

A Brief Study of Language Specified in Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution

by

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Abstract:

The paper “A Brief Study of Language Specified in Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution” which aimed at discussing the constitutions in India and the language specified in schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution. The paper is divided into three sections. In Section A, author tried to discuss about what is constitution in India, how it’s formed. Section B deals with the Language specified in schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution and the Section C deals with the detailed discussions on much awaited Bhojpuri language that is likely to be added to the Eight Schedule of Indian Constitution. The paper starts with a brief introduction.

Keywords: 1. Schedule 2. Language 3. Indian 4. Constitution 5. Hindi 6. Bhojpuri

SECTION- A

The Section-I briefly discussed about the introduction of the Indian constitution that its definition and how it’s formed. This section also discussed what is Eight Schedule to the Indian Constitution? The detailed discussions are discussed in the following sub sections.

1.0 Introduction:

India, also known as *Bharat*, is a Union of States. It is a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic with a parliamentary system of government; assuring its citizens of justice, equality, and liberty, and endeavors to promote fraternity among them. The constitution of India was adopted by the Constitutional Assembly on November 26, 1949 and was inaugurated on January 26, 1950. The words “socialist” and “secular” were added to the definition in 1976 by constitutional amendment (mini constitution). India celebrates the adoption of the constitution on 26 January each year as Republic Day.

The Constitution provides for a Parliamentary form of government which is federal in structure with certain unitary features. The constitutional head of the Executive of the Union is the President. As per Article 79 of the Constitution of India, the council of the Parliament of the Union consists of the President and two Houses known as the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha). Article 74(1) of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head to aid and advice the President, who shall exercise his/her, functions in accordance to the advice. The real executive power is thus vested in the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head.(cf. The Constitution of India, Chaturvedi. 2007).

1.1 What is Constitution in India?

The constitution of India is the supreme law of India. It lays down the framework defining fundamental political principles, establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties of government institutions, and sets out fundamental rights, directive principles, and the duties of citizens. It is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world, containing 444 articles in 22 parts, 12 schedules and 118 amendments. Besides the Hindi version, there is an official English translation. DR. BhimraoRamjiAmbedkar is widely known as the father of the Indian Constitution. (cf. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

1.2 What is Eight Schedule to the Indian Constitution?

In Indian Constitution, we have total 12 schedules; in each schedule deals with different topics like ‘State and Territory’, ‘Salary’ etc. So, the 8th Schedule is deals with languages. At present, 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution contains a list of 22 schedule languages (originally 14 languages). If new language found and want to be added in constitution means the government will amend the present act and add to the constitution. Now common man cometo know about schedule 8th of Indian constitution and feel happy he conveyed his thanks to educated person.

At the time the constitution was passed, inclusion in this list meant that the language was entitled to representation on the Official Language Commission, and that the language would be one of the bases that would be drawn upon to enrich Hindi, the official language of the union. The list has since, however, acquired further significance. The government of India is now 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”. A candidate appearing in an examination conducted for public service at a higher level is entitled to use any of these languages as the medium in which he answers the paper. Via the 92nd constitutional amendment 2003, 4 new languages –Bodo, Maithali, Dogri, and Santali- were added to the Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

SECTION- B

The section-II deals with the Language specified in schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution and the Languages with Official Status in India. The detailed discussions are presented in the following sub sections:

2.1 List of Schedule Languages:

The VIII schedule of the constitution of India deals with the official languages and language policy of India. It defines and delimits the status of Hindi and other Indian languages. The major 22 languages specified in the VIII schedule are alphabetically as follows:

The following tables lists the languages set out in the eighth schedule as of May 2007, together with the regions where they are used:

