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Linguistic affiliation: Exploring nomenclature of relationships in Russian and Sanskrit

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Abstract

The Indo-European Languages, which are spoken mostly in Europe, and much of Iran, Pakistan and India, do have a common ancestral origin. With the help of our work we will try to highlight upon those points of commonness existing in between them. This can easily be seen when one simultaneously analyzes the similarity existing in between Russian and Sanskrit. Both of these languages are considered as two important members of the Indo-European family of languages. Although Sanskrit together with Parsi, Prakrit and other languages, is designated within the Aryan branch of Indo-Iranian group and Russian along with Polish, Lithuanian, etc., is categorized within the Balto-Slovakian. In this paper, We have tried to find out the similarities existing in between different words and names of Sanskrit and Russian languages.

Keywords: Linguistic, nomenclature, Russian; Sanskrit

Introduction

Sanskrit and Russian are considered as two important members of the Indo-European family of languages. Although Sanskrit together with Parsi, Prakrit and other languages, is defined in the Aryan branch of Indo-Iranian group and Russian along with Polish, Lituanian, etc., is categorised in the Balto-slavonic group ^[1]. Many scholars have an opinion that most of the modern languages have common ancestors. It is known that Sanskrit and Russian language have some common linguistic aspects. The resemblance in grammar, vocabulary & sentence structures indicates the profound relations of India and Russia in ancient times. Russian literature is well known for its scientific literature whereas Sanskrit Rigveda and Parashara have ancient scientific literature ^[2]. In this study, we have tried to find out the similarities in naming relations in Sanskrit and Russian. During the course of study we found that most of the Indian and Russian readers do not know how to call their relatives based on their relation in a family. It is because in India we are heading towards a nuclear family from the joint family system and in Russia they have already moved to nuclear family system from joint family system long ago. We know that the home is considered as the first school of a child, where he/she learns most of the names of relations starting with mummy and daddy. But due to nuclear family system and European culture only uncle and aunt are left to define all the relations related to mother and father.

Therefore our effort of this research is also to familiarize the Indian as well as Russian readers with the words used to name the family relations. The names used in family relations are given below in English and Russian. The transliteration of Russian words are also given for non Russian readers.

Here are the following words, which we tried to find their equalent in Sanskrit and Russian:

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Names of Relations					
S. No.	English	Hindi	Sanskrit	Russian	
				Cyrillic	Transliteration
	Brother	भाई	भ्रातृ	брат	<i>brat</i>
	Brother's wife	भाभी	भर्तृदारिका	невестка	<i>nevestka</i>
	Daughter	बेटी	पुत्री/दुहितृ	дочь	<i>doch</i>
	Elder brother's wife	भाभी	प्रजावती/ ज्येष्ठभविक्का	братова	<i>bratova</i>
	Father-in-law	ससुर	श्वसुरः/ स्वामिजनकः/ जरन्तकः/ शतानीकः	свёкор@ тесть	<i>svyokor/t'est'</i>
	Girlfriend	प्रेमिका	कामिनी/ प्रेयसी	подруга@любимая	<i>podruga/lubimaya</i>
	Great Grandfather	परदादा/ परनाना	प्रपितामहः/ प्रमातामहः	прадед	<i>pradyed</i>
	Great Grandmother	परदादी/ परनानी	प्रपितामही/ प्रमातामही	прабабушка	<i>prababushka</i>
	Husband's elder brother	जेठ	श्वशुर्यः	старший брат мужа@ деверь	<i>starshi brat moozha/dever</i>
	Husband's younger brother	देवर	देवरः	младший брат мужа@ деверь	<i>mladshi brat moozha/ dever</i>
	Lover (Boyfriend)	प्रेमी	प्रियः/अभौकः	парень@ любимый	<i>paren/lyubimii</i>
	Mother's brother	माता	मातृ/जनयित्री	мать	<i>mat'</i>
	Mother-in-law	सास	श्वश्रू/साधुदेवी/ वरवत्सला /अत्रा/साश्रुधी	тёща (мать жены) @ свекровь (мать мужа)	<i>tyosha (mat' zheni)/ svekrof' (mat' moozha)</i>
	Mother's brother's wife	मामी/माई	मातुली/मातुला	жена брата матери @ тётя	<i>zhena brata mat'eri / t'yot'ya</i>
	Mother's sister	मौसी	मातृष्वस्व ध मातृस्वस्व	малая тётка	<i>malaya t'yotka</i>
	Mother's sister's husband	मौसा	मातृष्वस्वपतिः	муж сестры матери	<i>moozh sestri materi</i>
	Sister	बहिन/ बहन	भगिनी/सोदर्या	сестра	<i>sestra</i>
	Sister's daughter (Niece)	भान्जी	भागिनेयी/ स्वस्रीय	дочь сестры@ племянница	<i>doch sestri/ plemyanitsa</i>
	Sister's Husband	बहनोई	सात्रासाहः	муж сестры	<i>moozh sestri</i>
	Sister's son (Nephew)	भान्जा	यामेयः/ स्वास्तीयः	сын сестры@ племянник	<i>siin sestri/ plemyanik</i>
	Son-in-law	दामाद	यामातृ/जामाता/ जमातृ	зять	<i>zyat'</i>
	Wife	पत्नी	जाया/भार्या	жена	<i>zhena</i>
	Wife's brother	साला	श्यालः/स्यालः	шурин	<i>shoorin</i>
	Wife's brother's wife	सरहज	स्याली	жена шурина	<i>zhena shoorina</i>
	Wife's sister	साली	स्याली	свояченица	<i>svoyachenitsa</i>
	Younger brother's wife	बहु	भर्तृदारिका	братова	<i>bratova</i>
	Elder Brother	भैया (बड़ा भाई)	ज्येष्ठः	старший брат	<i>starshi brat</i>
	Father's elder brother	ताऊ/ ताया	तातगुः/ताततुल्यः/ पितृव्यः	1. старший брат отца@ дядя	<i>starshi brat otsa/ dyadya</i>
	Husband's elder brother's daughter	जिठोती/ जिठोतिन	भ्रात्रोया	дочь старшего брата мужа@ племянница	<i>doch starshevo brata muzha/ plemyanitsa</i>
	Husband's elder brother's son	जिठोत	भ्रात्रोयः	сын старшего брата мужа@ племянник	<i>scyn starshevo brata moozha/plemyannik</i>
	Husband's elder brother's wife	जेठानी	श्वशुर्यदारिका	жена старшего брата мужа@ жена деверя@ ятров	<i>zhena starshevo brata moozha/zhena deverya/yatrof</i>
	Son	बेटा	तनयः/पुत्रः	сын	<i>scyn</i>
	Brother's daughter (Niece)	भतीजी	भ्रातृजा	племянница	<i>plemyanitsya</i>
	Brother's son (Nephew)	भतीजा	भ्रातृजः	племянник	<i>plemyannik</i>
	Daughter-in-law	बहु	स्नुषा/पुत्रवधुः/वधुः	невестка	<i>nevestka</i>
	Daughter's Daughter	नातिन/ नवासी/दोहिहि	दौहित्री	внучка	<i>vnuchka</i>
	Daughter's Son	नाती/ नवासा/ दोहिता	दौहित्रः	внук	<i>vnuk</i>
	Elder Sister	दीदी (बड़ी बहन)	अग्रजा/अन्तिका	старшая сестра	<i>starshaya sestra</i>
	Father	पिता	पितृ/जनकः	отец	<i>ot'ets</i>
	Father's elder brother's wife	ताई	पितृव्या/पितृष्वेसा	жена старшего брата отца@ тётя	<i>zhena starshevo brata/t'yot'ya</i>
	Father's sister	बुआ/फूफी	पितृष्वसामातुल/ पैतृष्वसेय/	сестра отца@ тётя	<i>sestra otsa/t'yot'ya</i>

