Chapter 5

Summary
and
Conclusions
The present work is an endeavour to explore the cultural lexicon of Kashmiri from an ethnosemantic point of view. Although a number of works are available which have been carried out on different aspects on Kashmiri culture and language but the field remained unexplored as far as a linguistic analysis of cultural lexicon is concerned.

5.1 Summary

In the introductory chapter of the work, an attempt has been made to define the terms like culture and ethnosemantics, and to get an idea of the Kashmiri culture and the interrelationship between culture and language. The introduction also sketches out the significance of the work and enlists the objectives of the present study. The chapter also provides an overview of the works that have been carried out in the field of Kashmiri language and culture. The chapter ends with a section on scope of the study.

In the second chapter, various sources were identified that make up the rich repository of Kashmiri cultural lexicon. In this regard, it was found that the languages like Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, and Turkish etc have contributed a lot in the makeup of the cultural content in the past. Also it was found that the languages like Hindi, Urdu, and English are still enriching the cultural lexicon of Kashmiri. An analysis was also carried out, in the second chapter, to determine the linguistic make up of the Kashmiri cultural lexicon. The analysis dealt with syllabic structure,
consonant clusters, nativization and vowel sequences at the phonological level, and compounding, echo forms, affixation, gender, number and the presence of conjunct verbs at the morphological level.

In the third chapter, an analysis of the lexicon constituting the cultural content of Kashmiri has been carried out using the concept of semantic fields. In this regard, a large number of semantic fields of Kashmiri culture were compiled, for example the semantic fields of marriage/wedding, kinship, wazwaan (Kashmiri feast), and arts and crafts etc. The semantic field of marriage pointed out the feature that there are a number of terms that are common to both Muslim marriage and Hindu marriage. The presence of sub semantic fields was one of the interesting observations in this regard. For example the division of semantic field of Kashmiri marriage/wedding into the sub semantic fields of Kashmiri Muslim marriage/wedding and Kashmiri Pandit marriage/wedding. This approach of compilation of semantic fields made a way to collect, and in this way get familiar to, a large number of lexical items related to the repertoire of Kashmiri culture.

The fourth chapter of the present work has made an attempt to delve into the process of change that has occurred in the Kashmiri language, and has subsequently made its imprint on the culture. This process of language change is quite evident in the cultural lexicon of Kashmiri in the form of processes like semantic shifts and relexicalization. Semantic shift occurs as a word moves from one set of circumstances to another, resulting in an extension or narrowing of the range of meanings. There are a number of examples of this process in the cultural lexicon of the Kashmiri. The process of relexicalization (or simply renaming) highlighted the importance of the influences of
education, fashion and developments as a result of information technology. This process is very well illustrated in the cultural lexicon of Kashmiri. In the context of the present work, the process was described with respect to the components of Kashmiri culture like kinship terminology, modes of greetings, food, and clothing etc.

5.2 Conclusions

1. From the present work the variegated nature of cultural lexicon of Kashmiri becomes clear.

2. Different languages like Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Urdu, Hindi and English have contributed to the repertoire of Kashmiri cultural lexicon from time to time.

3. The features like the presence of monosyllabic, disyllabic and polysyllabic patterns of syllabic structures, and consonant clusters of word initial and word medial nature in cultural lexicon of Kashmiri is highlighted.

4. The process of compounding featured many combinations like Sanskrit+Arabic, Persian+Sanskrit, and Arabic+English. The analysis at morphological level, further, pointed out to the processes like affixation, echo-formation, and conjunct verbs.

5. The process of language change is observed in cultural lexicon of Kashmiri with respect to the processes of semantic shift and relexicalization.
6. Semantic shifts were illustrated mainly in the form of narrowing and widening of range of meaning.

7. Relexicalization has introduced a whole range of new words and terms in the cultural lexicon of Kashmiri.

8. Both these processes of semantic shifts and relexicalization have widened the scope of the vocabulary of Kashmiri language in general, and Kashmiri culture in particular.