<i>List of 22 Languages of India Recognized by Constitutions</i>	
Eight Schedule	1. ASSAMESE
	2. BENGALI
	3. GUJRATI
	4. HINDI
	5. KANNADA
	6. KASHMIRI
	7. MANIPURI
	8. MALAYALAM
	9. KONKANI
	10. MARATHI
	11. NEPALI
	12. ORIYA
	13. PUNJABI
	14. SANSKRIT
	15. SINDHI
	16. TAMIL
	17. TELUGU
	18. URDU
	19. SANTHALI
	20. BODO
	21. MAITHALI
	22. DOGRI
* Sindhi was added in 1967 by 21 Amendment	
* Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added in 1992 by 71 amendment	
Santhali, Maithali, Bodo and Dogri were added in 2003 by 92 amendments.	

Out of which these 10 languages belong to the Indo-Aryan family, 4 languages belong to come from the Dravidian languages family and Manipuri belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family.

2.2 Languages with Official Status in India:

In article 343, the chapter on language of the union says “Official language of the union shall be Hindi in Devnagri Script. The forms of numerals shall be the international form of the Indian Numerals”.

Hindi is a major language spoken by nearly 40 percent of Indians and no other language is spoken by more than 10% of the population of India. English, widely used in business and politics, was retained for official use for the convenience of non-Hindi speakers, particularly in Tamil Nādu and West Bengal. The Eighth Schedule to the Indian constitution lists 22 languages that the Government of India has the responsibility to develop. Neither the Constitution of India, nor any Indian law defines any *national language* for the country.

States specify their own official language(s) through legislation. The section of the Constitution of India dealing with official languages therefore includes detailed provisions which deal not just with the languages used for the official purposes of the union, but also with the languages that are to be used for the official purposes of each state and union territory in the country, and the languages that are to be used for communication between the union and the states *inter se*.

During the British Raj, English was used for most official purposes both at the federal level and in the various states. The Indian constitution adopted in 1950 envisaged that Hindi would be gradually phased in to replace English over a fifteen-year period, but gave Parliament the power to, by law, provide for the continued use of English even thereafter. Resistance to making Hindi the sole official language, however, has resulted in English being retained in official usage. English continues to be used today, in combination with Hindi (at the central level and in some states) and State official languages at the state level.

The legal framework governing the use of languages for official purpose currently includes the Constitution, the Official Languages Act, 1963, Official Languages (Use for Official Purpose of the Union). Rules, 1976, and various state laws, as well as rules and regulations made by the

central government and the states. Hindi becomes the official language of the union with effect from January 26, 1965 as provided under the official language act 1963.

The official language act 1967 provides that English shall be used for the purpose of communication between union and a state which has not adopt Hindi as its official language.

2.3 Details of 22 Schedule languages of India are as follows:

This section represents the language belongs to Indo-Aryan Family in VIII Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

A. Indo-Aryan Language Family

1. Assamese:

It is an Indo-Aryan language and the official language of Assam state. More than 57% of the population of Assamese state speaks in Assamese language. Assamese language has developed as a literary language from the 13th century.

2. Bengali:

It is one of the leading Indo-Aryan language and is the official language of West Bengal. It is one of the most advanced language of India. Bengali emerged as a separate language around 1000 A.D.

3. Gujarati:

It is member of Indo-aryan family, and it is the official language of the state of Gujarat. It started out as an independent language around 1200 A.D. it is one of the most developed Indian language.

4. Hindi:

It is the biggest member of Indo-Aryan family and is the official language of the government of India.

It is written in Devnagri script. This language is originally spoken in Delhi, UP district and also9 speak all over India more or less. It is a great literary language.

5. Kashmiri:

It is a member of Indo-Aryan family and it is the state language of Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir literature goes back to 1200A.D. it is written in Perso-Arabic script.

6. Konkani:

It is a member of Indo-Aryan family and is the official language of Goa. In this language, the alphabet contains 47 characters (14 vowels and 33 consonants). This language is written in Sanskrit style.

7. Marathi:

It is a member of Indo-Aryan family and is the official language of Maharashtra. Its literary career began only in 13th century.

