

Languages, Mother Tongues and Bilingualism in India : An Overview

Workshop on

FIELD LINGUISTICS

**Department of EFL,
Tezpur University, Assam**

02nd – 05th March, 2018

S. S. Bhattacharya,

**Former Senior Research Officer(L) & Head,
Language Division, O/O The Registrar General, India
MHA, Govt. of India, Kolkata**

shyamsundarbhattacharya@gmail.com

India has a geographical area of 3,287,240 sq.km. and has more than one billion population (as per 2011 Census: 1, 21, 05, 69,573) distributed in 28 states (now 29) and 7 union territories (with 640 districts, 7933 towns and 640930 villages).

LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH – INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Popula-tion
INDIA		
1Hindi	422,048,642	41.03
2 Bengali	83,369,769	8.11
3 Telugu	74,002,856	7.19
4 Marathi	71,936,894	6.99
5 Tamil	60,793,814	5.91
6 Urdu	51,536,111	5.01
7 Gujarati	46,091,617	4.48
8 Kannada	37,924,011	3.69
9 Malayalam	33,066,392	3.21
10 Oriya	33,017,446	3.21
11 Punjabi	29,102,477	2.83
12 Assamese	13,168,484	1.28

**LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH –
INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001**

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Popula-tion
13 Maithili	12,179,122	1.18
14 Bhili/Bhilodi	9,582,957	0.93
15 Santhali	6,469,600	0.63
16 Kashmiri	5,527,698	0.54
17 Nepali	2,871,749	0.28
18 Gondi	2,713,790	0.26
19 Sindhi	2,535,485	0.25
20 Konkani	2,489,015	0.24
21 Dogri	2,282,589	0.22
22 Khandeshi	2,075,258	0.20
23 Kurukh/Oraon	1,751,489	0.17
24 Tulu	1,722,768	0.17
25 Manipuri	1,466,705	0.14

**LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH –
INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001**

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Popula-tion
26 Bodo	1 ,350,478	0.13
27 Khasi	1,128,575	0.11
28 Mundari	1,061,352	0.10
29 Ho	1,042,724	0.10
30 Kui	916,222	0.09
31 Garo	889,479	0.09
32 Tripuri	854,023	0.08
33 Lushai/Mizo	674,756	0.07
34 Halabi	593,443	0.06
35 Korku	574,481	0.06
36 Miri/Mishing	551,224	0.05
37 Munda	469,357	0.05
38 Karbi/Mikir	419,534	0.04

**LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH –
INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001**

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Popula-tion
39 Koya	362,070	0.04
40 Ao	261,387	0.03
41 Savara	252,519	0.02
42 Konyak	248,109	0.02
43 Kharia	239,608	0.02
44 English	226,449	0.02
45 Malto	224,926	0.02
46 Nissi/Dafla	211,485	0.02
47 Adi	198,462	0.02

**LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH –
INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001**

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Popula-tion
48 Thado	190,595	0.02
49 Lotha	170,001	0.02
50 Coorgi/Kodagu	166,187	0.02
51 Rabha	164,770	0.02
52 Tangkhul	142,035	0.01
53 Kisan	141,088	0.01
54 Angami	132,225	0.01
55 Phom	122,508	0.01
56 Kolami	121,855	0.01
57 Khond/Kondh	118,597	0.01
58 Dimasa	111,961	0.01
59 Ladakhi	104,618	0.01
60 Sema	103,529	0.01

**LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH –
INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001**

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Popula-tion
61 Kabui	94,758	0.01
62 Lahnda	92,234	0.01
63 Yimchungre	92,144	0.01
64 Tibetan	85,278	0.01
65 Sangtam	84,273	0.01
66 Chakru/Chokri	83,560	0.01
67 Hmar	83,404	0.01
68 Bhotia	81,012	0.01
69 Bishnupriya	77,545	0.01
70 Kinnauri	65,097	0.01
71 Paite	64,100	0.01
72 Chang	62,408	0.01

**LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH –
INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001**

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Popula-tion
73 Zeliang	61,547	0.01
74 Rengma	61,345	0.01
75 Konda	56,262	0.01
76 Monpa	55,876	0.01
77 Kuki	52,873	0.01
78 Arabic/Arbi	51,728	0.01
79 Parji	51,216	0.00
80 Lepcha	50,629	0.00
81 Wancho	49,072	0.00
82 Bhumij	47,443	0.00
83 Koda/Kora	43,030	0.00
84 Khezha	40,768	0.00
85 Tangsa	40,086	0.00
86 Vaiphei	39,673	0.00

**LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH –
INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001**

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Popula-tion
87 Jatapu	39,331	0.00
88 Halam	38,275	0.00
89 Khiemnungan	37,755	0.00
90 Maram	37,340	0.00
91 Limbu	37,265	0.00
92 Lakher	34,751	0.00
93 Korwa	34,586	0.00
94 Shina	34,390	0.00
95 Liangmei	34,232	0.00
96 Zemi	34,110	0.00

**LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH –
INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001**

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Popula-tion
97 Mishmi	33,955	0.00
98 Nocte	32,957	0.00
99 Koch	31,119	0.00
100 Mogh	30,639	0.00
101 Nicobarese	28,784	0.00
102 Deori	27,960	0.00
103 Lalung	27,072	0.00
104 Gadaba	26,262	0.00
105 Pawi	24,965	0.00
106 Juang	23,708	0.00
107 Anal	23,191	0.00
108 Lahauli	22,646	0.00
109 Maring	22,326	0.00
110 Zou	20,857	0.00

LANGUAGES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF STRENGTH – INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES – 2001

Number of Persons who returned the Language as their mother tongue		
Language	Total	Percent to State Total Population
111 Balti	20,053	0.00
112 Sherpa	18,342	0.00
113 Tamang	17,494	0.00
114 Pochury	16,744	0.00
115 Kom	14,673	0.00
116 Gangte	14,500	0.00
117 Rai	14,378	0.00
118 Sanskrit	14,135	0.00
119 Persian	11,688	0.00
120 Chakhesang	11,415	0.00
121 Afghani / Kabuli / Pashto	11,086	0.00
122 Simte	10,225	0.00
Total of other languages	1,762,388	0.17
All Language total	1,028,610,328	100.00 ¹²

These languages historically belong to four major language families, I.E. (IA), Dravidian, Austric (Austro-Asiatic), Sino-Tibetan (Tibeto-Burman). Of these four families IA takes care of 76.86 per cent with 23 languages,

Dravidian with 17 languages takes care of 20.82 per cent, Austric with 14 languages takes care of 1.11 per cent and Tibeto-Burman with the highest number of 66 languages represent 1.00 per cent of the Indian population.

(Languages of India's fifth language family that is, Great Andamanese, sixth Semito-Hamitic, Seventh Tai- Kadai. There are also single languages with unknown affinities- such as Nihali / Nahali, south- west of M.P., Buldhana district of Maharashtra or Burushaski of Hunza-gilgit area of Himalayas.)

Patterns of Bilingualism

Most of us, in this part of the world are born and brought up in the ecology of multilingualism. Monolingualism is simply unacceptable for us. In India Multilingualism by its acceptance as a normal societal phenomenon. For us, therefore bilingualism is not considered to be a deviant or exceptional behavior

The spread of languages has led to increase contact and bilingualism facilitating sharing of different features. The linguistic communities in India – they acquire and use other languages in addition to their mother tongues.

The major sources of information on bilingualism includes Census data, which of course, is basically quantitative and statistical in nature. In the Indian Census bilingualism is defined as language or languages habitually spoken by each person in daily or domestic life in addition to his / her mother tongue.

