

## IMPACT OF URDU LANGUAGE ON TELUGU LANGUAGE

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### **Abstract**

This paper deals with the impact of Urdu language on Telugu language. This paper meticulously studies the effect of Muslim rule in the Deccan, South India and the extent of its influence on the language and culture of the natives who were mostly Hindus. This paper explains the wealth of Urdu language and its continued influence on Telugu language in the present as well. The paper explains in detail the reasons for the influence of Urdu language on Telugu language. With numerous examples of the spread of Urdu language the paper tries to explain the foray of Urdu language into Telugu language.

Keywords: Urdu language, dominant language in the Deccan, impact on Telugu language

**Full Paper**

A most outstanding effect of the Muslim impact on Indian culture is the rise of the new language called Urdu. In the north, this new language became so wide-spread and popular that it came to be known as Hindustani. But its richest harvest may be seen in the Deccan, mainly under the Qutb Shahi rulers and also to an extent under the Bahmani sultans.

‘Urdu’ literally means ‘the camp of a Turkish army’ as it is a Persianised Turkish word. In India, the word means ‘court’ or ‘camp’. Urdu was known in its initial stages as Hindi or the language of Hindi or India i.e. North India, and also as Hindawi or Hindwi, the language of Indians. It also acquired the name of Hindustani, first among the people of the Deccan, as a language different from Dakhni or its sister dialect in the Deccan<sup>1</sup>.

Yusuf Husain describes the development of the Urdu language in India thus:

“The Urdu language was enriched from generation to generation, mainly through accumulated wisdom, techniques and cultural traditions. Urdu or Hindawi as it was known in its early stages, was at once a social product and a means of social contact and communication between Hindus and Muslims. Its development was largely conditioned by the new social milieu which was brought about after the advent of the Muslims in northern India. In its growth and development the psychological process of reconciliation and synthesis should be taken into account. This is why it reveals the soul of medieval Indian culture in a more significant manner than even religion and philosophy can do. Through its medium the different sections of Indian society found the way to perfect comprehension of one another.”<sup>2</sup>

The growth and development of the Urdu language had been so remarkable that it would be no exaggeration to claim that it served, in the last few centuries, as a powerful medium of literary expression, for the Hindus and the Muslims alike; and also served as a common mode of speech for a large number of people, both in the North and in the Deccan<sup>3</sup>.

Yusuf Husain, while explaining origin of the Urdu language, gives the credit of starting its literary tradition to Amir Khusrau. Amir Khusrau used the “Hindawi” or the “Dehlavi” language in his compositions which he has mentioned in the introduction to his “diwan Ghurrahil Kamal”. The personality of Amir Khusrau has been portrayed in his couplets and riddles in his

mixed Persian and Hindi poems. He was not only an artist who created literary expressions but also one who revealed the hidden paths to the imagination of a writer. He paved the way for the future development of Urdu language and its “inherent humanism”<sup>4</sup>. Hence Amir Khusrau is regarded as one of the eminent scholar-pioneers of Urdu who gave a great boost to the language.

Yusuf Husain also records different views regarding the origin of Urdu language proposed by different authors<sup>5</sup>.

Syed Abdul Lateef gives a brief survey of the medieval linguistic situation thus:

“The greatest entry is in that developed form of Khari Boli known as Urdu, a dialectical form of which, originally known as Deccani, flourished in the South, at the courts of the Deccani Muslim rulers, assimilating certain peculiarities of the local languages, and in which famous poets like Mulla Nusrati, Wajhi and Khawasi and Kings like Ibrahim Adil Shah, Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah and Muhammad Quli Shah made immense contribution to the thought and literature of the Deccan.”<sup>6</sup>

Thus it emerges that the Urdu language took great strides only during the period of Qutb shahis of Golkonda in the southern parts of India<sup>7</sup>. Prior to this it was at Gulbarga that a composition was made by Khawaja Banda Nawaz in old Urdu language for the first time in the South<sup>8</sup>.

The political and administrative factors led to the massive influence of Urdu on the Telugu language. It was due to political reasons that Urdu and Telugu have come to interact with each other. Even though Muslims invaded the south and started ruling the Andhra territory by the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Telugu language and culture was not influenced very much because of the presence of the Vijayanagar empire which acted as a buffer against Muslim dominance. By the time Qutb Shahis established themselves in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Vijayanagar empire had collapsed and the Muslims became dominant mainly in the capital cities like Golkonda and Hyderabad. Since Persian was the court language during that period, Telugu speakers who aspired for higher posts were forced to learn not only the court language which was Persian but also the dominant language which was Dakkani Urdu. During this period Urdu was playing a significant role not only in the field of administration but also in the field of education<sup>9</sup>.

