

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION OF PAKISTAN UNDER URDU LANGUAGE

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Abstract

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. Urdu language is the first brick upon which whole building of Pakistan is built. In pronunciation both Hindi in India and Urdu in Pakistan are same but in script Indian choose their religious writing style Sanskrit also called Devanagari as Muslims of Pakistan choose Arabic script for writing Urdu language. Urdu language is based on two nation theory which is the basis of the creation of Pakistan. There are two nations in Indian Sub-continent (i) Hindu, and (ii) Muslims therefore Muslims of Indian sub-continent chanted for separate Muslim Land Pakistan in Indian sub-continent thus struggled for achieving separate homeland Pakistan where Muslims can freely practice their religious duties which is not possible in a country where non-Muslims are in majority thus Urdu which is derived from Arabic, Persian, and Turkish declared the national language of Pakistan as official language is still English thus steps are required to be taken at Government level to make Urdu as official language of Pakistan. There are various local languages of Pakistan mainly: Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, Kashmiri, Balti and it is fundamental right of all citizens of Pakistan under article 28 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 to protect, preserve, and promote their local languages and local culture but the national language of Pakistan is Urdu according to article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973.

Purpose – This research is an analysis of the national language of Pakistan Urdu, its historical background, its link with struggle for creation of Pakistan (Pakistan Movement), its impact on the people of Pakistan, its role in separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan in 1971 and its implementation as official language of Pakistan according to instructions prescribed under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973.

Design/methodology/approach – This study is routed in qualitative method of research to analyze, examine, review, and inquire into the National Language of Pakistan Urdu, its historical background, its link with Pakistan Movement and separation of East Pakistan, and its implementation as Official Language of Pakistan under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973.

Finding – This study would help to remove misconceptions among people generally that Persian was the national language of India when British All India Company captured New Delhi in 1857 but actually at that point of time national language of India was Rekhta, or Hindustani which is derived from Arabic, Persian, and Turkish or tempered form of Persian but not actually Persian and the script of Hindustani was Arabic and not Sanskrit or Devanagari. Hindus started a movement to make Sanskrit or Devanagari as official script for Hindustani as Muslims of India opposed them and started movement for protection, preservation, and promotion of national language of British India Hindustani which ended up in creation of Pakistan in 1947 where Urdu is the national language of Pakistan under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 and the Government of Pakistan is required to take steps to make Urdu as Official Language of Pakistan. Analysis of the historical background of Urdu language as many think that Urdu language has no historical background thus it is necessary to correct them and remove their misconceptions by historical examination of the Urdu

language. Moreover inquiry into the role of Urdu language in Pakistan Movement as it is the first flame where Muslims of Indian sub-continent adhered that Muslims of India cannot live jointly with Hindus of India under Hindu leadership where rights of Muslims cannot be protected as Hindus are struggling, striving to implement Sanskrit Devanagari script as official script of India which is religious script of Hinduism which cannot be accepted by Muslims thus Muslims of Indian Sub-continent struggled for separate Muslim Land Pakistan and successfully achieved the goal on 14th August 1947.

Research limitations/implications – This study is an analysis of the Urdu Language as national language of Pakistan and its role in Pakistan Movement and its role historically in bringing two nation theory that Muslims and Hindus of India are two different nations though their language is same which was called Rekhta, or Hindustani but Hindus choose Sanskrit Devanagari as script for writing Hindustani thus their language called Hindi and Muslims of Pakistan choose Arabic script for writing Urdu thus ending into two different languages and two different nations and two different countries. This study will not go into detail analysis of every aspect of Pakistan Movement and detail analysis of different local languages of Pakistan and role of Urdu as national language of Pakistan in separation of East Pakistan as Bangladesh in 1971 and stick to historical background of Urdu, its role in Pakistan Movement, its role as national language of Pakistan and its implementation as official language of Pakistan.

Practical implications – This study aims to point out and erase misconceptions among people generally over linkage of Urdu with Persian and with Hindustani as well as to clarify role of Urdu language in Pakistan Movement and its role in bringing two nation theory which is the basis of Pakistan Movement which resulted into separation of British India into Muslim majority part Pakistan and Hindu majority part India.