But one need not necessarily be able to read and write these languages. It is enough if one has a working knowledge in them. The Census data on bilingualism provides several significant general information:

It clearly brings out the notions of the national average of bilingualism and trilingualism (and also the bilingualism and trilingualism of each of the 122 languages including the names of the languages in which they are bilinguals or trilinguals.

The general incidence of bilingualism shows a steady increase in the national average from 9.7% in 1961 to 24.79% in 2001 Census (13.04% in 1971, 13.34% in 1981, 19.44% in 1991). The national average of trilingualism has been increased to 8.51% in 2001 Census compared to 7.90% in 1991.

**BILINGUALISM AND TRILINGUALISM AMONG THE SPEAKERS OF
SCHEDULED LANGUAGES - 2001**

Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col. 3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1 Assamese	13168484	425989	32.25	1905231	14.47
2 Bengali	83369769	17010606	20.40	5434085	6.52
3 Bodo	1350478	774925	57.38	251704	18.64
4 Dogri	2282589	1356682	59.44	604653	26.49
5 Gujarati	46091617	16709948	36.25	6565996	14.25
6 Hindi	422048642	50445412	11.95	8988392	2.13
7 Kannada	37924011	107841106	28.44	4608582	12.15
8 Kashmiri	5527698	2167345	39.21	859362	15.55

Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col. 3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
9 Konkani	2489015	1851355	74.38	1174194	47.18
10 Maithili	12179122	4022437	33.03	1126756	9.25
11 Malayalam	33066392	9504944	28.75	5488372	16.60
12 Manipuri ¹	1466705	611125	41.67	305240	20.81
13 Marathi	71936894	29762123	41.37	11110954	15.45
14 Nepali 2	2871749	1516692	52.81	647297	22.54
15 Oriya	33017446	8462211	25.63	4253789	12.88
16 Punjabi	29102477	15135579	52.01	9109988	31.30
17 Sanskrit	14135	10403	73.60	4354	30.80
18 Santali	6469600	3327111	51.43	475338	7.35
19 Sindhi	2535485	1855798	73.19	902251	35.58
21 Tamil	60793814	13079658	21.51	1941303	3.19

Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col. 3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
21 Telugu	74002856	18518971	25.02	7908812	10.69
22 Urdu	51536111	26298314	51.03	9465783	18.37

BILINGUALISM AND TRILINGUALISM AMONG THE SPEAKERS OF NON-SCHEDULED LANGUAGES - 2001

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percent age of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percenta ge of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
1 Adi	198462	107995	54.42	66597	33.56
2 Afghani/Kabuli/Pashto	11086	6200	55.93	2458	22.17
3 Anal	23191	17518	75.54	7900	34.06
4 Angami	132225	74176	56.10	29753	22.50
5 Ao	261387	171948	65.78	71764	27.46
6 Arabic/Arbi	51728	27658	53.47	9681	18.72

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percent age of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percent age of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Balti *	20053	8733	43.55	3315	16.53
8 Bhili/Bhilodi	9582957	3645020	38.04	701222	7.32
9 Bhotia	81012	53798	66.41	24469	30.20
10 Bhumij	47443	30406	64.09	6607	13.93
11 Bishnupuriya	77545	57329	73.93	21848	28.17
12 Chakhesang	11415	7027	61.56	3020	26.46
13 Chakru/Chokri	83560	37339	44.69	16408	19.64
14 Chang	62408	16400	26.28	5400	8.65
15 Coorgi/Kodagu	166187	113676	68.40	63195	38.03
16 Deori	27960	20791	74.36	9059	32.40

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
17 Dimasa	111961	64696	57.78	29796	26.61
18 English	226449	167528	73.98	85339	37.69
19 Gadaba	26262	19209	73.14	1583	6.03
20 Gangte	14500	6743	46.50	2577	17.77
21 Garo	889479	206077	23.17	76539	8.60
22 Gondi	2713790	1376406	50.72	222232	8.19
23 Halabi	593443	232409	39.16	33901	5.71
24 Halam	38275	21452	56.05	5386	14.07
25 Hmar	83404	38962	46.71	13195	15.82
26 Ho	1042724	420902	40.37	94609	9.07
27 Jatapu	39331	27483	69.88	903	2.30
28 Juang	23708	16423	69.27	251	1.06