			पितृव्य पत्नी		
Father's sister's husband	फूफा	पितृव्यजः	муж сестры отца@дядя	<i>moozh sestri otsa/d'yad'ya</i>	
Father's younger brother	चाचा	तातगुः/पितृव्यः	младший брат отца@дядя	<i>mladshi brat otsa/d'yad'ya</i>	
Father's younger brother's wife	चाची	पितृव्या/पितृष्वेसा	жена младшего брата отца@тётя	<i>zhena mladshevo brata otsa/t'yot'ya</i>	
Husband	पति	भर्ता/भर्तुकः	муж	<i>moozh</i>	
Husband's sister	ननद	ननान्दा	сестра мужа@золовка	<i>sestra moozha/zolovka</i>	
Husband's sister's husband	नन्दोई	ननान्दपतिः	муж сестры мужа	<i>moozh sestri moozha</i>	
Maternal Grandfather	नाना	मातामहः	дедушка	<i>dedushka</i>	
Maternal Grandmother	नानी	मातामही (मम्मो)	бабушка	<i>babushka</i>	
Paternal Grandfather	दादा	पितामहः	дедушка	<i>dedushka</i>	
Paternal Grandmother	दादी	पितामही	бабушка	<i>babushka</i>	
Son's Daughter	पोती	पौत्री	дочь сына/ внучка	<i>doch scyna/vnoochka</i>	
Son's Son	पोता	पौत्रः	сын сына/ внук	<i>scyn scyna/vnook</i>	
Spouse	पति/ पत्नी	द्वितीया/रम/वधूः/पतिः/पत्नी	Супруг супруга/ муж/ жена	<i>suprook/suprooga/moozh/zhena</i>	
Wife's sister's husband	साडू	ननान्दपतिः	свояк	<i>svoyak</i>	
Younger Brother	छोटा भाई	अनुजः/कनिष्ठः	младший брат	<i>mladshi brat</i>	
Younger Sister	छोटी बहन	बुसा/अनुजाता/ अनुजा	младшая сестра	<i>mladshaya sestra</i>	

Many of the words of relations from the above table have similarities in their pronunciation. First twenty six underlined words are more-close and seems to have common roots, prefixes or suffixes. We may recall Henn's comments on the resemblance in the branches of the Indo-European language members:

"There is a remarkably similar pattern shown by the linguistic tree and the genetic tree of human ancestry" [3].

Remarkably many of these words are not being used as one is not made to learn these words naming relations in childhood. This is just a preliminary step that would lead to the study of the present topic. We hope to move further positively in finding out the roots of deep relations between India and Russia.

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