8. Oriya:

It is a branch member of Indo-Aryan family and is the official language of the state of Orissa. It's literary career began only in the 14th century.

9. Punjabi:

It is the member of Indo-Aryan family and is the official language of the state of Punjab. It's literary career began only in the 15th century. It is written in Gurumukhi Script.

10. Sanskrit:

It is the classical language of India and is also one of the oldest language of the world. Classical Sanskrit covers the period between 5000 B.C. and 1000 A.D.

11. Sindhi:

It is a branch of the Indo-Aryan family. Sindhi uses Perso-Arabic script in Pakistan and Devnagri script in India.

12. Urdu:

It is a branch of the Indo-Aryan family and it is the state language of Jammu and Kashmir. It is written in Perso-Arabic Script. Urdu and Hindi proceeded from the same source. It is a language of the Muslim in India.

B. Dravidian Language Family

This section will discuss the idea of languages in Dravidian language family the details are as follows:

13. Kannada:

It is a member of Dravidian language family and it is the official language of the state of Kannada.

14. Malayalam:

It is a branch of Dravidian language family and is the official language of the state of Kerala.

15. Tamil:

It is the oldest member of Dravidian language family and is the state language of Tamil Nadu.

16. Telugu:

It is the biggest member of Dravidian language family and is the state language of Andhra Pradesh.

C. Tibeto-Burman Language Family:

This section deals with the languages belongs to Tibeto-Burman family. The details are as follows:

17. Manipuri:

It is the member of Tibeto-Burman family and is the state language of Manipur.

18. Nepali:

It is a branch of Tibeto-Burman family and is the official language of Nepal.

Besides these 18 languages, four languages have been added to the VIII schedule. They are

19. Bodo:

Bodo language, a language of the **Tibeto-Burman** branch of Sino-Tibetan languages having several dialects. Bodo is spoken in the northeastern Indian states of Assam and Meghalaya and in Bangladesh. It is related to **Dimas**, Tripura, and Lalunga languages, and it is written in Latin, Devanagari, and Bengali scripts.

20. Maithali:

Maithili is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in Nepal and northern India by 34.7 million people as of 2000, of which 2.8 million were in Nepal. It is written in the Devanagari script. In the past, Maithili was written in Mithilakshar.

In 2002, Maithili was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which allows it to be used in education, government, and other official contexts. It is recognized as one of the largest languages in India, and is the second most widely used language in Nepal.

21.Dogri:

Dogri is an **Indo-Aryan language** spoken by about two million people in Jammu Kashmir region and Pakistan, chiefly in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir, but also in northern Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, other parts of Indian controlled Kashmir, and elsewhere.

22.Santhali:

Santali is a language in the **Munda** subfamily of **Austroasiatic** languages, related to Ho and **Mundari**. It is spoken by around 6.2 million people in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, although most of its speakers live in India, in the states of Jharkhand, Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Tripura, and West Bengal.

So, the total number of schedule language on today is 22.

2.4 Demand for more languages for inclusion in the Eight Schedule.

At present, there are demands for inclusion of 38 more languages in the Eight Schedule to the constitution. These are:

1. Angika
2. Banjara,
3. Bhojpuri,
5. Bhoti,
6. Bhotia
7. Bundelkhandi,
8. Chattisgari,
9. Dhakti,
10. English
11. Garhwali (Pahari)
12. Gondi
13. Gujjari,
14. Ho,
15. Kachachhi,
16. Kamtapuri,
17. Karbi,
18. Khasi
19. Kodava (Coorg),
20. Kok Barak,
21. Kumaoni (Pahari)
22. Kurak,
23. Kurmali,
24. Lepcha,
25. Limbu,
26. Mizo (Lushai),
27. Maghai,
28. Mundari,
29. Nagpuri,
30. Nicobarese,
31. Pahari (Himachal)
32. Pali,
33. Rajsthani,
34. Sambalpuri / Kosali,
35. Shaurseni,
36. Siraiki,q
37. Tenyidi and
38. Tulu.

