

Why was Urdu chosen as the national language of Pakistan?  
How did Urdu become the national language of Pakistan? [7]

There were many reasons behind Urdu made national language. Urdu is developed by merging languages like Pashto and Persian. It originated in North-Western India. It was used by the Muslim army and during the Mughal period <sup>by</sup> ~~and~~ Sultans of Delhi.

Secondly, Urdu comes with rich literary background. Poetry by famous poets like Amir Khusrau, Mir, Saadi, Ghalib, Allama Iqbal etc. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's Aligarh University became a centre for study of Urdu, which also resulted in writers like Hassat Mohani, Majaz and Jazbi. Even the Quran was translated into Urdu by Shah Abdul Qadir.

Furthermore, Urdu assisted the struggle for independence greatly. Muslim League was also formed to protect Urdu language and rights of Muslims. Urdu was a unifying force for Muslims. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan set up a society to promote Urdu. Even British promoted it at Fort William College before 1857.

(b) Urdu has been promoted more than any other regional language in Pakistan after 1947. Do you agree or not? Give reasons for your answer. (12-13 mins) [14]

In 1947 when Pakistan and India were separated all the languages were being promoted; Punjabi, Sindhi, Balochi and Pashtu. However, Urdu was promoted more compared to other languages.

Urdu was well spoken by Mughals and early Muslim armies. It was dominant in Muslim provinces. Aligarh University was centre for Urdu study. Even a society was set up by Sir Syed to support Urdu. Muslim League, in 1906, protected Urdu language. Poetry and other literary pieces promoted Urdu. The Quran was translated to Urdu by Shah Abdul Qadir. Some British institutions like Fort William College promoted Urdu before 1857 uprising.

Sindhi had been promoted through Sindhi Literary Board by printing books & magazines in Sindhi. Bazm-e-Talib-ul-Muala promoted Sindhi literature along with Sarmast academy & Sindhiology department. Sindhi is older and was widely spoken before Turkish tribes came and Sindhi fell in its influence. Balochi is spoken in Balochistan and was brought by nomads, because of this reason there is little development in Balochi literature. However, it was promoted by British traveller in a journal. The literature further declined but efforts were made to promote it like Quetta Television Station & Radio Pakistan Karachi broadcasted in Balochi. Punjabi is mostly spoken in Punjab province and few other areas. Punjabi literature consists of many folktales and later came Sufi poets. Punjabi literature is taught upto MA

level at University of Punjab. Pashto is dominant in KPK. Pashto has high-quality literature. Salibzada Abdul Qayum increased political awareness of people of KPK and set up Islamia college in Peshawar.

Urdu is to date being promoted as it is the medium of instruction in many educational institutions in Pakistan. Urdu is used as language of administration and for radio and television programmes. Urdu literature are widely read. Urdu plays and films are extremely popular. *national language*

(e) 'Sindhi was promoted more than any other regional language between 1947 and 1988'. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer. (12-13 mins) [14]

After the separation of Pakistan and India in 1947, all regional languages: Punjabi, Balochi, Sindhi and Pashto, were promoted. However, Sindhi was promoted most compared to other languages. There are many reasons for this.

There were many efforts to promote Sindhi by writers, poets and government. Sindhi Literary board printed books and magazines in Sindhi. Bazm-e-Talib-ul-Maula, Sarmast literature and Sindhiology department established, promoted

Sindhi literature. Poets like: Sachal Sarmast and Abdul Latif Bhitai, and writers like: Pir Ali and G. Allana wrote artistic poetry and brilliant books. Sindhi is an old language, although it fell under the influence of Turkish tribes, who brought in Persian language.

Another language Punjabi is widely spoken in Pakistan, however it is not promoted as much. Punjabi is taught up to MA level at University of Punjab. Several famous books like: Heer-Ranjha, Sassi-Punnu etc are written in Punjabi. Balochi on the other hand is spoken the least amongst whole of Pakistan. Balochi literature is not as developed, but it was promoted by a British traveller in a journal. Quetta Television Station and Radio Pakistan Karachi broadcasted in Balochistan. Lastly, Pashto is dominant in KPK. It comes with high quality literature and famous writers like Dardezza and poets like Rehman Baba. Sahibzada Abdul Ganyum increased political awareness of people of KPK and set up Islamia College. Sindhi is spoken about 12% in Pakistan, being the third most spoken language. Efforts to promote it are still going on. Many journals have been written like Talim-alkashaf-o-Tawheed. Journals contributed to growth of Sindhi efficiently.