

Khah is an Indo-Aryan language of North Western Subgroup of Pahari Languages spoken primarily in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir. It has an almost two lac number of speakers. It is bordered in the east by Bhaderwahi and Kishtawari, in the west by Pahari and Gojri, in the south by Dogri and in the north by Kahmiri. khah language is one of the major language of Ramban district . Khah tribe is an ancient tribe who have migrated from central Asia. They have ruled over Pir Panchaal and Chinaab valley regions of Jammu and Kashmir for centuries. Khah is an endonym of khasha. It is the language of khasha tribe who according to an ancient history of Kashmir Nilmat puran have got settled in between vitasta (jehlam) to kistvata (kishtwar) .Another history book Rajtrangni make mention of khasha settlement in Rajapori, Lohar kota,Punchh,Vanshala and other places. Mahabhartar also mentions khashas along with other tribes like Malavas, Darads, Sakas and Yavanas . Laxman S Thakur has also written about the history of Khasha tribe. Desh Prasad Saklani in his book "Ancient Communities Of The Himaliya" has also written about Khashas along with other communities. KD Maini in his book in urdu 'mukamal Tarikh e Rajouri' also make mention of Khah tribe. Marghoob Banihali has also talked of Khashas. Manshoor Banihali have also mentioned that original name of this language is khah. GM Shad in his book in Kashmiri (mavlankvan ) has also written that khah is the Kashmiri name of Khashas. A linguistic survey of kashmiri dialects part-II also make mention of Khah language. Shabir Hussain Shabir have also talked of history of khah tribe . Abdur Rahman Sohil has also made comparative analysis of these two languages. Mohd Iqbal Naik has also talked of the original and historical name of khah language. Maulana Ismael Asri have also written that



there are almost 80% khah people who live in this area. He has also written about the vanashala fort located at Khaarwaan although he has named it as pogal fort despite knowing that pogal is more than eight kilometers away from khaarwaan village. Siddheshwar Verma has also talked of khashali. Grierson have mentioned khashas in his volume IX but he has not given any data of this language. Hassan Khoehami in Tarikh e Hassan have also mentioned khahsha tribe. Maneera Marghoob in her book has also talked of Khashas who are called khah. Nazir Ahmed Dhar has talked of Khah morphology in one of his articles. Dr Muhammad Muzamil Sohail have also written various articles on the history and language of Khah tribe. Shakeel Sohail has published a book on a Grammar of Khah Language and various other books. Besides these various other writers Atkinsons, Surya Mani Adhikari, Megha Sharma, Turner, Brightbill, Ishrat Kaashmiri and Zahir Banihali have also talked of Khasha tribe. It should be noted that as per revenue records Deogol is called to the place where headquarters of modern Banihal are situated. In khah language there is a phonetic change of Sanskrit /V/ to /B/ and /Sh/ to /h/ that is why Sanskrit words have undergone changes like van shala has become ban hala modern Banihal, vish lata have become Bishlari and kha sha have become khah. Besides this there are various other words also in khah language borrowed from Sanskrit which have got changed like dasha, posha, shata, shuka, shimbh, basti, eka dasha, chatar dasha, shun, vimsha, shot, sharad etc became daah, poh, hat, hukh, himeh, baaht, kaah, tsodaah, hun, vih, hoT, harad. Similarly viksha, varsant, vena, vivah, vankri, vyanam became baali, band, bhaants, byaah, bangRi, bavnu etc.

The earliest inhabited place van shala is located in khaarwaan area of Neel under Ramsoo Tehsil administration of Ramban



district Jammu and Kashmir. There are still remnants of the damaged walls of rectangular fort built on a massive rocks guarded naturally on three sides, pond, springs, gallows (death well/phansi KooT) and various other things as mentioned in Rajtrangni. Besides the place names mentioned in Rajtrangni and tarikh e Hasan are same as Dhanya- Dhanmeh, SankaT-TaTka/ Shrunga, Van shala- Banhala, Vishlata- BichlaRi , Nalika-Nachlana, Khuhal \_ KhaR desh etc . khashas were migrated from central Asia and they have almost occupied Northern India .They were speaking what is presently called khah language .With the passage of time people from different got settled around the fort. Some people from Rajisthan, Himachal and Kashmir who migrated from the very beginning left their mother tongue Rajasthani, Himachali and Kashmiri and adopted Khah the dominant language of the region .Some people who migrated at later stages have kept their mother tongue alive. That is why most of the peoples with different surnames re settled around the Vanshala fort. Khah culture and tradition are deeply rooted in the history and geography of the region. The people of Khahistaan have a rich cultural heritage that is reflected in their unique customs, traditions, music, art, and literature. . Majority of the Khahs strictly adhered to the Customs and rituals of the community. From birth of a child to a death ceremony certain customs are prevail in the community. One of the most striking features of Khah culture is its diversity. The region is home to various ethnic and religious communities, each with its distinct cultural practices and traditions. Khah culture and tradition are an integral part of the region's identity and heritage. The resilience and diversity of the Khah people have enabled them to preserve their cultural heritage despite the challenges they have faced. The unique cultural elements of Khahistaan are a testament to the region's rich history and the creativity and ingenuity of its people.



There has been misconception regarding Khah that it is not the name of any language despite having so much of authentic proofs. Various writers have taken data from the Khahistan [areas where Khah is spoken] but have published it on the name Poguli and Khana etc. Some of these writers have mentioned that the original name of this language is Khah along with the historical proofs. The data of the original Poguli speakers settled in Senabhati, Hochak, Alinbas, Paristan have not ever been analyzed. The language of Pogal , Maligam and Dardahi Makerkote areas is purely khah because they can communicate easily but the language of Senabhati, Paristan, Alinbas and Hochak areas is not mutually intelligible with khah. Poglian wants to maintain their supremacy by keeping their unfounded poguli as name of the language and region.

