

## ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

AC	=	Affricate		
Adj/adj	=	Adjective		
C	=	consonant		
adj. Qual	=	adjective (Quality)		
adj. Quan	=	adjective (Quantity)		
Demons	=	Demonstrative		
FC	=	Fricative		
Fut	=	Future tense		
Hon	=	Honorific		
Intra	=	Intransitive		
LR	=	Lateral		
NL	=	Nasal		
NP	=	Noun Phrase		
N	=	Noun		
Neg	=	Negative		
N <sub>H</sub>	=	Noun (Head)		
N <sub>M</sub>	=	Noun (Modifier)		
Pl	=	Plural		
Pres	=	Present tense		
Pr. Pl	=	Present Participle		
Qual	=	Quality		
Quan	=	Quantity		
SP	=	Stop		
SV	=	Semivowel	Vb <sub>c</sub>	= Verb compound
TL	=	Trill	Vb <sub>r</sub>	= Verb root
Tns	=	Tense	Vb <sub>inf</sub>	= Verb (infinitive)
Tr	=	Transitive	Vb <sub>st</sub>	= Verb stem
V	=	Vowel	*	= ungrammatical/unacceptable
Vb	=	Verb	→	= Transformed/changed into
VP	=	Verb Phrase	ϕ	= Zero

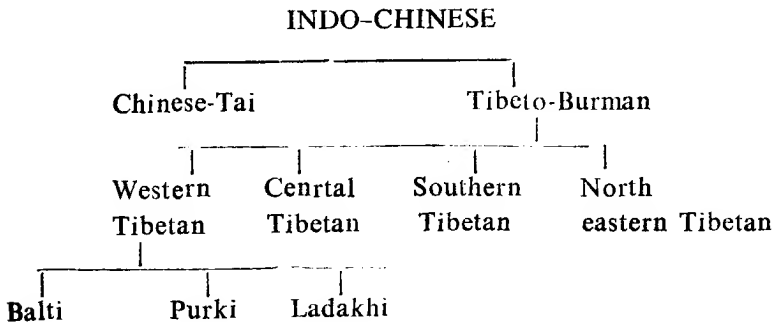
# INTRODUCTION

## 0.1. Family of languages

There are four major families of languages in India, viz, Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burman. The languages spoken in Ladakh district belong to the Tibeto-Burman family of languages and the Indo-Aryan. Purki belongs to the former.

### 0.1.1. Tibeto-Burman family

The languages of the Tibeto-Burman are spoken in Tibet in the north and extend upto Burma in the south. Starting from Baltistan in the west they extend to the Chinese provinces in the east. They belong to the larger family of Indo-Chinese. Indo-Chinese covers the Chinese-Tai and the Burman family of languages. Tibeto-Burman is further subdivided into Western Tibetan, Central Tibetan, Southern Tibetan and North-eastern Tibetan. The following genealogical tree shows the place of Purki in the Tibeto-Burman family.



### 0.1.2. Some features of Tibeto-Burman family

The languages of the Tibeto-Burman family differ from the languages of the Chinese-Tai in certain respects. Unlike the languages of Chinese and Tai which have subject-verb-object (SVO) word order, the languages of the Tibeto-Burman family have the subject-object-verb (SOV) word order. Another significant feature that should be pointed out is the extensive use of auxiliary words in Tibeto-Burman in order to connect the words of a sentence and to explain their mutual relationship.

### 0.2. Geographical distribution

The dialect under analysis is spoken in the Ladakh district of Jammu and Kashmir. In the Ladakh district, Kargil tehsil is the area where Purki speakers are concentrated. Purki area starts from Zojila Pass and extends upto Bhod-Kharbu, a village on the highway from Srinagar to Leh.<sup>2</sup>

Purki is surrounded by the speakers of the Shina language and Brokskat language. These two languages belong to Indo-Aryan family. Most of the speakers of Shina and Brokskat languages are bilinguals in Purki. They use Shina and Brokskat in their respective villages and Purki when visiting Kargil for business and official purposes. Purki speakers have contact with Ladakhi speakers also. Ladakhi, another Tibeto-Burman language of the district, is the majority language of the district spoken by sixty percent of the total population.

Purki is the major language in the following villages of the Ladakh district :

1. Kargil
2. Minji
3. Tripson
4. Salaskote
5. Lankenchar
6. Farona
7. Sankoo
8. Panikhar
9. Namsoo
10. Tehsuru
11. Khawas
12. Achambur
13. Parachik
14. Jhoskor<sup>3</sup>
15. Tambis
16. Kanoor
17. Safi
18. Batambis
19. Umba
20. Pushkum
21. Akehamal
22. Soath
23. Barchar
24. Apati
25. Yurbaltak
26. Shakar
27. Chicktan
28. Hagnis
29. Lamsu

30. Sando    31. Stakchi    32. Khangral    33. Sanjug and  
34. Hartaass.

In the following villages, Shina is the major language. Purki comes second.

1. Jhanigund    2. Kharboo    3. Shumsha    4. Thangskam  
5. Thanthal Thang    6. Bembat    7. Stakboo    8. Goshen  
9. Muratbag    10. Pandrass    11. Karkit    12. Karkit Jhoo and  
13. Kaksar.

Kashmiri and Purki are spoken in descending order in the following villages :

1. Matain    2. Nilgrat and    3. Qull.

Purki and Brokskat are spoken in the following villages :

1. Zhilmoo,    2. Darzhiks,    3. Garkoon,    4. Batalick,  
5. Tha,    6. Hanoo and    7. Sharchai.

Villages where Ladakhi and Purki are spoken :

1. Jhoshoot,    2. Nubra,    3. Bugthang,    4. Turtun and  
5. Chulunka<sup>4</sup>

### 0.3. Background of the people

The second major language spoken in Ladakh district is Purki. This language is spoken by thirty three percent of the total population of Ladakh district<sup>5</sup>. The Purkis, though they are Tibetans, have mixed racially with the Dards to a great extent. They have embraced Islam. Thus the people who speak Ladakhi are Buddhists and those who speak Purki are Muslims. It is said locally that all the people of the Ladakh district were once Buddhists and that during Muslim rule people were converted to Islam. Their main occupation is agriculture.

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