

## **Onomatopoeia in Gojri: A Linguistic Analysis**

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**ABSTRACT:** *This paper tries to investigate the onomatopoeia formation in Gojri, an Indo- Aryan language. A qualitative descriptive approach is employed as the data is analysed qualitatively. Onomatopoeia is a morphological operation for the word formation in Gojri where it operates on the sound and with what it denotes. Onomatopoeic words are formed by the full reduplication of the sounds associated with different objects. These Onomatopoeic words are reduplicated compounds where the compound is formed by the repetition of the first sound. This research refutes the concept of the arbitrary relation between the linguistic form and its meaning as it suggests that there is a correlation between the sound and the object that it denotes. It also reveals that the words contain the sounds befitting with their meanings.*

**Keywords :** *Onomatopoeia , Gojri, Linguistic, Analysis*

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Onomatopoeia is derived from the Greek word ‘onomatopoiia’ which means “the making of a name or word”. Every language contains some words whose pronunciation is the expressive of the meaning in an explicit way. In other words, these words are imitations of the sounds produced by different living or nonliving objects.

This imitation of a sound is termed as Onomatopoeia where the phonetic realisation is discerned by the imitation of a sound. Onomatopoeia is a morphological operation for the word formation in a language that operates on the sound and what it denotes. Dobrovolsky (1996) claims that onomatopoeia is a main source of the word formation in a language. Onomatopoeia refers to the formation, pronunciation and meaning of a word where the imitation of a sound represents the object, its action and meaning. (Cuddon, 1999; Drabble, 2000; Holman, 2000). In onomatopoeia, the meaning of a word is suggested by its sound (Barnet, Berman & Burto, 1985). Perrine (1978) states that the Onomatopoeia involves the word which imitates the sound that it denotes. Simpson (2004) asserts that onomatopoeia can be lexical or non-lexical, and both have the common feature to represent a sound with nonlinguistic correlation. Abrams (1999) avers that “there is no exact duplication of non-verbal by verbal sounds, and the perceived similarity is due to the meaning and to the feel of articulating words more than of exact matching” p. 199). Onomatopoeia is a sound symbolism (Ivanova, 2006). Sound symbolism, or ‘mimetics’, draws from the phonetic properties of a word to represent the synthetic features of the object or state that it describes (Rhodes, 1994).

Onomatopoeia formation confirms the notion that human speech originated from the imitation of the animals’ sounds. It also indicates the non-arbitrariness between the sound and the associated meaning (Lyons, 1981; Poole, 1999). That suggests that the words contain the sounds befitting with their meanings. The selection of the sound is influenced by the acoustic form of the referent. Onomatopoeia does not express physical properties through the phonetic features of a word, but produces non-human sounds phonetically. Almost, every language involves this process of word formation. Onomatopoeia formation undermines the Saussure’s (1959) claim of the arbitrary bond between signifier and signified. The notion of language arbitrariness is not valid in the case of onomatopoeia. There is no arbitrariness between the sound and the associated meaning. Onomatopoeia makes it possible to guess the meanings of a phonetic form from the acoustics produced by a particular individual or thing. The sound and its meaning are closely related to each other. Onomatopoeic words are of great importance for the word formation in Gojri. This phenomenon is a distinctive feature of Gojri.

### **Onomatopoeic Words in Gojri**

Onomatopoeic formation is a distinctive feature of the South Asian languages (Masica, 1991). “Linguists have considered Gojri language a branch of Indo- Aryan family. European and Asian researchers have given different names to Gojri language e.g. Gojri, Gujri etc. But its real name is Gojri. At present, Gojri language is spoken in most of the areas of Azad Kashmir whereas in Pakistan, it is spoken in upper Punjab, KPK, and Northern areas (Zaman and Qi, 2019:68).”

Onomatopoeia is the process of the word formation from the sound associated with what it denotes. In Gojri, Onomatopoeic words are formed by the full reduplication of the sound associated with different ob-

jects. These Onomatopoeic words are reduplicated compounds where the compound is formed by the repetition of the first sound. The compounded component is termed as reduplicant and the whole process is called reduplication. Spenser (1991) describes that the reduplicant can be a word or a morpheme. Sankaranarayanan (2002) claims that this process of word formation is a distinctive feature of Dravidian and Indo – Aryan languages.

Onomatopoeic words in Gojri are discussed under the following headings :

### **Sounds Produced by Human Actions**

The sounds produced by human beings during different activities are distinctive in Gojri language and of great value in the word formation phenomenon. These Onomatopoeic words are the symbolic sounds of human actions in different situations. Examples are given for the illustration.

- [pətʃək - pətʃək ] ‘Sound produced by eating food’
- [ʃʊɾ - ʃʊɾ ] ‘Sound produced by swallowing food’
- [gəɾək - gəɾək] ‘ Sound produced by drinking water’
- [kəɾək- kəɾək ‘Sound produced by biting hard food’
- [ɖək - ɖək ] ‘Throbbing sound of the human heart’
- [tʃʰi: - tʃʰi:] ‘Sound produced by sneezing’
- [əɦ - əɦ] ‘Sound produced by coughing’
- [ɣər- ɣər] ‘Sound produced by snoring’
- [.ʃʊɾ - ʃʊɾ] ‘Sound produced by running nose’
- [oɦe: -oɦe:] ‘Crying sound of a child’
- [ɦa: - ɦa:] ‘Laughing sound’
- [ɦũ - ɦũ:] ‘Weeping sound’
- [gər -gər ] ‘ Whispering sound’
- [sər -sər ] ‘Sound produced during sipping tea’

### **Sounds Produced By Birds**

In Gojri, numerous Onomatopoeic words denote the sounds articulated by birds. Whenever these words are uttered in the oral speech, these are comprehended by the listeners of this speech community. These words are not used in isolation, but in compounded form. Consider the following examples :

