

Topic: 8

LANGUAGES

URDU

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan since 1947. The main differences between the Urdu and Hindustani is that Urdu is conventionally written in **Nastaliq calligraphy** style while Hindi is conventionally written in **Devanāgarī**.

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan and is spoken and understood throughout the country, where it shares official language status with English. It is used in education, literature, and office and court business.

The word *Urdu* itself comes from a Turkic word *ordu*, "tent" or "army," from which English also gets the word "horde." Hence Urdu is sometimes called "**Lashkarī zabān**" or "the language of the army." Furthermore, armies of India were often composed of soldiers with various native tongues. Hence, Urdu was the language chosen to address the soldiers, as it abridged several languages.

In 1947, Urdu was established as the national language of Pakistan, in the hope that this move would unite and homogenize the various ethnic groups of the new nation. Urdu suddenly went from the language of a minority to the language of the majority. Today, Urdu is taught throughout Pakistani schools and spoken in government positions.

Key Points:

- It is a mixture of *Turkish, Persian, Punjabi* & other languages.
- *Amir Khusrau* (1253-1325) had a prominent position in its development.
- It was used in the Mughal period dates back as far as the era of the sultans of Delhi.
- Urdu was decided to be the **national language of Pakistan** as it was the **symbol of unity** between the different regions of the new country.
- Urdu was chosen because of **rich literally & poetry** background which helped to promote its use.
- The language received a boost when Emperor Muhammad Shah & Bahdur Shah Zafar took an interest in promoting it. Famous poets are Mir, Sauda, Dard & Ghalib.
- **Ali Garh Muslim University** also became a center for the study of Urdu & produced talented writers like Hasrat Mohani, Majaz & Jazbi.
- In the early 20th century Dr. *Allama Iqbal*, *Dr. Nazir Ahmed*, *Mohammad Husain Azad*, *Maulana Altaf Husain Hali* & *Allama Shibli* greatly enriched Urdu prose.

- Its link to the Islamic religion has also been very important, most notably with the **translation of the Holy Quran** by Shah Abdul Qadir.
- In the 20th century Urdu **played a major role in struggle for independence.**
- British made English the official language but some of its educational institutes like **Fort William College** took interest in Urdu & promoted it.
- Quaide-e-Azam was keen to promote Urdu as he saw it as a **unifying force in the country & linking language for all the provinces of the country.**

- Urdu set as the medium of radio & television besides medium of instruction in many schools of Pakistan.
- Urdu Plays & films were prepared & became popular soon. Urdu novels, poetry, magazines & newspapers were written which were liked by the people & widely read.
- The government of Pakistan took different steps for the promotion of Urdu.

- (i) **Anjuman-e-Taraqia urdu & Akadmy Adbiatt Pakistan**
- (ii) As national language in the constitution of 1956, 1962, 1973.
- (iii) Urdu teaching & research at M.A, M.Phil & PhD levels.
- (iv) NIC in Urdu.
- (v) Promotion through Electronic & Print Media.

SINDHI

Sindhi is the language of the Sindh region. It is the third most spoken language of Pakistan, and the official language of Sindh in Pakistan, The government of Pakistan issues **national identity cards** to its citizens only in two languages, Sindhi and Urdu. Its main influence was thus a local version of spoken form of Sanskrit.

Sindhi is taught as a first language in the schools of Sindh and as a second language in Balochistan in Pakistan. Sindhi has a vast vocabulary and a very old literary tradition. This trend has made it a favourite of many writers and consequently a vast volume of literature and poetry have been written in Sindhi.

Key Points:

- Compared with Urdu, Sindhi is an old language which is being spoken in the province of Sindh.
- Documents show that as far as the 12th century it was spoken in the same form as it is today.
- Before the arrival of Muslims, Sindhi was written in 'Marwari' & ARZ Nagari ways of language.
- Sindhi has been influenced by the both Arabic & the languages brought by the Turkish tribes & Persians.
- The most famous poets of Sindhi are *Makhdum Nuh of Hala* & *Qazi Qazan of Thatta*.

- Sindhi literature was on its peak during the *somrroo* period among 1050-1300 & from 1685-1783.
- The poetry of *Sachal Sarmast* & *Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai* is particularly famous for spread of Islam, Humanity & peace.
- In **1948, Sindhi Literary Board** was set up & authors like Pir Ali Muhammad Rashdi, Faqir Nabi Bux & G. Allana wrote many books to promote the language.
- In 1954, **Bazm-e-Talib-ul-Maula** was set up to promote its literature.
- A '**Sarmast**' academy was established in the memory of sachal Sarmast.
- A **Sindhology department** was established at Sindh University Jamshoru.
- Several newspapers published in Sindhi, such as **Ibrat, Naw-i-Sind** and **Khadim-I-Watan** besides a number of Weeklies.

