CHAPTER IV: THE DATA

This section deals with the data taken for the present study, such as the selection of sample, area, tools designed to elicit data, the procedure adopted during the fieldwork and the method of data analysis.

The subjects of this study are the speakers of Kumauni language who have migrated and have been living in Delhi. The sample for this study comprises of 263 respondents from nine districts of Northwest, South, West, Northeast, Southwest, East, North, Central, New Delhi. Majority of respondents i.e., 252 out of 263 had been living in Delhi for a period of more than five years, while 11 respondents had been living in Delhi for less than 5 years. A stratified random sample was taken considering different sociolinguistic variables: age, gender, education, income, occupational groups living in different residential areas and factors known to be related to language shift, domain specific use of the language, prestige level of a language, language or cultural groups defending the mother language, language policies and language planning efforts. The technique of “Random Sampling” employed does not imply that the sample was selected haphazardly but that the method of selection ensured that each individual or element in the universe had an equal chance of being chosen.

Gender, age, educational background, income, occupation, settlement patterns attitudes and views are the independent variables considered while factors like language shift, loyalty and maintenance, attitudes and views towards Kumauni and majority language Hindi and linguistic and cultural identity are the dependent variables.

Population of Kumauni speakers who have migrated from Uttarakhand to Delhi is 0.31 million, which constitutes 2.21 per cent of the total population of Delhi (Census 2001). Although it was not difficult to identify potential Kumauni speakers but traversing through nine districts of Delhi for data collection was a rather uphill task. In some of the areas dominated by the other speech communities, locating Kumauni speakers also proved a bit difficult. It was beneficial to come across such isolated speakers of Kumauni language, as their speech was affected more by the different speech community persons present in that area. The samples were taken using both, random sampling and stratified sampling techniques. In this exercise,
every attempt was made to control the choice of items so that every item in the list had an equal chance of being included in the sample. Deliberate sampling was used in selecting individual samples, which represented the whole community of the Kumauni people in Delhi.

Sources used in the research were census data, government publications, language surveys and newspaper reports of events. Primary sources included a detailed questionnaire; participant observation in the field and informal discussions and unstructured interviews with respondents, public officials and other researchers working in the area. Secondary sources utilized included numerous books and journal articles.

In order to gain access to the respondents, necessary for the research at hand, travel to different districts in Delhi was necessary. The introduction with the respondents stated the purpose of the study and asked for suggestions and possible contacts of other Kumauni speakers. Another measure taken was expressing interest in meeting respondents who were the relatives or friends of the respondent. The time period allotted for data collection in this area was during the year 2006. Approximately ten months with hiatus were spent in data collection. Because of the little amount of time available for analysis, help was sorted out from other interdisciplinary researchers. The research questions were used as guide in the classification and analysis of the data.

Three major tasks were involved in the analysis of the role of different variables and domains in language loyalty, maintenance and shift. The first task was to examine the degree of shift from the Kumauni language to Hindi in Delhi. Special attention was given to the use of Kumauni and Hindi at home and other domains, and the use of English in schools and offices. Second, indication of acceptance of Kumauni language as a symbol of ethnocultural identity was identified and in turn, consequent ideological associations with Hindi and English, as described by the Kumauni speakers were also examined. Finally, the participation of different media and cultural groups and associations in the formation of linguistic identities which promote language maintenance and language planning efforts were examined.
Figure 1: Gender division of the Sample
Figure 2: Distribution of respondents based on Gender using Kumauni language
Figure 3: Distribution of respondents based on Age groups and Gender
Figure 4: Distribution of respondents based on Gender and Education (Literate and Illiterate)
Figure 5: Distribution of respondents based on Gender and Level of Education
6: Distribution of respondents based on Gender and Medium of Education
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Figure 8: Distribution of respondents based on Age groups coming in contact with other communities
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Figure 10: Distribution of respondents based on Age group speaking Kumauni language before coming to Delhi
Figure 11: Distribution of respondents based on Education, speaking Kumauni language before coming to Delhi
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Figure 13: Distribution of respondents based on Gender, using Hindi language
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Figure 15: Distribution of respondents based on Gender, using different languages in the Home Domain
Figure 16: Distribution of respondents based on Gender, using different languages among the friends group.
Figure 17: Distribution of respondents based on Gender, using different languages with neighbours
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19: Distribution of respondents based on Gender using different languages in the market place
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Figure 21: Distribution of respondents based on Age using different languages with friends
Distribution of respondents based on Age using different languages with neighbours
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Figure 28: Distribution of respondents based on Income and Gender
Figure 29: Distribution of respondents based on Occupation and Gender
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Figure 34: Distribution of respondents based on Income, using different languages with friends.
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