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
29 Kabui	94758	58931	62.19	23359	24.65
30 Karbi/Mikir	419534	232333	55.38	63033	15.02
31 Khandeshi	2075258	1261155	60.77	483214	23.28
32 Kharia	239608	160389	66.94	30815	12.86
33 Khasi	1128575	227227	20.13	54249	4.81
34 Khezha	40768	19915	48.85	7933	19.46
35 Khiemnungan	37755	7359	19.49	1829	4.84
36 Khond/Kondh	118597	59441	50.12	6071	5.12
37 Kinnauri	65097	49482	76.01	14727	22.62
38 Kisan	141088	100365	71.14	27686	19.62
39 Koch	31119	15247	49.00	6413	20.61
40 Koda/Kora	43030	30513	70.91	3015	7.01

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
41 Kolami	121855	85254	69.96	12305	10.10
42 Kom	14673	11448	78.02	4374	29.81
43 Konda	56262	37540	66.72	3757	6.68
44 Konyak	248109	76344	30.77	24623	9.92
45 Korku	574481	380464	66.23	46146	8.03
46 Korwa	34586	20797	60.13	2716	7.85
47 Koya	362070	229911	63.50	11923	3.29
48 Kui	916222	480104	52.40	46682	5.10
49 Kuki	52873	33965	64.24	15396	29.12
50 Kurukh/Oraon	1751489	1102658	62.96	148508	8.48

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
51 Ladakhi *	104618	58686	56.10	35957	34.37
52 Lahauli	22646	17422	76.93	7442	32.86
53 Lahnda	92234	64978	70.45	34704	37.63
54 Lakher	34751	20527	59.07	3518	10.12
55 Lalung	27072	16083	59.41	3078	11.37
56 Lepcha	50629	37654	74.37	12821	25.32
57 Liangmei	34232	18834	55.02	7437	21.73
58 Limbu	37265	27291	73.23	7329	19.67
59 Lotha	170001	101622	59.78	41803	24.59
60 Lushai/Mizo	674756	153011	22.68	33124	4.91
61 Malto	224926	110244	49.01	14825	6.59
62 Maram	37340	21993	58.90	3752	10.05

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
63 Maring	22326	18002	80.63	3913	17.53
64 Miri/Mishing	551224	323244	58.64	94556	17.15
65 Mishmi	33955	19439	57.25	10529	31.01
66 Mogh	30639	19237	62.79	1802	5.88
67 Monpa	55876	31630	56.61	9619	17.21
68 Munda	469357	277687	59.16	80873	17.23
69 Mundari	1061352	574434	54.12	76768	7.23
70 Nicobarese	28784	17256	59.95	6613	22.97
71 Nissi/Dafla	211485	105029	49.66	64014	30.27
72 Nocte	32957	17382	52.74	10465	31.75
73 Paite	64100	27797	43.37	7515	11.72

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
74 Parji	51216	19324	37.73	4703	9.18
75 Pawi	24965	19013	76.16	2492	9.98
76 Persian	11688	7204	61.64	2104	18.00
77 Phom	122508	50090	40.89	19842	16.20
78 Pochury	16744	9025	53.90	3260	19.47
79 Rabha	164770	110479	67.05	26099	15.84
80 Rai	14378	9357	65.08	2624	18.25
81 Rengma	61345	36594	59.65	16289	26.55
82 Sangtam	84273	30885	36.65	9774	11.60
83 Savara	252519	133750	52.97	16882	6.69
84 Sema	103529	61553	59.45	25053	24.20

