

Bangani and languages of north-west South Asia

Bangani is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in the Indian Himalayas near the border between the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It belongs to the so-called West Pahārī group of languages. Zoller has been conducting field work in this area since the early 1980s. In two articles published in 1988 and 1989 it was claimed that Bangani contains some words which are of Indo-European but not Indo-Aryan origin. This claim led both to acceptance and sceptical reactions. However, after a field campaign in the early 1990s conducted by Anvita Abbi and her students of linguistics from the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi the data were confirmed. After two more field trips in 2009 financed by the University of Oslo, Zoller is now finalizing a monograph on Bangani and other languages of north-west South Asia. The monograph presents much additional data which confirms the existence of words of Indo-European but not Indo-Aryan origin. In addition, much evidence is presented which shows that the three north-western language groups of West Pahārī, Dardic and Nuristani can be seen as constituting a distinct sub-branch within Indo-Aryan.