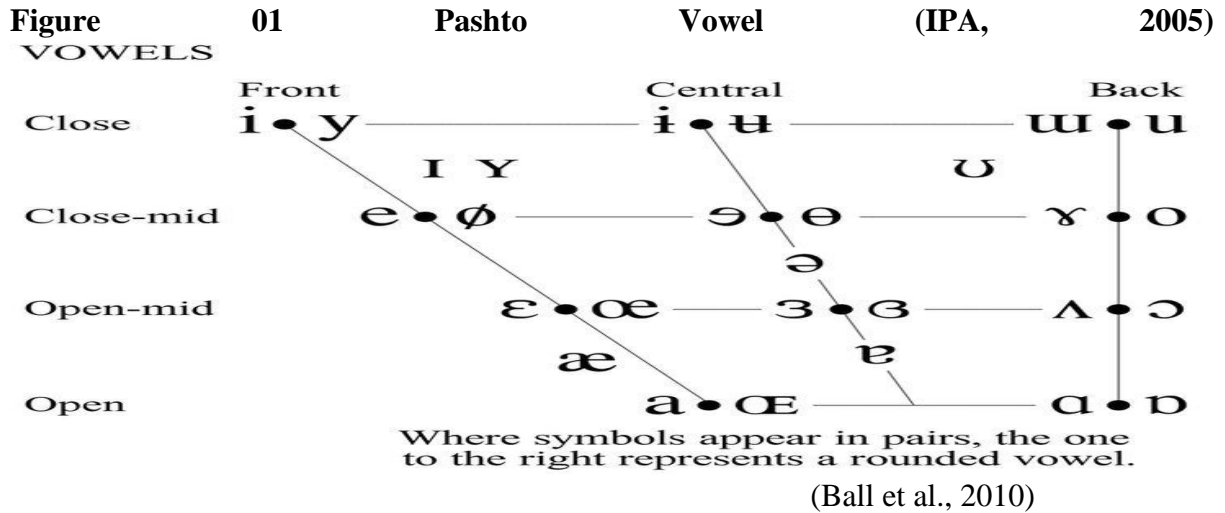
Consonants in the Pashto language are opposite to other Iranian languages. Pashto has several retroflex consonants due to likely the effects of the Indo-Aryan language. The second different feature of Pashto phonology is the frequent presence of consonant clusters at the beginning of a word (Gutman & Avanzati, 2013).

Table 03 The Vowel and Consonant of Pashto Language

		Labial	Dental/ alveola r	Post- alveola r	Retrofle x	Palata l	Velar	Uvula r	Glott al
Stop	V-	p	T		T		k	(q)	
	V+	B	D		d		g		ʔ
Affricat e	V-		Ts	tʃ					
	V+		Dz	dʒ					
Fricativ e	V-	F	S	ʃ	ʂ		x		h
	V+		Z	ʒ	ʐ		ɣ		
Nasal		M	N		ɲ				
Rhotic			R		ɽ				
Glide		W	I			j			

(Gutman & Avanzati, 2013)

In the above table, V+ means voiced sounds and V- indicates voiceless sounds.



In order to analyze the data collected through structured interviews, 20 tables are made. Tables 04 and 05 are set for the variations within the Waziri dialect and Marwat dialect to decide the common words and phrases that are needed for the current comparative study of the mentioned dialects. Therefore, tables 07 and 11 are set for the distance among all the target areas of the Waziri and Marwat dialects. Table 08 is for the phonological variations in the speakers of Bakka Khel and the rest of the target areas of the Waziri dialect. Similarly, table 10 is set for the phonological differences in the speakers of Mama Khel and the speakers of the other target areas of the Marwat dialect. Besides, to clearly illustrate the phonological differences in the two dialects, three main tables which are tables 06, 09, and 12 are made. Table 06 is for the selected common words and phrases of the Waziri dialect and contains seven columns as the first column is for Numbering, the second is for the selected common words and phrases with their standard spelling based on Habibullah Tegey-Barbara Robson's book *A Reference Grammar of Pashto* (1996), the third is for transliteration of the same words and phrases, the fourth is for Pashto IPA phonetic transcription based on Anne Boyle David's book *Descriptive Grammar of Pashto and its Dialects* (2014), the fifth is for English transcription, the sixth is for the target areas of Waziri dialect where the selected common words and phrases are pronounced alike, and the last is for the percentage of Waziri dialect. Furthermore, table 09 is for the selected common words and phrases of the Marwat dialect. It is similar to the first table because it also contains seven columns as the first column is for numbering, the second one is for the selected common words and phrases with their standard spelling based on Habibullah Tegey-Barbara Robson's book *A Reference Grammar of Pashto* (1996), the third is for transliteration of the same words and phrases, the fourth is set for phonetic transcription in Pashto IPA based on Anne Boyle David's book *Descriptive Grammar of Pashto and its Dialects* (2014), the fifth is for English transcription, the sixth is for the target areas of Marwat dialect in which the selected common words and phrases are pronounced alike, and the seventh is for the percentage. Lastly, table 12 is the main table of the present study which is used for both Waziri and Marwat dialects words and phrases that are different from one another on phonological level. It consists of eight columns, the first column is for numbering, the second is for the selected words and phrases of the Waziri dialect with their standard spelling, the third is set for transliteration of Waziri dialect words and phrases, the fourth is set for Pashto IPA phonetic transcription of the same Waziri dialect words and phrases. The fifth is for the selected common words and phrases of the Marwat dialect with their standard spelling, the sixth is for transliteration, the seventh is set for Pashto IPA phonetic transcription of Marwat dialect words and phrases, and the last column is used for the transcription in English. Finally, the rest of the

tables are split into sub-tables for further illustration of the phonological variations in Waziri and Marwat dialects.

Data Analysis

The chief aim of this study is to investigate and identify the phonological differences in Waziri and Marwat dialects in the Pashto language under the theoretical framework of Pashto dialectology. In order to achieve the aim, the scholar selected some common words and phrases (containing common sounds) which are used by the speakers of the Waziri dialect as well as by the speakers of the Marwat dialect. Eventually, within every single dialect, there are always some more different varieties of the same dialect which are slightly different from one another phonologically, based on geographical location and social factors. Therefore, it is difficult to identify the common words and phrases in one dialect due to the different varieties. Similarly, the Waziri dialect is spoken by all Wazir people, but due to different geographical areas and different social norms, there is a slight difference in some sounds' pronunciation. For instance;

Table 04 Phonological Variations in Waziri Dialect

Bodin Khel Wazir	Pashto IPA Transcription	Bizen Khel Wazir	Pashto IPA Transcription	Dogar Umerzai Wazir	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
<u>E</u> lta	/ɛltə/	<u>D</u> elta	/dɛltə/	<u>D</u> ilta	/diltə/	Here
Ri <u>p</u> e	/ri:pɛ/	Ri <u>p</u> əy	/ri:pəj/	Ri <u>p</u> e	/ri:pɛ/	Money

The same is the case with the Marwat dialect. For instance;