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
85 Sherpa	18342	14064	76.68	4754	25.92
86 Shina *	34390	17521	50.95	8971	26.09
87 Simte	10225	5067	49.56	1781	17.42
88 Tamang	17494	13820	79.00	4471	25.56
89 Tangkhul	142035	83835	59.02	34962	24.62
90 Tangsa	40086	22928	57.20	13611	33.95
91 Thado	190595	105942	55.58	34097	17.89
92 Tibetan	85278	58869	69.03	29152	34.18

Non-Scheduled Languages		Number of persons knowing two or more languages	Percentage of Col.3 to Col.2	Number of persons knowing three languages	Percentage of Col.5 to Col.2
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
93 Tripuri	854023	523336	61.28	59645	6.98
94 Tulu	1722768	1345554	78.10	383194	22.24
95 Vaiphei	39673	19837	50.00	7327	18.47
96 Wancho	49072	17573	35.81	9352	19.06
97 Yimchungre	92144	25972	28.19	8188	8.89
98 Zeliang	61547	29189	47.43	8745	14.21
99 Zemi	34110	14814	43.43	5779	16.94
100 Zou	20857	9538	45.73	3191	15.30
Others	1762388	1011468	57.39	400866	22.75

1. Manipuri includes Meithei.It excludes figures of Paomata, Mao-Maram and Purul sub divisions of Senapati district of Manipur for 2001 Census

2. Nepali includes Gorkhali.

**ENGLISH AS SECOND AND THIRD LANGUAGE AMONG THE SPEAKERS OF
SCHEDULED LANGUAGES - 2001**

Scheduled Languages		Number of persons who know English as the second Language	Percentage of Col.3 to total speakers of the Language	Number of persons who know English as the third Languages	Percentage of Col.5 to total speakers of the Language
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
1 Assamese	13168484	1406162	10.68	555204	4.22
2 Bengali	83369769	9242019	11.09	1599996	1.92
3 Bodo	1350478	47818	3.54	52233	3.87
4 Dogri	2282589	108315	4.75	466067	20.42
5 Gujarati	46091617	1025072	2.22	4922877	10.68
6 Hindi	422048642	32399287	7.68	2632947	0.62

ENGLISH AS SECOND AND THIRD LANGUAGE AMONG THE SPEAKERS OF SCHEDULED LANGUAGES - 2001

Scheduled Languages		Number of persons who know English as the second Language	Percentage of Col.3 to total speakers of the Language	Number of persons who know English as the third Languages	Percentage of Col.5 to total speakers of the Language
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Kannada	37924011	3723943	9.82	1219445	3.22
8 Kashmiri	5527698	213341	3.86	609337	11.02
9 Konkani	2489015	494310	19.86	293905	11.81
10 Maithili	12179122	85860	0.70	1003105	8.24
11 Malayalam	33066392	7023676	21.24	864660	2.61
12 Manipuri ¹	1466705	405856	27.67	70171	4.78
13 Marathi	71936894	1597048	2.22	8635571	12.00
14 Nepali ²	2871749	211211	7.35	163397	5.69

**ENGLISH AS SECOND AND THIRD LANGUAGE AMONG THE SPEAKERS OF
SCHEDULED LANGUAGES - 2001**

Scheduled Languages		Number of persons who know English as the second Language	Percentage of Col.3 to total speakers of the Language	Number of persons who know English as the third Languages	Percentage of Col.5 to total speakers of the Language
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
15 Oriya	33017446	5059717	15.32	1169780	3.54
16 Punjabi	29102477	2708512	9.31	6640231	22.82
17 Sanskrit	14135	942	6.66	2258	15.97
18 Santali	6469600	39071	0.60	188395	2.91
19 Sindhi	2535485	157799	6.22	373643	14.74
20 Tamil	60793814	9047067	14.88	670281	1.10
21 Telugu	74002856	7752042	10.48	2701602	3.65
22 Urdu	51536111	1953126	3.79	2994240	5.81

