

A GENERAL PERSPECTIVE OF A LINGUISTIC STUDY OF BASIC URDU VOCABULARY WITH REFERENCE TO ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we will discuss how English language came into contact with Urdu language and will study the outline involved in understanding from English to Urdu.

We know, it substantiates the influence of English on Urdu and demonstrates the conscious and unconscious shift of vocabulary items from one language to another during the interaction between speakers speaking different languages under any circumstances. We hope present study also unravels how people came across basic Urdu vocabulary with reference to English as a good language.

Keywords: Language, Borrowing, Influence, English, Loan Words, Urdu, Contact

I. INTRODUCTION

The name *Urdu* was first used by the poet Ghulam Hamadani Mushafi around 1780. From the 13th century until the end of the 18th century Urdu was commonly known as Hindi. The language was also known by various other names such as *Hindavi* and *Dehlavi*.

Urdu language, evolved from the medieval (6th to 13th century), this language, developed under the influence of the Persian and Arabic languages, both of which have contributed a significant amount of vocabulary to formal speech. Around 99% of Urdu verbs have their roots in Sanskrit and Prakrit.

Although the word *Urdu* itself is derived from the Turkic word *ordu* (army) or *orda*, from which English *horde* is also derived, Urdu and Turkish borrowed from Arabic and Persian, hence the similarity in pronunciation of many Urdu and Turkish words.

According to census 2001 there are between 60 and 70 million native speakers of Urdu across the globe, in which 52 million in India per the 2001 census, approximately 10 million in Pakistan, several hundred thousand in the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, United States, and Bangladesh

Unlike some other languages, English itself has been an insatiable borrower as described by David Crystal (2010) but today's English is a major donor language, a prime source of loaning for many other languages of the world. Likewise, Urdu is under the influence of English and borrowing many words and expressions from English same as more than 120 languages contributed towards the present vocabulary of English. The simplest kind of influence that one language may exert on another is the *borrowing* of words.

There are around 7000 languages spoken all over the world. It has been found that when languages come into contact, there is transfer of linguistic items from one language to another due to the borrowing of words.

the power and authority is captured by two languages - English and Urdu. English, being the language of colonizers of the recent past, is the symbol of power, authority, manner and sophistication. Urdu is the second powerful language. On the other hand, indigenous languages are being neglected by the political quarters and are being devoured by the powerful languages.

The language which has become Urdu having previously been known by a variety of other names. Similarly, for linguistics, the term linguistic first appeared as a noun in the sense of the science of languages in 1837.

II. ENGLISH AS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

In the early twentieth century, English appeared to be the international language. It was adopted as either an official or a second language by a considerable number of countries. In twentieth century, it even reached the areas where it was not before.

By the end of the twentieth century, it became an international language because it had a cosmopolitan vocabulary, inflectional simplicity and natural gender. More than half of the world's technical and scientific periodicals are published in English. It is a widely spoken and written language in the world. No language has ever enjoyed such wide spread popularity.

English is an international language spoken in many countries both as a native and as a second or foreign language. It is taught in schools in almost every country on this earth. It is a living and vibrant language spoken by over 300 million people as their native language.

Approximately 1000 million or one billion people around the world have some knowledge of English either as a native language, as a second language, or as a foreign language.

English is the language of new technology, of computers, software and the internet (Crystal, 2003). So we have no substitute in the field of high-tech communication and the internet; the travel business etc.

III. ETYMOLOGICAL ORIGIN OF BASIC URDU WORDS

Arabic	29.9%
Sanskrit	25.2%
Persian	21.7%
English	7.8%
Prakrit	6.1%

Urdu's vocabulary has borrowings from various languages. A corpus-based quantitative survey of the etymological origins of basic Urdu vocabulary is shown in the adjacent table. Many of the words of Arabic

origin have been adopted through Persian and have different pronunciations and nuances of meaning and usage than they do in Arabic. There are also a smaller number of borrowings from Chagatai, and Portuguese

خ xē खे	ح haif hē बड़ी हे	چ cē चे	ج jim जीम	ث ṭē से	ٹ ṭē टे	ت tē ते	پ pē पे	ب bē बे	ا ālif अलिफ
ص ṣūid सुआद	ش sh शोन	س sīn सीन	ث ṭē से	ز zē जे	ڑ rē रे	ر rē रे	ذ ḏā जाल	ڈ ḏā जाल	د dā दाल
ل lām लाम	گ gāf गाफ	ک kāf काफ	ق qāf काफ	ف fē फे	غ ghān गैन	ع ān ऐन	ظ ẓāf जोए	ط ṭāf तोए	ض ẓūid जुआद
		ے haif yē बड़ी ये	ی yē छोटी ये	ء hamzah हमजा	ہ dō-dāimā hē दोधासी हे	ہ dāimā hē छोटी हे	و wāo वाओ	ن nām नाम	م mām माम
• o o sifir सिफर	۱ 1 ek एक	۲ 2 do दो	۳ 3 tin तीन	۴ 4 char चार	۵ 5 panch पांच	۶ 6 chh छे	۷ 7 satt सात	۸ 8 aath आठ	۹ 9 nau नौ

3.1 Urdu Script

Urdu is written right-to left in an extension of the Persian alphabet, which is itself an extension of the Arabic alphabet. Urdu is associated with the Nasta'liq style of Persian calligraphy, whereas Arabic is generally written in the Naskh (pronounced as Nastaaliq) or Ruq'ah styles. Nasta'liq is notoriously difficult to typeset, so Urdu newspapers were hand-written by masters of calligraphy, known as *kātib* or *khush-nawīs*, until the late 1980s. One handwritten Urdu newspaper, The Musalman, is still published daily in Chennai.

3.2 Related Software

The *Daily Jang* was the first Urdu newspaper to be typeset digitally in Nasta'liq by computer. There are efforts underway to develop more sophisticated and user-friendly Urdu support on computers and the Internet. Nowadays, nearly all Urdu newspapers, magazines, journals, and periodicals are composed on computers via various Urdu software programmes, the most widespread of which is In Page Desktop Publishing package. Microsoft has included Urdu language support in all new versions of Windows and both Windows Vista and Microsoft Office 2007 are available in Urdu through Language Interface Pack support. Most Linux Desktop distributions allow the easy installation of Urdu support and translations as well. Apple implemented the Urdu language keyboard across Mobile devices in its iOS 8 update in September 2014.

IV. CONCLUSION

Overall, the emerging consensus seems to be that a simplistic binary distinction between native speakers and non-native speakers needs to be replaced with multiple and fuzzier categories which reflect the complex and changing realities of multilingual societies.

It is possible that the complex new realities of Urdu will pique the interest of linguists, and the analytical tools linguistics can offer will attract scholars of Urdu literature.

Urdu vocabulary with teaching must be taken as an important issue to be considered. A different methodology need to be adopted in the teaching of our mother tongue language as the language is entirely different than rest of the second or foreign languages; hence in this paper I provided a summary of the finding a general perspective towards urdu language with references to English.

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