PASHTTO

Pashto also known as **Afghani**, and *Pathani*, In Pakistan, Pashto is spoken in the provinces of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FATA, and Balochistan, as well as parts of Mianwali and Attock districts of Punjab province. Modern Pashto-speaking communities are also found in the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad in Sindh. With close to 7 million ethnic Pashtuns by some estimates, Karachi hosts one of the largest Pashtun populations in the world.

Key points:

- Pashto is the language spoken by the people of KPK & in the northern area of Pakistan.
- It is influenced by Arabic, Persian & Greek.
- The history of Pashto literature can be divided into three periods.
 - (i) first one starts from 2nd to the 13th century & its first poet was Ami Khan Pehivan but the most famous was *Bayazid Ansari* who wrote first book on Sufism, 'khair-ul-Bian'.
 - (ii) The second begins from the Muslim invasions on India in the early 13th century & lasted for 100 years & in this period its quality was on the peak. In this age the well-known literary personalities were Sadat Ali Khan, Amir Mohammad Ansari & Hazra Mian Umer.
 - (iii) The third period extends to the establishment of British rule & it was also a golden age for Pashto literature as high quality writing was produced. Famous writers of this age are Arkhund Dardeza & **Khushal Khan Khtak** & Sufi poet *Rehman Babba*.
- Sahibzada Abdul Qayum worked tirelessly to increase the political awareness in the people of NWFP & because of his efforts **Islamia College** was set up in Peshawar where Pashto was taught & soon it became the centre of freedom.
- Within three years of independence, Peshawar University was established where Pashto is taught up to Post Graduate level.
- An **academy** for the promotion of Pashto was set up in 1954 & it was initially headed by Maulana Abdul Qadir. This academy prepared a dictionary of Pashto language which is widely accepted.

PUNJABI

Punjabi is the mother tongue of the majority of people in Pakistan. According to last census 60.43 per cent Pakistanis spoke punjabi, followed by Pushto for 13.14 per cent, Sindhi for 11.77 per cent, Urdu for 7.60 per cent and Baluchi for 3.02 per cent. The rich tradition of Punjabi literature, going back to the 12th century AD when Baba Farid composed his poetry in a highly developed and sophisticated Punjabi language.

Key points:

- Punjabi is the language spoken in the most populous of Pakistan's province, the Punjab but also in other areas like Azad Kashmir & NWFP.
- It is an easily understood language & it has been given various names throughout the history such as 'Masoodi', Al-Hindi & Hindko.
- It is thought that in **1080** *Hafiz Barkurdar* was the first person to have used the term 'Punjabi' to describe the language.
- Punjabi has a long history .first it was written in *Gurmukhi* Script but during the latter years of the Mughals, Arabic script was used.
- Punjabi has been influenced by many other languages such as Sindhi, Pashto, Persian, Arabic, Hindi, and Turkish & English.
- The early Punjabi literature consists of folk tales among them are *Heer Ranjha, Sassi-Pannu, Sohni Mahiwal* are widely known.
- Sufii poets such as *Baba Farid Ganjshakar, Sultan Baho* wrote their famous works in Punjabi.
- Bullhe shah composed mystical & melodious Kafis which are commonly sung these days.

- At the beginning of 20th century novels, short stories & dramas were published in Punjabi but later books on academic subjects like Law, Medicine, and History & Philosophy have also been published in the language.
- Punjabi poetry is famous & it brought new mediums, ghazal & nazam.
- **Quran** has also been translated in this language by Mohammad Ali Faig.
- **Ustad Damman, Sharif Kunjahi, Ahmed Rahi & Munir Niazi** are the major exponents of the new wave of Punjabi.
- Punjabi literature is now taught up to MA level at the **University of Punjab**.
- The **radio, television & the film** have provided immense impetus to the recent Punjabi writing.
- Punjabi films have gained unprecedented popularity. Punjabi theatre is also very famous.