HINDI AS SECOND AND THIRD LANGUAGE AMONG THE SPEAKERS OF SCHEDULED LANGUAGES - 2001

Scheduled Languages		Number of persons who know Hindi as the second Language	Percentage of Col.3 to total speakers of the Language	Number of persons who know Hindi as the third Languages	Percentag e of Col.5 to total speakers of the Language
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
1 Assamese	13168484	1465801	11.13	1172870	8.91
2 Bengali	83369769	5031643	6.04	3353171	4.02
3 Bodo	1350478	42599	3.15	126594	9.37
4 Dogri	2282589	1155335	50.62	107034	4.69
5 Gujarati	46091617	14935470	32.40	1022409	2.22
6 Hindi	422048642	@	@	@	@
7 Kannada	37924011	2204763	5.81	2567142	6.77
8 Kashmiri	5527698	178470	3.23	65617	1.19

Scheduled Languages		Number of persons who know Hindi as the second Language	Percentage of Col.3 to total speakers of the Language	Number of persons who know Hindi as the third Languages	Percentage of Col.5 to total speakers of the Language
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
9 Konkani	2489015	217703	8.75	517645	20.80
10 Maithili	12179122	3888098	31.92	67878	0.56
11 Malayalam	33066392	1030670	3.12	4026445	12.18
12 Manipuri ¹	1466705	114563	7.81	213344	14.55
13 Marathi	71936894	25846335	35.93	1809516	2.52
14 Nepali ²	2871749	869261	30.27	326975	11.39
15 Oriya	33017446	2658678	8.05	2886750	8.74
16 Punjabi	29102477	12206633	41.94	2323670	7.98
17 Sanskrit	14135	7256	51.33	1386	9.81
18 Santali	6469600	1076321	16.64	127456	1.97
19 Sindhi	2535485	1155737	45.58	340260	13.42

Scheduled Languages		Number of persons who know Hindi as the second Language	Percentage of Col.3 to total speakers of the Language	Number of persons who know Hindi as the third Languages	Percentage of Col.5 to total speakers of the Language
Name	Total Speakers				
1	2	3	4	5	6
20 Tamil	60793814	690050	1.14	558690	0.92
21 Telugu	74002856	3972767	5.37	4322142	5.84
22 Urdu	51536111	13114090	25.45	3264307	6.33

It means as many as 250 million Indians speak at least two languages and more than 85 millions speak three or more languages. But the number of those who speak more than three languages are not known. It can be observed from the table that bilingualism is predominantly in the major languages of the states / uts. and Hindi and English.

And it is predominantly the characteristic of the linguistic minorities whose rate of bilingualism is as high as 80.63% for Maring. Bilinguals among the Hindi speaker for example, are only 11.95%, among the Bengali speakers 20.40% and the Tamil speakers 21.51% which are well below the national average of 24.79%.

English was the mother tongue for barely 2.36 lakh Indians but 85 millions returned it as their second language and 38 millions as their third language. As regards Hindi, 422 millions are the mother tongue speakers, 92 millions

for whom Hindi is the second language, about 30 millions who listed it as their third language. English and Hindi are the two most preferred second languages for the Indians. The main reason for bilingualism in English and Hindi is formal education.

The average incidence of bilingualism among the speakers of the 22 scheduled languages is 23.90%, ranges from 11.95% among the Hindi speakers to 74.38% among the Konkani speakers

**as compared to that of
49.65% among the 100
non-scheduled languages
ranging from 19.49%
among the Khiemnungan
to 80.63% among the
speakers of Maring.**

Similarly, the average incidence of trilingualism among the speakers of 22 scheduled languages is 8.36%, ranges from 2.31% among the Hindi speakers and 3.10% among the Tamil speakers to 47.18% among the Konkani speakers

as compared to that of 8.51% among the 100 non-scheduled languages speakers, ranging from 1.06% among the Juang speakers to 38.03% among the Coorgi / Kodagu speakers.

The speech communities in India is generally multilingual and this multilingualism is functional and not merely geographical. More languages are used complementarily to perform different functions.

Thank you