Table 05 Phonological Variations in Marwat Dialect

Naurang City Marwat	Pashto IPA Transcription	Mama Khel Marwat	Pashto IPA Transcription	NaserKhel Marwat	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
Wri <u>z</u> e or Wri <u>j</u> e	/wəri <u>z</u> ɛ:/ or /wəri <u>dʒ</u> ɛ:/	Wri <u>z</u> e	/wəri <u>z</u> ɛ:/	Wri <u>j</u> e	/wəri <u>dʒ</u> ɛ:/	Rice
Ra <u>z</u> a or Ra <u>j</u> a	/ra' <u>z</u> a/ or /ra' <u>dʒ</u> a/	Ra <u>z</u> a	/ra' <u>z</u> a/	Ra <u>j</u> a	/ra' <u>dʒ</u> a/	Come

Within the Marwat dialect, some Marwat speakers use /z/ sound, while some Marwat speakers replace the /z/ sound with the /dʒ/ sound as in the above-mentioned words. The phonological change is based on different areas, but the Naurang main city is mixed up of different Marwat speakers, which is why both /z/ and /dʒ/ sounds are mentioned in the first column named Naurang city. Therefore, 58 words and phrases are selected that are common within the Waziri dialect and Marwat dialect, but different in Marwat and Waziri dialect on the phonological level. The criteria for selecting the common words, is ignoring those words that are different even within the two selected dialects and can be studied separately as variations in Waziri dialects or Marwat dialects. So, it is difficult to take such words and phrases as common words and phrases as they are differently spoken within the selected dialects due to the different geographical locations.

Thus, apart from the above phonological differences within a single dialect, the scholar selected 58 common words and phrases that are spoken by all Waziri speakers in the Waziri dialect. The selection of these words and phrases is based on the researcher's personal

experiences and observations. Because, the scholar is also the speaker of the Waziri dialect as it is his mother tongue, knows the similarities and the slight differences within the Waziri dialect on the phonological level. Due to the different kinds of relations and interactions with different areas speakers of the Waziri dialect, the scholar selected 58 words and phrases based on observations. So, for the confirmation of the selected common words and phrases, the researcher conducted structured interviews in the target areas where Waziri speakers are living. The aim of the scholar is to get accurate data about the selected common words and phrases and compare them with the Marwat dialect on the phonological level, under the theoretical framework of Pashto dialectology.

Table 06 Common Words/Phrases of Waziri Dialect

No	Words/Phrases of Waziri Dialect (Standard Spelling)	Transliteration	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription	Areas	%
01	Rósha	Rosha	/ro:ʃa/	Come	Domel city and its surrounding areas (Bodin Khel, Painsa Khel, Jangi Kila Pirba Khel, Bizen khel, Dogar Umerzai, and Bakka Khel).	100%
02	tsok ye?	Sok ye?	/sok jɛ:/	Who are you?	Same except Bakka Khel	85.71 %
03	Cherta	Cherta	/ʃɛɾtʃa/	Where	Same except Dogar Umerzai.	85.71 %
04	Mó wel	Mo wel	/mo: wɛl/	I say	Same	100%
05	Tó wəkrəl	To wakrral	/tɔ: wəkɾɛl/	You did	Same	100%
06	Mizh si	Mizh si	/miz si/	We have to go		100%
07	Tó tsə nóm dāi?	To su nom dai?	/tɔ: sə no:m d̪ɑ:i/	What is your name?	Same	100%
08	órwe?	Orway	/o:rwe:/	Are you listening?	Same	100%
09	Róka	Roka	/ro:ka/	Give it	Same	100%
10	Tə lóre	Tu lorry	/tɛ lo:ɾɛ:/	You went	Same	100%
11	Tó de póra	To day pora	/tɔ: d̪ɛ po:ra/	For you	Same	100%

12	Mó de póra	Mo day pora	/mo: d̪ɛ po:ra/	For me	Same	100%
13	tsumra di?	Somra di?	/sómra d̪i/	How many?	Same except Bakka Khel	85.71 %
14	tsərānge ye?	Saranga y ye?	/səra:ngɛ jɛ:/	How are you?	Same	100%
15	tsə di?	Su di?	/sə d̪i/	What is it?	Same	100%
16	tsəmlā	Samla	/səmla:/	Lie down	Same	100%
17	Kiz sha	Kiz sha	/kiz ʃa/	Get down	Same	100%
18	Walmónə	Walmo nu	/walmo:nə/	Guests	Same	100%
19	Kshenā	Kshena	/kʃɛna:/	Sit down	Same	100%
20	Chag sha	Chag sha	/tʃəg ʃa/	Get up	Same	100%
21	Darwegh	Darweg h	/d̪ərweɣ/	Lie	Same	100%
22	Səndā	Sanda	/sənd̪a:/	Forehead	Same	100%
23	Ghózh	Ghoozh	/ɣo:ʒ /	Ear	Same except Bakka Khel	85.71 %
24	Peza	Peza	/pɛza/	Nose	Same	100%
25	Lós	Los	/lo:s/	Hand	Same	100%
26	Wənsa	Wansa	/wənsa/	Take it	Same	100%
27	Weshtón	Weshto n	/wɛʃto:n/	Hair	Same	100%
28	Ebə	Ebu	/ɛbə/	Water	Same	100%
29	Móstə	Mostu	/mo:stə/	Curd	Same	100%
30	Ghōri	Ghorri	/ɣo:ri/	Clarified butter	Same except Bakka Khel	85.71 %
31	Owrā	Owra	/owra:/	Ice	Same	100%
32	Lir	Lir	/lir/ or /lir/	Daughter	Same	100%
33	Zyay	Zyai	/zəjɑ:j/	Son	Same	100%
34	Khóshye	Khoshy e	/xo:ʃjɛ:/	Mother-in-law	Same	100%
35	Okhshāy	Okhsha i	/o:χʃɑ:j/	Brother-in-law	Same	100%
36	Zim	Zim	/zim/ or /zim/	Son-in-law	Same	100%
37	Nyó	Nyo	/njo:/	Grandmother	Same	100%
38	Gāwandyón	Gawan dyon	/ga:wəndjo:n/	Neighbours	Same	100%
38	Kharbizā	Kharbe eza	/χarbiza:/	Melon	Same	100%
40	Alicha	Aleecha	/alifɑ:/	Plum	Same	100%
41	Aṅgírón	Angeer on	/aŋgiro:n/	Grapes	Same	100%
42	Pyóz	Pyoz	/pjo:z/	Onion	Same	100%

43	Kadi	Kadi	/ka: di/	Gourd	Same	100%
44	Aligón	Aleegon	/aligo:n/	Potatoes	Same	100%
45	Nik	Neek	/nik/	Nail	Same	100%
46	Sóbə	Sobu	/so:bə/	Spinach	Same	100%
47	Miləy	Meelai	/miləj/	Radish	Same except Bakka Khel	85.71%
48	Ghó	Gho	/yo:/	Cow	Same	100%
49	Esh	Esh	/if/	Camel	Same	100%
50	Ós	Oss	/o:s/	Horse	Same	100%
51	Óspa	Ospa	/o:spa/	Mare	Same	100%
52	Bóz	Boz	/bo:z/	Eagle	Same	100%
53	Kṛāgha	Krragha	/kṛa:ɣa/	Crow	Same	100%
54	Ghósha	Ghosha	/yo:ʃa/	Meat	Same except Bakka Khel	85.71%
55	Machón	Machon	/matʃo:n/	Flies	Same	100%
56	Bāróm	Barom	/ba:ro:m/	Rain	Same	100%
57	tsarmən	Sarman	/sarmən/	Skin	Same	100%
58	tsalwor	Salwor	/salwər/	Four	Same except Bakka Khel	85.71%