Originality/Value – This study is personal and original work of the author on the chosen topic and there are not many related articles written on the topic and this research is conducted keeping in view principles of piracy and illegal methods of doing research.

Keywords: Pakistan, Urdu, Pakistan Movement, Two Nation Theory, Rekhta, Hindustani.

Research type: This study is general review of the national language of Pakistan Urdu, its historical background, its role in Pakistan Movement, and its implementation as official language of Pakistan as guaranteed under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973.

Introduction

Urdu language is the modern term used for Rekhta or Hindustani which was the national and official language of Mughal Empire in later part of 18th Century and which is mostly derived from Arabic, Persian, and Turkish languages. Urdu is the basis of two nation theory upon which the whole struggle for Muslim land in British India is based. It is the national language of Pakistan under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. Urdu language is the first brick upon which whole building of Pakistan is built. Two nation theory means that there are two main nations exist in British India (i) Muslims, and (ii) Hindus. Both Muslims and Hindus have different languages, different cultures, different religions, therefore they cannot live peacefully under opposite leadership as Hindus are in majority thus there was a fear among Muslim minority of British India which was the biggest minority in British India that when British leave India, Hindu majority will rule over Muslims and will not allow Muslims to perform their religious duties and they did when they came into power in 1934 General Elections and in 1937 Provincial Elections and they imposed many Hindu religious duties upon non-Hindu minorities including Muslims thus when they resigned from their offices on 22nd December 1939, Muhammad Ali Jinnah asked people of India generally and Muslims of India specifically to celebrate the day of deliverance.

Urdu-Hindi Controversy arose in 1867 when Hindu activists demanded Hindi to be chosen as official language of British India as script of Hindi is in Sanskrit which is the religious script of Hinduism. Muslim leaders under the leadership of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan demanded that Hindustani which is an old name of Urdu should continue to be the national and official language of British India. British rejected demands of Hindus but Muslims adhered the problem is not small as Hindus are imposing their religious script on Muslims. How more will they impose when they come in power as they are in majority and when British leave India? Hindus will impose their religious virtues on Muslims and they will not allow Muslims to freely perform their religious duties as can be seen in present day India where Muslims are not allowed to slaughter cows etc.

The struggle for separate Muslim land in British India finally started on 23rd March 1940 at Minto-Park which is presently known as Greater Iqbal Park where under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah from the platform of All India Muslim League, Muslims of British India demanded a separate land for Muslims of British India. Muslims majority provinces of British India should be made a separate Muslim State where Muslims can freely perform their religious duties without any fear thus finally the struggle came to an end successfully on 14th August 1947 when Pakistan came into being under Indian Independence Act 1947.

In speaking, both Urdu and Hindi are same except few words in Hindi from Hindu religious scripture and in Urdu from Muslim religious scripture but the main difference between Urdu and Hindi is the writing script. Urdu language writing script is same as the writing script of Arabic language which is the religious language of Muslims in which the Holy Quran is revealed. Hindi writing script is same as of Sanskrit or Devanagari which is the religious language of Hinduism thus both Hindus and Muslims cannot agree to accept writing style of their opposite religions therefore both struggled for making their wish come true and finally Hindus of British India got India and Muslims of British India got Pakistan on 14-15 August 1947.

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. There are other local languages of Pakistan mainly: Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, Kashmiri, Balti and it is fundamental right of all citizens of Pakistan under article 28 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 to protect, preserve, and promote their local languages and local culture. Though Urdu is the national language of Pakistan but still English language is used as official language of Pakistan. It is therefore recommended to the Government of Pakistan and all concerned competent authorities of Pakistan to strive for making Urdu as official language of Pakistan as desired by the founding fathers of Pakistan as well as by Constitution makers under article 251 of the Construction of Pakistan 1973.

