CLE SEMINAR SERIES-III

Topic: Existence of Diphthongs in Urdu Language and related Issues during Annotation process

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Abstract:

In Phonetics, a *diphthong* is a vowel combination usually involving a quick but smooth movement from one vowel to another, often interpreted by listeners as a single vowel sound, syllable or phoneme. Like other languages, diphthongs also exist in Urdu language. During annotation process, our linguist team has finalized 7 diphthongs in Urdu language up till now; study on other possible diphthong combinations is in progress. Diphthongs still create issue in segment labeling/marking. Diphthongs follow rules similar to the vowels. In phonological patterns, *diphthongs* are labeled using a single "V" (not "V V") because they act as one sound. There are three parts to the diphthong: the first vowel (starting position, and often referred to as the on glide), the transition period, and the second vowel (the final position, or the direction of movement, and often referred to as the off glide). The process of moving from one vowel sound to another is called *gliding*, and thus another name for *diphthong* is *gliding vowel*.

It is important to note that the close combination of the two vowels causes each of the vowels to lose its pure quality (The vowels in combination behaving as one sound, lose their original sound); the acoustic pattern of diphthongs changes gradually due to change in vocal tract configuration of the vowels forming the diphthongs. A diphthong has three types: *Falling diphthongs, closing diphthongs* and *centering diphthongs*. CISAMPA is being used to label diphthongs during annotation process.