There are seven columns in the above table. The first column of the above table is for numbering, the second one is for Waziri dialect words and phrases with their standard spelling on the basis of Habibullah Tegey-Barbara Robson's book *A Reference Grammar of Pashto* (1996). The third one is used for transliteration of the same words and phrases, the fourth one is for phonetic transcription in Pashto IPA based on Anne Boyle David's book *Descriptive Grammar of Pashto and its Dialects* (2014), the fifth one is set for English transcription, the sixth one is for the target areas of Waziri dialect, and the last one is used for percentage that how many speakers of Waziri dialect pronounce the above common words and phrases alike. The percentage is described in this way as there are seven (7) target areas of the Waziri dialect in district Bannu. So, from every target area, two interviews are conducted with two randomly chosen speakers, and collectively it becomes fourteen (14) interviews that are conducted in the seven (7) target areas. Therefore, in the 14 conducted interviews, 12 interviewees agreed with the similar pronunciation of the common words and phrases, however, the rest of the 2 interviewees did not agree. Besides, the 12 agreed interviewees are divided by the total number of interviewees that are 14, multiplied by 100 and get 85.71%. In the Waziri dialect, all the area speakers agreed upon 50 words and phrases out of 58 words and phrases which makes 86.20%. The areas in district Bannu, which are agreed upon the 50 common words and phrases are Domel city and its surrounding areas, Bodin Khel, Painsa Khel, Jangi Kila Pirba Khel, Bizen Khel, and Dogar Umerzai. However, there is only one area whose speakers do not agree upon the remaining 08 words and phrases out of 58 common words and phrases, which is the area of Bakka Khel. Bakka Khel is far away from Domel city and its other surrounding areas. The distance of target areas is as follows;

Table 07 Distance of Waziri Dialect Areas

No	Areas of Waziri Dialect	Distance
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01	From Domel city to Painsa Khel	9	km
	From Domel city to Bodin Khel	4.6	km
	From Domel city to Jangi Kila Pirba Khel	1.5	km
	From Domel city to Bizen Khel	8.2	km
	From Domel city to Dogar Umerzai	7	km
	From Domel city to Bakka Khel	25	km
02	From Painsa Khel to Bodin Khel	4.5	km
	From Painsa Khel to Jangi Kila Pirba Khel	10.5	km
	From Painsa Khel to Bizen Khel	15	km
	From Painsa Khel to Dogar Umerzai	11	km
	From Painsa Khel to Bakka Khel	33	km
03	From Bodin Khel to Jangi Kila Pirba Khel	6	km
	From Bodin Khel to Bizen Khel	12.8	km
	From Bodin Khel to Dogar Umerzai	9.1	km
	From Bodin Khel to Bakka Khel	29.3	km
04	From Jangi Kila Pirba Khel to Bizen Khel	9.7	km
	From Jangi Kila Pirba Khel to Dogar Umerzai	8	km
	From Jangi Kila Pirba Khel to Bakka Khel	26	km
05	From Bizen Khel to Dogar Umerzai	2.5	km
	From Bizen Khel to Bakka Khel	19	km
06	From Dogar Umerzai to Bakka Khel	21.5	km

Thus, the distance of Bakka Khel from the rest of the areas is longer than the other areas 25 km from Domel city, 33 km from Painsa Khel, 29.3 km from Bodin Khel, 26 km from Jangi Killa Pirba Khel, 19 km from Bizen Khel, and 21.5 km from Dogar Umerzai. Therefore, there is a slight difference between Bakka Khel speakers and other areas speakers of the Waziri dialect in some specific words and phrases pronunciation. The speakers of the Bakka Khel area replace the vowels /ɔ/ and /o:/ sounds of other areas of the Waziri dialect with another vowel /e/ sound in some words and phrases which are tabulated below.

Table 08 Variations among Bakka Khel Speakers and Other Areas of Waziri Dialect

Waziri Speakers (Other Areas)	Pashto IPA Transcription	Bakka__Khel Speakers	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
tsok ye?	/sok je:/	tsek ye?	/sek je:/	Who are you?
tsumra di?	/sɔmra di/	tsemra di?	/semra di/	How many?
Ghózh	/ɣo:z/	Ghezh	/ɣɛz/	Ear
Ghóri	/ɣo:ri/	Gheri	/ɣɛri/	Clarified Butter
Ghósha	/ɣo:ʃa/	Ghesha	/ɣɛʃa/	Meat
Tsalwor	/salwɔr/	Tsalwer	/salwɛr/	Four

Similarly, as the selected 58 words and phrases mentioned in Table 06 are common in the Waziri dialect, they are also common in the Marwat dialect when they are pronounced by different Marwat speakers living in different areas. In the process of selecting the common words and phrases in the Marwat dialect, personal observations are involved. The criteria for selecting the common words and phrases in the Marwat dialect is the same as the Waziri dialect. Thus, to get accurate data about the selected 58 common words and phrases, structured interviews in the target areas of the Marwat dialect are conducted in the Waziri dialect.

Table 09 Common Words/Phrases of Marwat Dialect

No	Words of Marwat Dialect (Standard Spelling)	Transliteration	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription	Areas	%
01	Rāisa	Raisa	/ra:isa/	Come	Naurang city, Mama Khel, Nser Khel, Nalichak, Tanchi Abad, Akbar Kalla, and Muslim Bagh (old name Teriram)	100%
02	Chok ye?	Chok ye?	/'ʃok jɛ:/	Who are you?	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %
03	Chərtə	Charta	/'ʃərtə/	Where	Same	100%
04	Mā welə	Ma wela	/'ma: welə /	I say	Same	100%
05	Ta okəɾ	Ta okarr	/'ta: əkəɾ/	You did	Same	100%
06	Muzh ju	Muzh ju	/mʊʒ dʒʊ/	We have to go	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %
07	Tā chə nām da?	Ta chu naam da	/'ta: ʃə na: m d̪a/	What is your name?	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %
08	Ārwe?	Arway	/'a: rwe:/	Are you listening?	Same	100%
09	Rāka	Raaka	/ra:ka/	Give it	Same	100%
10	Tə lāre	Tu laarray	/'tə la:re:/	You went	Same	100%
11	Tā də pāra	Ta da para	/'ta: d̪ə pa:ra/	For you	Same	100%
12	Mā də pāra	Ma da para	/'ma: d̪ə pa:ra/	For me	Same	100%
13	Chura di?	Chora di	/'ʃʊra d̪i/	How many?	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %
14	Chəṛāṅga ye?	Charanga ye?	/'ʃəra:ŋgə jɛ:/	How are you?	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %
15	Chə di?	Chu di?	/'ʃə d̪i/	What is it?	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %
16	Chəmlā	Chamla	/'ʃəmla:/	Lie down	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %
17	Kuz sa	Kuz sa	/'kʊz sa/	Get down	Same	100%
18	Melmānə	Melmaanū	/'mɛlma:n ə/	Guests	Same	100%