BALOCHI

- Balochi is spoken in the largest province of Pakistan, Balochistan.
 - There are two main kinds of Balochi languages, Sulemanki & Mekrani.
 - Balochi was brought here by nomadic tribes of North West Iran. As it was brought by nomad people, there is not enough development in this language.
 - Jam Darang is considered an important Balochi poet.
 - Balochi language was first time known outside the region when British traveler W.Leech reported in the 'Journal of Asiatic Society' about it.
 - Before partition Balochi literature was beginning to decline but after partition steps were taken to promote it.
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- **Radio Pakistan Karachi** began broadcasts in Balochi.
 - Famous Balochi poets are Atta Shad & Ishaq Shamin.
 - Famous writers are Gul Khan Nazir & Azad Jamal Din.
 - **Quetta University** offers Master's degree in Balochi.
 - The **Balochi literary Association** was set up which published many magazines and articles in Balochi language.
 - A weekly magazine known as "**Nan Kessan**" was published. A monthly known as "**Olassis**" was also published.
 - Translation of the Bible has also been published in Balochi language.

PAST PAPERS QUESTIONS:

Question No.1: How successful has Pakistan been in promoting its regional languages? Explain your answer.

14

Nov. 2000, Q.2 c

Question No. 2: Why did Pakistan choose Urdu as its national language? 7

Nov. 2001 Q.1 b

Question No. 3: how successful has been the promotion of the following regional languages in Pakistan between 1947 & 1988.

(I) Punjabi

(II) Pushto

(III) Sindhi?

Explain your answer with reference to all three of the languages. 14

June 2002, Q.2 c

Question No. 4: The development of Pushto has been promoted more than any other Pakistani regional language between 1947 & 1988. Give reasons why you

might agree & disagree with this statement. 14
Nov. 2003. Q.3 c

Question No.5: Why was Urdu chosen as the national language of Pakistan? 7
June 2004, Q. 4 b

Question No. 6: How important was the development of regional languages to Pakistan between 1947 & 1980? Explain your answer.
14
Nov. 2004, Q.3 c

Question No.7: Why did Pakistan choose Urdu as its national language? 7
Nov. 2005, Q.2 b

Question No.8: The promotion of regional languages in Pakistan between 1947 & 1988 has been more successful than the promotion of Urdu. Do you agree, explain your answer. 14
June 2006, Q.1 c

Question No.9: Sindhi was promoted more than other regional language between 1947 & 1988. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.
14
Nov.2007 Q.1 c

Question No.10: has the promotion of Urdu been more successful than that of any regional language in Pakistan between 1947 and 1988? Explain your answer.
14
June 2009, Q.1 c

Question No.11: why have regional languages been promoted by the Pakistani government since 1947?
7
Nov.2009 Q.2 b

Question No.12: how has the government promoted the development of Balochi since 1947?
4
Nov.2010 Q.2 a

Question No.13: Punjabi has been promoted more than other regional language between 1947 & 1999. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.
14
june2011 Q.2 c

Question No.14: Explain the choice of Urdu in 1947 as the national language of Pakistan.
7
Nov.2011 Q.1 b

Question No.15: Language is extremely important in the development of any nation. A common language helps to build a shared understanding of what a nation believes in. Urdu became the national language of Pakistan but, due to the diversity of languages and culture across the country, many regional languages have been promoted by the government. One of these is Punjabi.

How has the Pakistan government promoted the development of Punjabi? 4
Nov. 2012 Q.2 a

Question No.16: Why have regional languages been promoted by the Pakistan government since 1947?

June 2013 Q.1 b

Question No.17: 1 Read the source below carefully to answer question (a).

After Independence, Urdu became the national language as it was a unifying force in the new country. It was seen as the link language for all the provinces to provide for the cultural and educational needs of the people. However, it was also recognised that regional languages had an important role to play in the newly formed country. One of these was Sindhi.

(a) How has Pakistan promoted the development of Sindhi since 1947?

Nov. 2013 Q 1.c

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 16:

- Regional languages were promoted because they were spoken by a large number of people. Government also believed that the promotion will be helpful in national unity and integrity because promotion of language and culture gives a sense of pride among people.
- Punjabi, Sindhi and Pashto have a vast literature and had an important role in independence movement and creation of Pakistan. So it was necessary to promote these languages.
- Balochi language had little development before 1947 and its literature was in decline. Therefore Balochi was promoted to bring it in line with other regional languages.
- Urdu was declared as the national language. Promotion of regional language was necessary so that people of different provinces may not feel that Urdu was being imposed on them and their own language was being ignored.
- It was also felt that the literature and work undertaken by authors in such areas as Sindh should be kept alive and so the government set up bodies to promote it such as the Sindhi Literary Board in 1948.
- Many languages have played an important role in the history of the region, eg Pushto literature had an important role in creating opposition to British rule and the movement for independence.