

## Islands in the stream: Dialects and Culture

Ravi Chandra  
Professor, Missor University, India

### Abstract

*Under the dual signs of internationalism and globalization, the process of multicultural ethos is first affected by either jockeying into power position or erosion of status of dialects. If the field of language can be metaphorically perceived, borrowing from Hemingway as a stream then dialects are veritable islands in the stream constantly locking their promontories or drifting apart, to use yet another metaphor, this time from A.D.Hope, the Australian poet. The paper shall attempt to look at geographic, political, economic and cultural proximities and distances that form the atmosphere within which dialects survive, grow or lose out. The paper will base itself on the notion that no nation is linguistically monolithic. In other words, the hegemony within the field of dialects will be perceived as one that arises out of certain real time politics.*

*Further, a broad view of the forces that drop similarities and produce balkanization of the dialects as inimical to one another within a linguistic arena will be examined. The perpetual attempt at producing "standard" dialect as opposed to the "non-standard" in an attempt at gaining status will be explored in the paper.*

*Finally, the paper shall attempt to argue the necessity for making the modern nation a multilingual state. Kind of addition is observed in Sangsari dialect which is derived by adding a vowel between the initial clusters or adding a vowel or a consonant before the initial clusters. The interesting point in the repeated letters is the enclitics form of the auxiliary verbs and the place of voiceless explosive consonants between the two vowels which are repeated in pronunciation. There is a shortening of the mid neutral vowel of [ə] in the syllabus without stress a tendency which has even influenced the prefixes of the verbs.*

**Key words** *dialect, Sangsari, Mahdishahri, language, Semmani.*