19	Chenā	Chena	/tʃɛna:/	Sit down	Same	100%
20	Chig sa	Chig sa	/tʃig sa/	Get up	Same	100%
21	Darwagh	Darwagh	/dərwoy/	Lie	Same	100%
22	təndā	ttanddaa	/tənda:/	Forehead	Same	100%
23	Ghwāzh	Ghwaazh	/ɣwa:ʒ/	Ear	Same	100%
24	Pəza	Paza	/pəza/	Nose	Same	100%
25	Lās	Laas	/la:s/	Hand	Same	100%
26	Oncha	Oncha	/ɔnʃa/	Take it	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %
27	Weshtān	Weshtaan	/wɛʃta:n/	Hair	Same	100%
28	Obə	Obu	/ɔbə/	Water	Same	100%
29	Māstə	Maastu	/ma:stə/	Curd	Same	100%
30	Ghwāri	Ghwaarri	/ɣwa:ri/	Clarified butter	Same	100%
31	Wawrā	Wawraa	/wawra:/	Ice	Same	100%
32	Lur	Lur	/lɔr/	Daughter	Same	100%
33	Zoi	Zoi	/zoi/	Son	Same	100%
34	Khwāshe	Khwaashay	/xwa:ʃe:/	Mother-in-law	Same	100%
35	Ākhshāy	Akhshai	/a:χʃa:j/	Brother-in-law	Same	100%
36	Zum	Zum	/zɔm/	Son-in-law	Same	100%
37	Anyā	Anyaa	/anja:/	Grandmother	Same	100%
38	Gāwandān	Gawandaan	/ga:wənd a:n/	Neighbours	Same	100%
38	Kharbuzā	Kharbuzaa	/χarboza: /	Melon	Same	100%
40	Alucha	Alucha	/alɔʃa:/	Plum	Same	100%
41	Aṅgurān	Anguraan	/aṅgɔra: n/	Grapes	Same	100%
42	Pyāz	Pyaz	/pja:z/	Onion	Same	100%
43	Kadu	Kadu	/kaɖu/	Gourd	Same	100%
44	Alugān	Alugaan	/alɔga:n/	Potatoes	Same	100%
45	Nuk	Nok	/nɔk/	Nail	Same	100%
46	Sābi	Saabi	/sa:bi/	Spinach	Same	100%
47	Muləy	Molai	/moləj/	Radish	Same	100%
48	Ghwā	Ghwa	/ɣwa:/	Cow	Same	100%
49	Osh	Osh	/ɔʃ/	Camel	Same	100%
50	Ās	Aas	/a:s/	Horse	Same	100%
51	Āspa	Aaspa	/a:spa/	Mare	Same	100%
52	Bāz	Baaz	/ba:z/	Eagle	Same	100%
53	Kāgha	Kaagha	/ka:ɣa/	Crow	Same	100%
54	Ghwāsha	Ghwaasha	/ɣwa:ʃa/	Meat	Same	100%
55	Machān	Machaan	/matʃa:n/	Flies	Same	100%
56	Bārān	Baaraan	/ba:ra:n/	Rain	Same	100%
57	Charmən	Charman	/tʃarmən/	Skin	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %
58	Chalur	Chalor	/tʃalɔr/	Four	Same except Mama Khel	85.71 %

The pattern of the above table is the same as Table 06 for the Waziri dialect and the description of the percentage too, but Table 06 is for Waziri dialect words and phrases, and this table is only for the common words and phrases used in the Marwat dialect. In the above table, it is found that 82.75% Marwat speakers of different areas pronounce the above-mentioned words and phrases exactly the same except Mama Khel Marwat speakers because they pronounce the fricative-voiceless alveolar consonant sound /s/ like Waziri dialect speakers and do not replace the consonant /s/ sound with the affricative-voiceless post-alveolar consonant sound /ʃ/ as the rest of the Marwat speakers do. All Marwat speakers of the target areas use the consonant /ʃ/ sound instead of the consonant /s/ sound except Mama Khel Marwat. For instance;

Table 10 Variations among Mama Khel Speakers and Other Areas of Marwat Dialect

Other Areas Marwat Speakers	Pashto IPA Transcription	Mama__Khel Speakers	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
Chok ye?	/ʃʊk jɛ:/	tsok ye?	/sok jɛ:/	Who are you?
Chə di?	/ʃə di/	tsə di?	/sə di/	What is it?
Chərāᅇga ye?	/ʃəɾɑ:ŋgə jɛ:/	tsərāᅇga ye?	/səɾɑ:ŋgə jɛ:/	How are you?
Chalur	/ʃalɔɾ/	Tsalur	/salɔɾ/	Four

The distance among target areas of the Marwat dialect is as follows;

Table 11 Distance of Marwat Dialect Areas

No	Areas of Marwat dialect	Distance
01	From Naurang city to Mama Khel	3.2 km
	From Naurang city to Naser Khel	3 km
	From Naurang city to Akbar Kalla	2 km
	From Naurang city to Tanchi Abad	1 km
	From Naurang city to Nalichak	2.3 km
	From Naurang city to Muslim Bagh (old name Teriram)	4.2 km
02	From Mama Khel to Naser Khel	6.3 km
	From Mama Khel to Akbar Kalla	1.8 km
	From Mama Khel to Tanchi Abad	4 km
	From Mama Khel to Nalichak	4 km
	From Mama Khel to Muslim Bagh (old name Teriram)	7.4 km
03	From Naser Khel to Akbar Kalla	4.6 km
	From Naser Khel to Tanchi Abad	4 km
	From Naser Khel to Nalichak	3 km
	From Naser Khel to Muslim Bagh (old name Teriram)	7 km
04	From Akbar Kalla to Tanchi Abad	2.6 km
	From Akbar Kalla to Nalichak	2.2 km
	From Akbar Kalla to Muslim Bagh (old name Teriram)	6 km

05	From Tanchi Abad to Nalichak From Tanchi Abad to Muslim Bagh (old name Teriram)	3.2 km 5 km
06	From Nalichak to Muslim Bagh (old name Teriram)	6.4 km

Thus, after tabulating the distance of the selected areas, Muslim Bagh is far away from Naurang's main city as compared to the rest of the areas. Besides, Mama Khel is the second target area that is also far away from Naurang's main city as compared to the areas such as Tanchi Abad, Nalichak, Naser Khel, and Akbar Kalla. The distance of Muslim Bagh from Naurang city is longer than Mama Khel 4.2 km while Mama Khel is 3.2 km from Naurang city. Based on Tables 10 and 11, a slight distinction in pronunciation of 10 words and phrases out of the selected 58 words and phrases is found in Mama Khel area speakers as mentioned in Table 10. This distinction is not due to the distance but to the proximity of the said area to the border of district Bannu. Secondly, there is no other area beyond the area of Mama Khel to the north where Marwat speakers live. The distance of the Muslim Bagh is greater as it is connected to the centre of Lakki Marwat district where most of the Marwat speakers live, and borders no other district which is why there is no distinction in the mentioned sounds.