2.5 Procedure Requirement for Inclusion of languages in the Eight Schedule.

A committee was set up in September, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sitakant Mohapatra to evolve a set of objective criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eight Schedule to the Constitution. The Committee submitted its report in 2004. The report of the committee is under consideration in consultation with the concerned Minorities/ departments of the Central Government. A decision on the pending demand for inclusion of languages in the Eight Schedule will be taken, inter alia, in the light of the recommendations of the Committee and Government's

decision thereon. However, no time frame can be fixed for consideration of the demands for inclusion of more languages in Eight Schedule to the constitution of India.

SECTION C

The Section III deals with the long waited demand for inclusion of Bhojpuri Languages to the Eight Schedule of Indian Constitution.

3.1 Bhojpuri likely to be included in Eighth Schedule:



The present Indian Government Modi Sarkar (BJP) announces that Bhojpuri likely to be included in Eight Schedule. The reason is that Rajnath Singh is an Indian politician from the Bharatiya Janata Party who currently serves as the Union Minister of Home Affairs in the NarendraModi Government himself is a native speaker of Bhojpuri.



Almost 122 politicians from the present Government (BJP) can speak Bhojpuri. So, as a Bhojpuri speaker; what are those benefits can get by inclusion of Bhojpuri in the Eight Schedule of Indian Constitution are discussed as follows:

1.Member of Parliament may take oath in Bhojpuri.



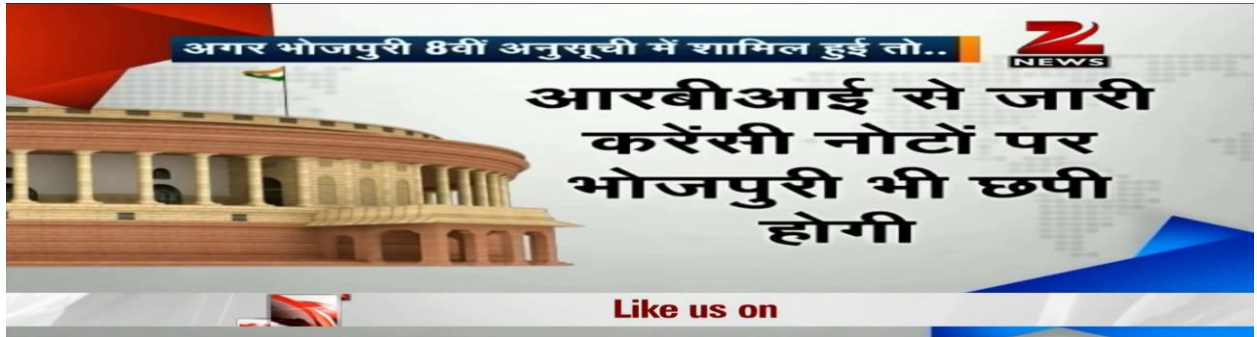
2. All Governmental undertakings may be facilitated in Bhojpuri.



3. UPSC Examination can be conducted by Bhojpuri.



4. The RBI currency will be printed in Bhojpuri.



5. The school syllabus will be entertained in Bhojpuri.



6. The Gazette of Indian Government may be published in Bhojpuri.



7. The Government will fund for the promotion of the Bhojpuri Language.



Conclusion:

The Constitution of India designates a bilingual approach for **official language** of the **Government of India** employing usage of Hindi written in the Devanagari script, as well as English. Hindi and English find everyday use for important official purposes such as parliamentary proceedings, judiciary, communications between the Central Government and a State Government. States within India have the liberty and powers to specify their own official language(s) through legislation and therefore there are more than 22 officially recognized languages in India at present.

Even though English language is not included in Eighth Schedule (as it is a foreign language), it is one of the official languages of Union of India.

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