- [tʃi: -tʃi: ] ‘Chirping sounds of birds’
- [kã: -kã: ] ‘ Calling sound of crow’
- [ku: - ku: ] ‘ The sound of cuckoo’
- [tər - tər] ‘The quack of duck’
- [krã - krã] ‘ Sound of hen’
- [koɾok -koɾok ] ‘ Calling sound of hen’
- [tʃũ: -tʃũ: ] ‘Clucking sounds of chicken’
- [kəkəɾũ: - kũ:] ‘ Crowing of rooster’
- [ɦu: -ɦu:] ‘ Hooting of owl’
- [ɣərũ: - ɣərũ: ] ‘Sound of pigeon’
- [pʰəɾ - pʰəɾ] ‘Sound produced by wings of birds’

### **Sounds Produced By Animals**

The imitation of sounds produced by the animals, is an extensive source of the word formation in Gojri. These words also exist in reduplicated forms where the first sound is reduplicated to form a new compounded word that denotes a sound produced by an animal. Consider the following illustrations :

- [ɦəu: - ɦəu:] ‘Barking sound of the dog’
- [mi:a:ũ: - mi:a:ũ: ] ‘Meowing sound of the cat’
- [oɾũ: - oɾũ:] ‘ The sound of jackals’
- [həŋ -həŋ ] ‘Whinnying sound produced by the horse’
- [tək - tək ] ‘Trotting sound of horse’
- [pəɦã: pəɦã:] ‘Braying sound of the donkey’
- [ɦã:-ɦã:] ‘Mooing sound of the cow’
- [mẽ: - mẽ:] ‘Bleating sound of the sheep and goat’
- [ɣər - ɣər ] ‘Roar of the lion’
- [bũ:- bũ:] ‘Buzzing sounds of the bees’
- [tər - tər ] ‘ Croaking sound of the frog’
- [ʃũ: - ʃũ: ] ‘ Hissing sound of the snake’

### **Sounds Produced By Instruments or Machines**

In Gojri, Onomatopoeic words are also imitations of mechanical sounds produced by working on the instruments or the working of the machines. The sounds also expressed in compounded forms instead of the isolation, and these Onomatopoeic words represent the sounds produced by the instruments. Following are the examples:

- [pəri:-pəri:] ‘The sound of whistle’  
[tri: - tri:] ‘The sound of bell’  
[tʃʰəŋ - tʃʰəŋ] ‘The sound of bangles’  
[tʃəri: - tʃəri:] ‘Creaking sound of door’  
[dʒəz - dʒəz] ‘Sound of gun fire’  
[dʒəm - dʒəm] ‘Sound of drum’  
[pʰət - pʰət] ‘Sound of engine’  
[tək- tək] ‘Sound produced by striking on a hard surface’  
[gəp - gəp] ‘Sound produced by striking on a soft surface’  
[kʰəɽ - kʰəɽ] ‘Sound produced by washing dishes’  
[təm - təm] ‘Jingling sound’  
[kɪɽ - kɪɽ] ‘Sound produced by breaking the branch of tree or falling tree’  
[tək - tək] ‘Sound of knocking’  
[pɑ: - pɑ:] ‘Sound of horn of a car’  
[tɪk - tɪk] ‘Sound of clock’  
[hū:- hū:] ‘Sound of siren’  
[prɑ: - prɑ:] ‘Sound of horn of a truck’  
[tʰək - tʰək] ‘Striking sound’  
[kʰər - kʰər] ‘Sound of wheels’  
[ʃəp -ʃəp] ‘Sound produced by cutting wood by saw’

### **Sounds Produced By Physical and Natural phenomena**

In Gojri, onomatopoeic words also refer to a particular phenomenon in natural and physical environments. These words are produced by imitations of the natural sounds in the environment that are the results of the different phenomena being in action. These sounds are perceived in different ways by the Gojri speaking community as produced by the natural actions. Consider the following illustrations :

- [ʃəɽ - ʃəɽ] ‘Sound produced by flowing water’  
[tʃʰər - tʃʰər] ‘Sound produced by tearing the cloth’  
[sər - sər] ‘Sound produced by burning’  
[kʰər - kʰər] ‘Scratching sound’  
[pətəɽ - pətəɽ] ‘Sparking sound’  
[fū: - fū:] ‘Sound produced by wind blowing’  
[ɽɪ - ɽɪ] ‘Sound produced by fire’  
[pʰʊs - pʰʊs] ‘Hissing sound of steam’  
[gəɽ - gəɽ] ‘Sound produced by thunder’  
[tɪp - tɪp] ‘Sound produced by dripping of water’  
[kʰəʃ - kʰəʃ] ‘Sound produced by walking on the sand’  
[kʰəɽəp - kʰəɽəp] ‘Sound produced by running’

## **II. CONCLUSION**

Onomatopoeia is an important word formation phenomenon in Gojri where the sounds produced by different objects are reduplicated to form the compound words that act as the symbolic forms of sounds. This phenomenon of the word formation indicates that there is not an arbitrary bond between the sound and the object it denotes. This bond is established on the basis of similarities between signifier and signified. Onomatopoeia tends to create the linguistic expression that nullifies the notion of arbitrariness between the linguistic forms and the meanings. There is a correlation between the sound and the meaning where the meaning of a sound can be recognised when it is produced by a specific object. Onomatopoeic words in Gojri are the outcomes of the reduplication of the sounds produced by human actions, birds, animals, instruments and natural environment. Onomatopoeia in Gojri is formed by the repetition of the sound produced by different objects. These Onomatopoeic words are used in oral communication and are recognised easily that what they denote.

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