Table 12 Phonological Variations in Wazir and Marwat Dialects

No	Waziri Dialect (Standard Spelling)	Transliteration of Waziri Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	Marwat Dialect (Standard Spelling)	Transliteration of Marwat Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
1	Rósha	Rosha	/ro:ʃa/	Rāisa	Raisa	/ra:isa/	Come
2	tsok ye?	Sok ye?	/sok jɛ:/	Chok ye?	Chok ye?	/'ʃok jɛ:/	Who are you?
3	Cherta	Cherta	/ʃɛrʈa/	Chərtə	Charta	/ʃɛrʈə/	Where
4	Mó wel	Mo wel	/mo: wɛl/	Mā welə	Ma wela	/'ma: wɛlə/	I say
5	Tó wəkrəl	To wakrral	/tɔ: wəkɾəl/	Ta okər	Ta okarr	/tɑ: əkər/	You did
6	Mizh si	Mizh si	/miʒ si/	Muzh ju	Mozh jo	/mʊʒ dʒʊ/	We have to go
7	Tó tsə nóm dāi?	To su nom dai?	/tɔ: sɛ no:m dɑ:i/	Tā chə nām da?	Ta chu nam da?	/tɑ: ʃɛ nɑ:m dɑ/	What is your name?
8	órwe?	Orway?	/o:rwe:/	Ārwe?	Arway?	/ɑ:rwe:/	Are you listening?

9	Róka	Roka	/ro:ka/	Rāka	Raka	/ra:ka/	Give it
10	Tə lóre	Tu lorry	/tə lo:ɽe:/	Tə lāre	Tu larray	/tə la:ɽe:/	You went
11	Tó de póra	To day pora	/tə: de po:ra/	Tā də pāra	Ta da para	/ta: de pa:ra/	For you
12	Mó de póra	Mo day pora	/mo: de po:ra/	Mā də pāra	Ma da para	/ma: de pa:ra/	For me
13	tsumra di?	Somra di?	/səmra di/	Chura di?	Chora di	/tʃora di/	How many?
14	tsərānge ye?	Saranga y ye?	/səra:ŋge je:/	Chərānga ye?	Charang a ye?	/tʃəra:ŋge je:/	How are you?
15	tsə di?	Su di?	/sə di/	Chə di?	Chu di?	/tʃə di/	What is it?
16	tsəmlā	Samla	/səmla:/	Chəmlā	Chamla	/tʃəmla:/	Lie down
17	Kiz sha	Kis sha	/kiz ʃa/	Kuz sa	Koz sa	/koz sa/	Get down
18	Walmónə	Walmon u	/walmo:nə/	Məlmānə	Melman u	/melma:nə/	Guests
19	Kshenā	Kshena	/kʃəna:/	Chenā	Chena	/tʃəna:/	Sit down
20	Chag sha	Chag sha	/tʃəg ʃa/	Chig sa	Chig sa	/tʃig sa/	Get up
21	Darwegh	Darweg h	/dərweɣ/	Darwagh	Darwag h	/dərweɣ/	Lie
22	Səndā	Sanda	/sənda:/	təndā	ttandda	/tənda:/	Forehead
23	Ghózh	Ghoozh	/ɣo:ʒ/	Ghwāzh	Ghwazh	/ɣwa:ʒ /	Ear
24	Peza	Peza	/peza/	Pəza	Paza	/pəza/	Nose
25	Lós	Los	/lo:s/	Lās	Las	/la:s/	Hand
26	Wənsa	Wansa	/wənsa/	Oncha	Oncha	/ɔntʃa/	Take it

27	Weshtón	Weshton	/wɛʃtɔ:n/	Weshtān	Weshtan	/wɛʃtɑ:n/	Hair
28	Ebə	Ebu	/ɛbə/	Obə	Obu	/ɔbə/	Water
29	Móstə	Mostu	/mo:stə/	Māstə	Mastu	/ma:stə/	Curd
30	Ghōri	Ghorri	/ɣo:ɾi/	Ghwāri	Ghwarri	/ɣwa:ɾi/	Clarified butter
31	Owrā	Owra	/owrɑ:/	Wawrā	Wawra	/wawrɑ:/	Ice
32	Lir	Lir	/lɪr/ or /lir/	Lur	Lor	/lɔr/	Daughter
33	Zyay	Zyai	/zɛjɑ:j/	Zoi	Zoi	/zoi/	Son
34	Khóshye	Khoshye	/xo:ʃjɛ:/	Khwāshe	Khwashay	/xwa:ʃɛ/	Mother-in-law
35	Okhshāy	Okhshai	/o:xʃɑ:j/	Ākhshāy	Akhshai	/ɑ:xʃɑ:j/	Brother-in-law
36	Zim	Zim	/zim/ or /zim/	Zum	Zom	/zom/	Son-in-law
37	Nyó	Nyo	/njo:/	Anyā	Anya	/anjɑ:/	Grandmother
38	Gāwandýón	Gawandyon	/gɑ:wəndjo:n/	Gāwandān	Gawandan	/gɑ:wəndɑ:n/	Neighbours
38	Kharbizā	Kharbeeza	/xarbiza:/	Kharbuzā	Kharboza	/xarbɔzɑ:/	Melon
40	Alicha	Aleecha	/alɪʃɑ:/	Alucha	Alocha	/alɔʃɑ:/	Plum
41	Aṅgirón	Angeeron	/aŋgiro:n/	Aṅgurān	Angoran	/aŋgɔrɑ:n/	Grapes
42	Pyóz	Pyoz	/pjo:z/	Pyāz	Pyaz	/pja:z/	Onion
43	Kadi	Kadi	/kɑ:ɖi/	Kadu	Kado	/kɑɖɔ/	Gourd
44	Aligón	Aleegon	/aligo:n/	Alugān	Alogan	/alɔgɑ:n/	Potatoes
45	Nik	Neek	/nik/	Nuk	Nok	/nok/	Nail
46	Sóbə	Sobu	/so:bə/	Sābi	Sabi	/sɑ:bi/	Spinach
47	Miləy	Meelai	/miləj/	Muləy	Molai	/mɔləj/	Radish

48	Ghó	Gho	/yo:/	Ghwā	Ghwa	/ywa:/	Cow
49	Esh	Esh	/iʃ/	Osh	Osh	/ɔʃ/	Camel
50	ós	Os	/o:s/	Ās	Aas	/a:s/	Horse
51	óspa	Ospa	/o:spa/	Āspa	Aaspa	/a:spa/	Mare
52	Bóz	Boz	/bo:z/	Bāz	Baz	/ba:z/	Eagle
53	Krāgha	Kragha	/kɾɑ:ɣɑ/	Kāgha	Kagha	/ka:ɣɑ/	Crow
54	Ghósha	Ghosha	/yo:ʃɑ/	Ghwāsha	Ghwash a	/ywa:ʃɑ/	Meat
55	Machón	Machon	/matʃo:n/	Machān	Machan	/matʃɑ:n/	Flies
56	Bāróm	Barom	/ba:ro:m/	Bārān	Baran	/ba:ra:n/	Rain
57	tsarmən	Sarman	/sarmən/	Charmən	Charma n	/tʃarmən/	Skin
58	tsalwor	Salwor	/salwor/	Chalur	Chalor	/tʃalɔr/	Four

