

Mother's elder sister or mother's younger sister

The lexical variants presented in the note below are arranged according to their frequency of occurrence in the survey data—from most frequent to least frequent.

The words reported to refer to the kin relationship 'mother's elder sister' or 'mother's younger sister' show variation in different regions of Maharashtra. The kinship term *mawši* was reported widely in all districts of Maharashtra. In addition, the following words were noted for this concept in different dialects of Marathi: *mauši*, *moṭhi mauši maši*, *mosi*, *məsi*, *moṭhi ai*, *ai*, *aimoṭhi kʰala*, *ḷiji*, *ḷija*, *moṭhya as*, *moṭhas*, *ais*, *ḷijis*, *pʰuis*, *dʰaklis*, *dʰakli*, *məmmi*, *bəḍi məmmi*, *moṭhi məmmi*, *wəḍəy*, *wəḍai*, *aya*, *moṭhi ayo*, *bail*, *pʰui*, *aḷi*, *aḷibai*, *kaku*, *məyṭi*, *hirma*, *aṅṭi*, *dʰoḍawa*, *dʰalal*, *moṭhi ma*, *moṭhi may*, *malpi*, *kʰəlmay*, *dəhlḷa* etc.

The word *malpi* was reported only in Gondiya district and Tumsar taluka of Bhandara district. The use of the word *kʰala* was observed in a specific socio-linguistic group. In certain regions of the tribal belt, a notable pattern was observed wherein the words *mauši*, *ḷiji*, *ai*, *moṭhi ai*, *dʰakli*, *pʰui* were suffixed with '-s' as noted above. The word *wəḍai* was mainly reported in Palghar district and Salokha village in Karjat taluka of Raigad district. The word *hirma* was found only in Chinchghar village in Murud taluka of Raigad district whereas the word *pʰui* was reported only in Baple village in Alibaug taluka of Raigad district. The word *moṭhi məmmi* was noted in northern Maharashtra while the word *bəḍi məmmi* was observed only in Gondiya, Bhandara, and Nagpur districts. The word *dʰoḍawa* was reported only in Kasgi village in Omerga taluka of Osmanabad district. Similarly, the word *məsi* was noted only in Kasa-Tedhwa village of Gondiya district. The word *kaku* was received only in Baple village of Alibaug taluka of Raigad district whereas the word *ḷiji* was reported in Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Raigad and villages adjacent to Raigad in Mulshi taluka of Pune district.

Iravati karve (1953: 168) notes that the kinship term *mawši* is also used to refer to one's father's younger wife. This meaning has emerged as a result of the practice of marrying one's wife's younger sister.

References

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