Hindustani

Mainly Urdu and Hindi both were jointly called Hindustani as there is not much difference in speaking therefore with combination of Urdu and Hindi, it is the 3rd most spoken language of the World after English, and Chinese (Riaz, 2010). Hindustani is the language of the people of subcontinent mainly people of Pakistan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka and some part of Bangladesh. Hindustani emerged as Contract Language in India due to increase linguistic diversity in Muslim rule which was initially started when Mahmud of Ghazni conquered New Delhi. Later, Muhammad of Ghor and his student Qutb al-Din Aibak ruled over India (Mukhtar, 2015). Amir Khusrau in his writings used Hindustani and called it Hindavi. Hindustani in Arabic script emerged in Muslim rule over India as majority rulers were from

Turk or Afghan origin (Islam, 2017). Later in Mughal Empire Persian was introduced as official language of India but Hindustani in Arabic text emerged as the language of the people which is influenced by Arabic, Persian, and Turkish. In the reign of Mughals, this new shape of language emerged as Rekhta which means mixed as it is mixture of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish (Alam, 1998).

In 18th Century, this mixed language emerged as Urdu Language which means Language of the Camp as it was the common language of the Mughal Army. In 1850, Urdu with English was made the first official language of British India. On the other hand, Hindus started efforts to displace Arabic text of Hindustani in the form of Urdu Language thus they started using Sanskrit script derived from their religious scripture. In the reign of British Empire, they used the term Hindustani, Urdu, and Hindi interchangeably as language of the administration of British India. By the time term Hindustani vanished and replaced by Urdu for Muslims as they use Arabic and Persian script and Hindi for Non-Muslim Hindus as they use Sanskrit script (Fritz, 1970). In 18th Century, Hindustani used to be called Rekhta. It is an early form of Urdu and Hindi derived and influenced by Muslim rule over India thus it is a mixture of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish therefore it is called Rekhta means mixture (Bailey, 1930). Famous Urdu Poet Mirza Ghalib said 'You are not the grandmaster of Rekhta-They say, in past ages, there was one called Mir'.

Hindustani is the most spoken language in India and Pakistan. It is called Hindi in India with Sanskrit or Devanagari script and it is called Urdu in Pakistan with Arabic script. With the combination of Hindi and Urdu as Hindustani, it is the 4th most spoken language of the World (Dud et al, 2017). Hindi mostly derive its formal vocabulary from Sanskrit as Urdu mostly derive its formal vocabulary from Arabic, Persian, and Turkish. In speaking, both Hindi and Urdu are same and jointly used to be called Hindustani as in last years of Mughal Empire and with the emergence of East India Company and thereafter the establishment of British India in 1857, it was the time when Hindi-Urdu controversy arose and was the base line and core factor behind division between Hindus and Muslims of British India (Singh, 2011). Thereafter, Muslims of British India started to struggle for making Urdu as national language and Hindu community started movement for making Hindi as national and official language of India. All India Muslim League established on 30th December, 1906 and was the main political party representing Muslims of British India and Indian National Congress established on 28th December in 1885 was the main political party representing Hindus of British India (Mukhtar, 2016).

All India Muslim League won majority seats of Muslims and Indian National Congress won majority seats overall in 1945 General Elections conducted in British India. Thenceforth, Pakistan came into being on territories of British India where All India Muslim League won majority seats and in rest of the territories India came into being under Indian Independence Act 1947. Though there was a controversy in making Urdu as national language of Pakistan before 1971 as East Pakistani people strive to make Bengali as national language of Pakistan but initially both Urdu and Bengali were chosen national languages of Pakistan in 1956 and in 1962 Constitutions. Later in 1973 after separation of East and West Pakistan, under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 it is declared that Urdu is the national language of Pakistan and steps will be taken to make Urdu as official language of Pakistan soon (A 251, Constitution of Pakistan).

Urdu

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. Hindi is the main language of India under article 351 of the Constitution of India 1950 but Urdu is also one of the languages of India under 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India 1950. Urdu and Hindi both are derived from Hindustani but scripts of both languages are different. Initially the native language of India was Khariboli known as old Hindi. Due to conquest of Muslim rulers over India, Muslim and Hindu cultures contacted each other thus an outcome of the mixture is Hindustani language which is though originated in Hindustani religious scriptures but influenced by Arabic, Persian, and Turkish (Everaert, 2010).

There were many names of the distorted form of old Hindi before Urdu as (i) Hindavi, (ii) Hindustani, (iii) Dehlavi, (iv) Lahori, (v) Lashkari. As Hindustani is the mixture of Arabic, Persian and Turkish that is why it was later called Rekhta which means mixture. Urdu means language of Camp as it was the language of Mughal Army in later part of 18th Century. In 1837, East India Company replaced Persian with Urdu as language of its rule over Northern India. After complete rule of British over India in 1857, Urdu-Hindi controversy arisen due to religious, cultural, and political differences between Muslims and Hindus of British India (Sipra, 2013).