The above table consists Marwat and Waziri dialects words and phrases which are different from one another phonologically, conveying the same meaning. The table consists of eight columns as the first column of this table contains numbering, the second one is about Waziri dialect words and phrases with their standard spelling on the bases of Habibullah Tegey-Barbara Robson's book *A Reference Grammar of Pashto* (1996), the third one is for transliteration of the same Waziri dialect words and phrases, the fourth one is for phonetic transcription in Pashto IPA of Waziri dialect based on Anne Boyle David's book *Descriptive Grammar of Pashto and its Dialects* (2014), the fifth one is set for Marwat dialect words and phrases with their standard spelling, the sixth one contains transliteration of the same Marwat dialect words and phrases, the seventh one is used for phonetic transcription in Pashto IPA of Marwat dialect, and the last one contains English transcription.

There are seven words and phrases out of the selected 58 words and phrases, having fricative-voiceless alveolar consonant sound /s/ at the beginning of a word in Waziri dialect as "tsok", "tsə", and "tsərāŋge" etc. But the same words and phrases are pronounced differently in Marwat dialect, because the fricative-voiceless alveolar consonant sound /s/ at the beginning of a word is changed into affricative-voiceless post-alveolar consonant sound /tʃ/, for example, "**Ch**ok", "**Ch**ə and "**Ch**ərāŋga". For instance;

Table 13 Variations of /s/ and /tʃ/ Sounds in Waziri and Marwat Dialects

Waziri Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	Marwat Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
T sok	/sok/	Ch ok	/tʃok/	Who
ts ə di?	/sə di/	Ch ə di?	/tʃə di/	What is it?
ts ərāŋge ye?	/səra:ŋɛ jɛ:/	Ch ərāŋga ye?	/tʃəra:ŋɛ jɛ:/	How are you?
ts umra di?	/sɔmra di/	Ch ura di?	/tʃɔra di/	How many?

tsəmlā	/səmla:/	Chəmlā	/tʃəmla:/	Lie down
Tsalwor	/salwor/	Chalur	/tʃalor/	Four
tsarmən	/sarmən/	Charmən	/tʃarmən/	Skin

However, there are two words in the selected 58 common words and phrases of both Waziri and Marwat dialects where the fricative-voiceless alveolar consonant sound /s/ of Waziri dialect at the beginning of a word is changed into some other sounds instead of affricative-voiceless post-alveolar consonant sound /tʃ/, or there are some other sounds in the middle or at the end of those words that are different in pronunciation and differentiate the words phonologically of these two dialects. These specific words are less in number, 3.44%. For instance;

Table 14 Variations of /s/ and /tʃ/ Sounds in Waziri and Marwat Dialects

Waziri Dialect	Pashto Transcription	IPA	Marwat Dialect	Pashto Transcription	IPA	English Transcription
Səndā	/səndɑ:/		təndā	/tʃəndɑ:/		Forehead
Sóbə	/so:bə/		Sābi	/sɑ:bi/		Spinach

Furthermore, there are 27 other words and phrases out of the selected 58 words and phrases which contain long close mid-back rounded vowel /o:/ sound in the Waziri dialect. The speakers of the Waziri dialect pronounce those words as; “Mó”, “Tó”, and “Róka”, etc., but the same words and phrases are pronounced slightly differently by Marwat speakers as they pronounce the long open-central unrounded vowel sound /ɑ:/ instead of the long close mid-back rounded vowel sound /o:/ that is used by Waziri dialect. Therefore, Marwat speakers pronounce the same words and phrases as; “Mā”, “Tā”, and “Rāka”, etc. For example;

Table 15 Variations of /o:/ and /ɑ:/ Sounds in Waziri and Marwat Dialects

Waziri Dialect	Pashto Transcription	IPA	Marwat Dialect	Pashto Transcription	IPA	English Transcription
Mó de póra	/mo: de po:ra/		Mā də pāra	/mɑ: də pɑ:ra/		For me
Tó de póra	/to: de po:ra/		Tā də pāra	/tɑ: də pɑ:ra/		For you
Mó wel	/mo: wel/		Mā welə	/'mɑ: welə /		I say
Rósha	/ro:ʃa/		Rāisa	/rɑ:isa/		Come
Tó sə nóm dāi?	/to: sə no:m dɑ:i/		Tā chə nām da?	/tɑ: tʃə nɑ: m dɑ/		What is your name?
Orwe?	/o:rwe:/		Ārwe?	/ɑ:rwe:/		Are you listening?
Walmónə	/wəlmɔ:nə/		Melmānə	/mɛlmɑ:nə/		Guests
Lós	/lo:s/		Lās	/lɑ:s/		Hand
Róka	/ro:ka/		Rāka	/rɑ:ka/		Give it
Tə lóre	/tə lo:rɛ:/		Tə lāre	/tə lɑ:rɛ:/		You went
Weshtón	/wɛʃto:n/		Weshtān	/wɛʃtɑ:n/		Hair
Móstə	/mo:stə/		Māstə	/mɑ:stə/		Curd
Khóshye	/xo:ʃjɛ:/		Khwāshe	/xwɑ:ʃɛ/		Mother-in-law
Okhshāy	/o:χʃɑ:j/		Ākhshāy	/ɑ:χʃɑ:j/		Brother-in-law
Gāwandyón	/gɑ:wəndjo:n/		Gāwandān	/gɑ:wəndɑ:n/		Neighbours
Angirón	/ɑŋgiro:n/		Angurān	/ɑŋgɔrɑ:n/		Grapes
Pyóz	/pjo:z/		Pyāz	/pja:z/		Onion
Aligón	/aligo:n/		Alugān	/alɔgɑ:n/		Potatoes
Sóbə	/so:bə/		Sābi	/sɑ:bi/		Spinach

Ós	/o:s/	Ās	/a:s/	Horse
Bóz	/bo:z/	Bāz	/ba:z/	Eagle
Machón	/matʃo:n/	Machān	/matʃa:n/	Flies
Bāróm	/ba:ro:m/	Bārān	/ba:ra:n/	Rain
Ghó	/yo:/	Ghwā	/ywa:/	Cow
Ghóri	/yo:ri/	Ghwāri	/ywa:ri/	Clarified butter
Ghózh	/yo:ʒ/	Ghwāzh	/ywa:ʒ/	Ear
Ghósha	/yo:ʃa/	Ghwāsha	/ywa:ʃa/	Meat

