

Tongue Rolling and Tongue Folding Among Four Reddi Sub-castes of Andhra Pradesh

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KEY WORDS Tongue Rolling, Tongue Folding, Reddis, Andhra Pradesh.

ABSTRACT The paper reports the variation of tongue rolling and folding among four sub-castes of the Reddis, a major caste population of Andhra Pradesh, based on a randomly selected sample of 800 unrelated male individuals, 200 from each sub-caste. The proportion of tongue rollers was comparatively lower than non-rollers in Kodide Reddis (28.50%) followed by Pedakanti Reddis (44.50) and Motati Reddis (48.00%), whereas in Desuri Reddis the frequency of rollers and non-rollers was equal (50.00%). The percentage of tongue folders was higher in Kodide Reddis (61.50%) and lower in Desuri Reddis (37.50%). In comparison with other populations of Andhra Pradesh the Reddis showed a relatively lower frequency of tongue rollers and a higher frequency of tongue folders.

INTRODUCTION

In the present paper an attempt has been made to discern the pattern of variation of tongue rolling and tongue folding among four sub-castes of Reddis namely, Desuri Reddis, Pedakanti Reddis, Motati Reddis, and Kodide Reddis predominately found in Chittoor, Cuddapah and Ananthapur districts of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh, South India.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

The Reddis of our study are a Telugu speaking ethnic group of Andhra Pradesh. The Reddis are primarily a single group and are split into many endogamous groups called sub-castes during the course of their migration towards the southern parts of the country. Thurston (1909) has rightly put it saying that it is easy to enumerate all the varieties of rice, than giving the names of sections into which the caste splits; more than 88 sub-castes are reported among Reddis and are found over the entire Andhra Pradesh and some parts of the neighbouring Tamilnadu and Karnataka states. Sub-caste endogamy is followed and monogamy is the gen-

eral pattern of marriage among them. Consanguineous marriages are frequent (40%) among them. Agriculture is the mainstay of their economy. The subjects for the study consist of a random sample of 800 unrelated male individuals aged between 20 and 50 years, 200 from each of these four sub-castes of Reddis inhabiting 30 randomly selected villages of the region.

Following the method of Liu and Hsu (1949) observations were made by asking each of the subjects to roll/fold his tongue without the aid of the teeth. After due repetitions of the rolling/folding ability, the subjects were recorded in the data sheets as rollers and folders. The tests were repeated thrice to confirm the results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Frequency distribution of tongue rolling is shown in table 1, which shows that the frequency of non-rollers was higher than rollers in Kodide Reddis (71.50%), followed by Pedakanti Reddis (55.50%) and Motati Reddis (52.00%), whereas in the Desuri Reddis the rollers and non-rollers (50.00%) had equal frequencies. The percentage of rollers in Kodide Reddis was very low (28.50%) indeed and inter-population comparisons showed that this group differed significantly

Table 1: Distribution of tongue rolling among Reddis of Andhra Pradesh

Reddi sub-caste	Tongue rolling(%)		Inter sub-caste χ^2 (d.f. = 1)			
	Rollers	Non-Motati rollers	Pedakanti Reddi	Kodide Reddi	Desuri Reddi	
Motati Reddi	48.00	52.00	0.2464	8.0495**	.0800	
Pedakanti Reddi	44.50	55.50		5.5225*	1.5594	
Kodide Reddi	28.50	71.50			9.6931**	
Desuri Reddi	50.00	50.00				

*Significant at 5% level of probability

** Significant at 1% level of probability

with all others while the rest of the groups showed insignificant differences among them, as revealed by the Chi-square test. On the whole the four sub Castes present their heterogenetic for the trait of tongue rolling as revealed by the statistically significant value ($\chi^2 = 23.39$, d.f. = 3, $p < 0.01$).

The percentage of tongue folders (Table 2) was the highest in Kodide Reddis (61.50%) and lowest in Desuri Reddis (37.50%). The frequency of non-folders was relatively higher in Motai Reddis (51.00%) and Desuri Reddis (62.50%), whereas in Koddide Reddis (61.50%)

Table 2: Distribution of tongue folding among Reddis of Andhra Pradesh

Reddi sub-caste	Tongue folding(%)		Inter sub -caste χ^2 (d.f. = 1)			
	Folders	Non-Folders	Motai Reddi	Pedakanti Reddi	Kodide Reddi	Desuri Reddi
Motai Reddi	49.00	51.00		0.0800	3.1598	2.6941
Pedakanti Reddi	51.00	49.00			2.2400	3.6938
Kodide Reddi	61.50	38.50				11.5212*
Desuri Reddi	37.50	62.50				

*Significant at 0.1% level of probability

and Pedakanti Reddis (51.00%) the frequency of folders was high. The Chi-square comparisons showed that only Kodide Reddis and Desuri Reddis show statistically significant difference for the trait ($\chi^2 = 11.52$, d.f. = 1, $p < 0.01$). However, highly significant differences were observed for this trait among the four Reddi sub castes ($\chi^2 = 23.22$, d.f. = 3, $p < 0.01$).

The frequency of tongue rollers in the Andhra Pradesh state ranges from 42.86% in Nandimandalam Kshatriyas to 80.73% in Nayi Brahmins among caste populations, and from 61.54% in Yanadis to 84.31% in Boyas among tribal populations. The present Reddi sub-castes showed relatively low frequencies. Only the Pattusali (51.11%) and Nandimandalam Kshatriya (42.86%) caste populations show similarities whereas all the tribal population re-

ported fall apart from the present series. The frequency of tongue folders ranges between 84.92% (Ediga) and 16.67% (Dhobi) among caste populations and between 54.87% (Bagatha) and 23.31% (Yerukala) among tribal populations. Only Madiga (37.70%) caste group and Bagatha (54.87%) tribal group come closer to the Reddis studied here.

The present study demonstrates that both among tongue rolling and tongue folding show significant inter sub-caste differences among Reddis of Andhra Pradesh. Also, compared to other caste and tribal populations of the state, the present sub-castes of Reddis show much heterogeneity.

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