Muhammad Ali Jinnah after independence of Pakistan said that only Urdu will be the national language of Pakistan as the whole struggle for making separate Muslim land in British India due to Hindi-Urdu Controversy in which Muslims of British India wanted Urdu to be the national language of India on the other hand Hindus wanted Hindi to be the national and official language of India. Therefore, Urdu is made national language of Pakistan under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 (Abbas et al, 2018).

Article 28 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 states that any section of citizens of Pakistan having distinct language, script or culture may preserve and protect various local languages inside Pakistan as well as diversity of culture due to linkage of Pakistani borders with different countries like China, Afghanistan, Iran, and India. Pashto culture due to linkage of Pakistan with Afghanistan, Iranian culture due to linkage of Iran with Pakistan, Punjabi culture due to linkage of Pakistani Punjab with Indian Punjab, and also linkage of China with Pakistani Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan (Mukhtar, 2016).

According to article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, Urdu is the national language of Pakistan and English is the official language of Pakistan. Steps are required to be taken by concerned competent authorities of Pakistan to make Urdu as official language of Pakistan. Two Constitutional Petitions were filed before Supreme Court of Pakistan, one by Muhammad Kowkab Iqbal in 2003 and one by Syed Mahmood Akhtar Naqvi in 2012 prayed for making Urdu as official language of Pakistan and also prayed for promotion and preservation of local languages by the Provinces. It is observed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan by hearing both petitions jointly that article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 states that national language of Pakistan is Urdu and arrangements shall be made to use Urdu as official language within 15 years. Meanwhile until arrangements are made for Urdu to be the official language, English shall be used as official language of Pakistan.

Petitioners urged that the Government of Pakistan deliberately not implementing article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 and due to non-implementation of article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, societal and linguistic divide is created in the society. Furthermore, after expiration of 15 required years plus more than 27 years, the Government

of Pakistan failed to implement article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. Supreme Court of Pakistan observed that there is no substantial action taken by the concerned authorities of the Government of Pakistan for implementation of article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973.

Supreme Court of Pakistan further stated that there is no interest shown by the concerned authorities of the Government of Pakistan for implementation of article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 thus defiance from implementation of article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 will not be allowed. Non observance of article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan is also violation of article 14 as non-recognition is denying dignity in very real sense. Moreover article 25 rule of law and article 25A right to education is also indirectly violated as when the State refuses to recognize Urdu as official language, it denies Citizens' equality of status and opportunity as well as denying access to economic and political opportunities as majority population of Pakistan are not conversant with English language. Therefore, the Government of Pakistan asked concerned authorities of the Government of Pakistan to start working regularly on priority basis for making Urdu as official language of Pakistan (PLD, 2015).

Conclusion and Recommendations

Urdu is the first brick upon which the building of whole Pakistan is built. It was the first difference point as raised by Hindu activists in 1867 to make Hindi as national language of British India which was opposed by Muslims of British India. Later Sir Syed Ahmed Khan gave two nation theory based on this particular issue with other similar issues as both Muslims and Hindus have different religion, different language, different culture thus they cannot live peacefully under opposite leadership though Hindus lived peacefully under Muslim rulers in past but it is the first time that when British leave India, Hindu majority will rule over Muslims and will impose Hindu religious virtues which are not acceptable by Muslims. The demo showed by Indian National Congress when they came in power in 1934 General Elections and subsequently in 1937 Provincial Elections and imposed many restrictions by stopping Muslims to perform their religious duties, virtues thus when they resigned, leader of All Indian Muslim League Muhammad Ali Jinnah asked Muslims of British India to celebrate the day of deliverance on 22nd December 1939.

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan under article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 and it is highly recommended as discussed in the said article that actions will be taken to make Urdu as official language of Pakistan therefore it is high time for better future of Pakistan to make Urdu as official language of Pakistan as majority people of Pakistan can easily understand Urdu language and they cannot easily understand the present official language of Pakistan English.

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