In the above-mentioned words and phrases, the last four words of the Waziri dialect are pronounced more distinctly in Marwat dialect as the long close mid-back rounded vowel sound /o:/ of Waziri dialect is changed into long open-central unrounded vowel sound /a:/ along with the glide bilabial consonant sound /w/ in Marwat dialect. When in the Waziri dialect the long vowel sound /o:/ is preceded by the fricative-voiced velar consonant sound /y/, in the Marwat dialect the long vowel sound /a:/ is always preceded by the glide bilabial consonant sound /w/ after fricative-voiced velar consonant sound /y/. For instance;

Table 16 Variations of /o:/ and /wa:/ Sound in Waziri and Marwat Dialects

Waziri Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	Marwat Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
Ghó	/yo:/	Ghwā	/ywa:/	Cow
Ghóri	/yo:ri/	Ghwāri	/ywa:ri/	Clarified Butter
Ghózh	/yo:ʒ/	Ghwāzh	/ywa:ʒ/	Ear
Ghósha	/yo:ʃa/	Ghwāsha	/ywa:ʃa/	Meat

In addition, in Waziri dialect, words and phrases containing the short close-central unrounded vowel sound /i/ in the first, second or third syllable, such as “Alichā” and “Kadi”, are pronounced differently by Marwat speakers as they replace the short close-central unrounded vowel sound /i/ with a short near-close near-back rounded vowel sound /ɔ/, resulting in pronunciations like “Aluchā” and “Kadu”. For instance;

Table 17 Variations of /i/ and /ɔ/ Sounds in Waziri and Marwat Dialects

Waziri Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	Marwat Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
Lir	/lir/	Lur	/lɔr/	Daughter
Zim	/zim/	Zum	/zɔm/	Son-in-law
Kharbizā	/χarbiza:/	Kharbuzā	/χarbɔza:/	Melon
Alichā	/alifʃa:/	Aluchā	/alɔʃa:/	Plum
Angirón	/aŋgiro:n/	Aŋgurān	/aŋgɔra:n/	Grapes
Kadi	/ka:di/	Kadu	/kaɔɔ/	Gourd
Mizh si	/miʒ si/	Muzh ju	/mɔʒ dʒɔ/	We have to go
Miləy	/miləj/	Muləy	/mɔləj/	Radish
Aligón	/aligo:n/	Alugān	/alɔga:n/	Potatoes
Kiz sha	/kiz ʃa/	Kuz sa	/kɔz sa/	Get down
Nik	/Nik/	Nuk	/nɔk/	Nail

A few words and phrases in the selected 58 words and phrases like “Cherta”, “Peza”, and “Darwegh” with their phonetic transcriptions as /tʃɛrtə/, /pɛzə/, and /dɔrwɛɣ/ respectively, the short vowel open-mid front sound /ɛ/ of Waziri dialect is changed into another short mid-central vowel sound /ə/ in Marwat dialect in the words like “Chərtə”, “Pəza”, and “Darwəɣh”

with their phonetic transcriptions as /tʃərtə/, /pəzə/, and /dərwey/. The data of such words and phrases is tabulated below in the table 18.

Table 18 Variations of /ɛ/ and /ə/ Sounds in Waziri and Marwat Dialects

Waziri Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	Marwat Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
Cherta	/tʃɛrtə/	Chərtə	/tʃərtə/	Where?
Peza	/pɛzə/	Pəza	/pəzə/	Nose
Darwegh	/dərwey/	Darwəgh	/dərwey/	Lie
Tó de póra	/tɔ: dɛ po:ra/	Tā də pāra	/tɑ: dɛ pa:ra/	For you

Similarly, in the selected common 58 words and phrases, there are two words that contain two different sounds, one is the short open-mid front unrounded vowel sound /ɛ/ and the second one is the close-central unrounded vowel sound /i/. These two sounds at the beginning of a word in the Waziri dialect are changed into the same sound which is the mid-back rounded sound /ɔ/ in Marwat dialect. For instance;

Table 19 Variations of /ɛ/, /i/, and /ɔ/ Sounds in Waziri and Marwat Dialects

Waziri Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	Marwat Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
Ebə	/ɛbə/	Obə	/ɔbə/	Water
Esh	/i/	Osh	/ɔ/	Camel

Lastly, there are some particular words and phrases which are pronounced differently by Waziri and Marwat speakers. In the below eight words and phrases in the Waziri dialect, two words contain /t/ and /o:/ in the Waziri dialect as “Owrā” and “Wawrā” in the Waziri dialect which are replaced by /wa/ in the word “Wawrā” while only an omission of the sound /t/ is observed in the word “Kāgha” in Waziri dialect. Additionally, two other words and phrases carry /k/, /ʃ/, /ə/, and /j/ sounds in the words “Kshenā” and “Chəg sha” in Waziri dialect that are replaced by /tʃ/, /i/, and /s/ sounds in the words and phrases “Chenā” and “Chig sa” in Marwat dialect. Moreover, the two words “Wənsa”, and “Zyay” contain /w/, /ə/, /s/ /j/, and /ɑ:/, in the Waziri dialect which are replaced by /ɔ/, /tʃ/, /o/, and /i/, in the words “Oncha” and “Zoi”, in Marwat dialect. Lastly, the last two words and phrases “tsumra di?” and “tsalwor” contain /m/ and /w/ sounds in the Waziri dialect that are omitted in the words and phrases “Chura di?” and “Chalur” in Marwat dialect. The other phonological differences in these two words and phrases are already mentioned in table 13.

Table 20 Phonological Variations of the Irregular Pattern Sounds

Waziri Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	Marwat Dialect	Pashto IPA Transcription	English Transcription
Kshenā	/kʃɛnɑ:/	Chenā	/tʃɛnɑ:/	Sit down
Chəg sha	/tʃəg ʃa/	Chig sa	/tʃig sa/	Get up
Wənsa	/wənsɑ/	Oncha	/ɔntʃɑ/	Take it
Owrā	/o:wra:/	Wawrā	/wawra:/	Ice
Zyay	/zəjɑ:j/	Zoi	/zoi/	Son
Krāgha	/krɑ:ɣɑ/	Kāgha	/ka:ɣɑ/	Crow
tsumra di?	/sɔmra di/	Chura di?	/tʃɔra di/	How many?
Tsalwor	/sɑlwɔr/	Chalur	/tʃɑlɔr/	Four

Findings

The aim of this study was to investigate the phonological variations in Waziri and Marwat dialects. Thus, for that purpose, it was decided to analyze both dialects separately in order to select the common words and phrases from both dialects for a better comparative study on the phonological level in the Marwat and Waziri dialects.

Thus, during the process of selection and investigation of the common words and phrases, the study found that Bakka Khel speakers are slightly different in the way they pronounce certain words and phrases from the other target areas of the Waziri dialect. The speakers of Bakka Khel area replaced the vowels /ʊ/ and /o:/ sounds of other areas of Waziri dialect with another vowel /ɛ/ sound in some words and phrases because Bakka Khel area is far away from all the target areas of Waziri dialect as 25 km from Domel city, 33 km from Painsa Khel, 29 km from Bodin Khel, 26 km from Jangi Killa Pirba Khel, 19 km from Bizen Khel, and 21.5 km from Dogar Umerzai.

Similarly, in Marwat dialect, the speakers of the Mama Khel area pronounce some words and phrases differently in the selected common words and phrases from the other target areas of Marwat dialect, but it is not based on the long distance from the other areas as Waziri dialect. Because, on the basis of distance, Muslim Bagh is far away from the other target areas of the Marwat dialect more than the Mama Khel area, but it is due to the proximity to the district Bannu border. The Mama Khel speakers pronounced the fricative-voiceless alveolar consonant sound /s/ like the district Bannu speakers and do not replace the consonant /s/ sound with the affricative-voiceless post-alveolar consonant sound /ʃ/. Except for Mama Khel, all Marwat speakers of the target areas use the consonant /ʃ/ sound instead of the consonant /s/ sound.

Moreover, the phonological variations in Waziri and Marwat dialects are found mostly in vowel sounds as the long close mid-back rounded vowel /o:/ sound of the Waziri dialect is changed into long open-central unrounded vowel sound /ɑ:/ in Marwat dialect. The phonological distinctions of these two vowel sounds are found in 27 words and phrases out of the selected 58 common words and phrases so, the percentage of these sounds is 46.55%. Besides, in four words out of the selected 58 common words and phrases, the long close mid-back rounded vowel /o:/ sound of the Waziri dialect is changed into the long open-central unrounded vowel sound /ɑ:/ along with the glide bilabial consonant sound /w/ in Marwat dialect, therefore, the percentage of these sounds is 6.89%. When Waziri speakers pronounce the long vowel sound /o:/ and are preceded by the fricative-voiced velar consonant sound /ɣ/, the long vowel sound /ɑ:/ in Marwat dialect is always preceded by the glide bilabial consonant sound /w/ sound after fricative-voiced velar consonant sound /ɣ/.

The study found another difference in other vowel sounds in the Waziri and Marwat dialects as the short close-central unrounded vowel sound /i/ of the Waziri dialect is changed into the short near-close near-back rounded vowel sound /ʊ/ in the Marwat dialect. The difference in these two vowel sounds found in 11 words and phrases out of the selected 58 common words and phrases and the percentage of this distinction is 18.96%.

Additionally, there are four words and phrases out of the selected 58 common words and phrases in which the short open-mid front vowel sound /ɛ/ of the Waziri dialect was replaced by the Marwat speakers with the short mid-central vowel sound /ə/. The percentage of such phonological differences is 6.89%.

Likewise, the short open-mid front vowel /ɛ/ and close-central unrounded vowel /i/ sounds of the Waziri dialect at the beginning of the two words in the selected 58 common words and phrases changed into the same mid-back rounded vowel sound /ɔ/ in Marwat dialect. The percentage of this variation is 3.44%.

Furthermore, along with the variations in the vowel sounds, the variations in consonant sounds were also found in the Waziri and Marwat dialects. The fricative-voiceless alveolar consonant sound /s/ at the beginning of a word in the Waziri dialect was replaced with the affricative-voiceless post-alveolar consonant sound /ʃ/ by Marwat speakers. Such words and phrases are 7 in number out of the selected 58 common words and phrases and the percentage is 12%.

But, there are two words in the selected 58 common words and phrases in which the fricative-voiceless alveolar consonant sound /s/ in the Waziri dialect at the beginning of the words replaced by Marwat speakers with some other sounds instead of affricative-voiceless post-alveolar consonant sound /ʃ/. The consonant /s/ sound at the beginning of the two words in the Waziri dialect changed into the consonant /t/ and the same /s/ sounds in the Marwat dialect. The percentage of this phonological variation is 3.44%.

Lastly, the study found eight words and phrases that contain irregular patterns regarding their phonological variations in the two dialects as some sounds in the Waziri dialect like /k/, /ʃ/, /ə/, and /ʒ/ sounds changed into /ʃ/, /i/, and /s/ sounds while others as /w/, /ə/, /s/ /j/, and /ɑ:/ sounds in Waziri dialect changed into /ɔ/, /ʃ/, /o/, and /i/ sounds in Marwat dialect. Moreover, some sounds such as /k/, /t/, /m/, and /w/ were omitted by Marwat speakers, however, used by Waziri speakers.

Conclusion

The study aimed to investigate and analyze the phonological variations in Waziri and Marwat dialects. In this regard, 58 common words and phrases were selected based on observations that were verified via structured interviews for the comparative study on the said dialects. Twenty-eight 28 samples, 2 samples from each area, were collected. The data was collected from the different target areas of both dialects such as Domel city and its surrounding areas including Painda Khel, Bodin Khel, Jangi Killa Pirba Khel, Dogar Umerzai, Bizen Khel, and Baka Khel for Waziri dialect, and Naurang city and its surrounding areas as Mama Khel, Naser Khel, Akbar Kalla, Nalichak, Tanchi Abad, and Muslim Bagh (old name Teriram) for Marwat dialect.

The phonological variations in Marwat and Waziri dialects more occurred in vowel sounds and less in consonant sounds in the selected 58 common words and phrases. The long vowel /o:/ sound most often replaced with the long vowel /ɑ:/ sound in the Marwat dialect with 46.55%, but the same vowel sound /o:/ changed into the vowel /ɑ:/ as well as with the addition of /w/ sound with 6.89% in Marwat dialect because of the consonant sound /y/ when followed by the long vowel /o:/ sound at the beginning of a word in Waziri dialect that suggests the changing pattern of the said vowel sounds and consonant in the mentioned dialects.

Besides, another vowel sound /i/ in the Waziri dialect changed into the vowel sound /u/ with 18.96%, another short vowel sound /ɛ/ replaced with the vowel sound /ə/ in the Marwat dialect with 6.89%, and the two other vowel sounds /ɛ/ and /i/ at the beginning of words in Waziri dialect changed into one same vowel sound /ɔ/ in Marwat dialect with 3.44% highlight the variations of Waziri and Marwat dialects in the form of vowels and predict a regular shifting pattern in the mentioned dialects.

However, 12% variations occurred in consonant sounds as the consonant sound /s/ was replaced with the consonant sound /ʃ/ in the Marwat dialect, but in some specific words the same consonant sound /s/ changed into itself /s/ sound or other consonant sounds in Marwat dialect with 3.44%.

Finally, the sounds such as /k/, /ʃ/, /i/, /s/, /w/, /a/, /o:/, /ə/, /j/, /ɑ:/, and /t/ did not follow a regular pattern as the above-mentioned vowel and consonant sound because the change

occurred sometime in the initial position, in the middle, and some time at the end of the words with other sounds. Thus, based on the irregular patterns and changing nature of such sounds with combinations of other sounds, a comprehensive study is recommended on these sounds to investigate their pattern systematically.

Recommendation

It is recommended to conduct a thorough study on the syntactical variations in Marwat and Waziri dialects as well as a comparative study in Marwat and Banochi dialects, Banochi and Waziri dialects, and Waziri and Khattak dialects on the various levels of Pashto dialectology. Moreover, there is a dire need for a comprehensive study of the morphological variations among other Pashto dialects.

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