It has been observed by many scholars that every language has got a common feature technically termed ‘assimilation.’ Usually a language assimilated features of the language of the

rulers to increase its own social status. The influence of Urdu on Telugu is total in the area viz., Syntax, Morphology and Phonology.

So far as the influence of Urdu on the Syntax, Morphology and Phonology of Telugu is concerned, V. Swarajyalakshmi has made a comprehensive study in her work “Influence of Urdu on Telugu (A Study of Bilingualism)”. Here an endeavour will be made to give the list of words<sup>10</sup> borrowed from Urdu by the Telugu language under different heads:

### Words Commonly Used:

URDU	TELUGU	MEANING
Afranj	aparanji	beautiful
Sāf	Sāpu*	Clear
Kayf	kaypu	intoxication
Taraf	tarapu	side
Muaf	mapu	to pardon
Fursat	pursatu*	leisure
Farār	parāru	to run away
Faisala	paisala*	to decide
Fasil	pasula	wall constructed around the city Sayf
marfa	saypu	musical instrument
tufta	marapa	good variety of pure silk
tariff	tapta	
tasarruf karna	taripu	appreciation
malfut	tasarapu ceyu	to occupy
fars	malpūfu	to enclose
jafarali	parusuceyu or parachu	to spread
tafsil	jabharalli	name of a king
zāfarābād	tabisilu	detailed description
	zāburābādu	name of place

zarbāf golden	zarabābu	‘cloth made out of thread’
ākīr	ākharu*	last
kārxānā	kharkhana	factory
xarāb	kharabu	bad
dāxil karna	dhākhaluceyu	to register
tarix	tārīkhu	date
xātīr	Khātaru	care, respect
xūb	khūbu	beautiful
xusi	khusi	happiness
dārxānā	dārukhnā	factory
xāt	khattu	letter
xurāsāni	khurasani	belonging to the country
xavand	khavandu	master, king
saxt	sakhtu	strict
mēx	mēku	a nail
xabar	kabaru	news
baxair	bakairu	health
xuski	kuski	unfertile land
tuxm	tukamu	place of production
xanjar	karjaru	small knife
sāx	sāku	a piece
γubār	gubaru	jealous
γarīb	garibu	poor
γaul	gaul	murdering
γairhāzir	gairuhāzaru	absence
dayā	dagakoru	one who deceives

muyalāyi	mogalayī	Muslim dynasty who ruled India
Dayābār	dagābāji	one who deceives
Bāyi	bagi	traitor
Daroḡa	dārogā	a superintendent
Vaḡaira	vagayru	etcetraING
Taḡaiyur	tagairuceyu	to remove
Kāḡaz	kagitamu	paper
Sahar	śaharu	city
niṡ ān	niśānī/ niśāni	sign
sarārat	sararatu	adamant
bālis	bālisu	pillow
sumār	sumāru	approximately
kiṡ mis	kismisi	dry grapes
sīsā	sīsā	bottle
sist	sistu	tax
gast	gastu	guarding
darvēs	darivēsi	pakir
sarlaskar	sarlaskaru	military official
saitān	sētānu	ghost
palang pō	palangu pōsu	blanket
gōspēs	gosupesu	cloth tied upon the
turban		
munsi	munisi	writer
sarākat	sarakastu	share
tamāsa	tamāṡ ā	fun
mahtaz	mahatazu	name of a fort
mohmudi	mahamudi	a king of cloth
sahib	sahebu	title
pahra	pahara	watch
hamām	hamāmu	bathroom

huzūr	huzūru	presence
jhumka	jumiki	a kind of ornament
jhanda	jemda	flag
thōdi	tōdem	a small quantity
dhāba	dābā	open terrace
cithi	citi	letter
bedha	beda	construction
		around the
		idol in temple
zapt	zaptu*	to occupy
zamānā	zamānā, jemānā	period
zarur	zarur, jeruru*	urgency, necessity
zabardast	zabardast, jebardasti	force
zarda	zarda, jerda	dry tobacco leaf
		eaten with pan
hazir	hazaru, hajeru	presence
izzat	izzatu, ijjetu	respect
jins	denusu	variety
hauz	audu	water tank
khizarabad	kidarabada	name of a city
hauzah	haudā	canopy
mujra	mudara, mujara	courtesan's dance
taqāzā	tagādā, tagāzā	dispute
nazar	nadaru	attractive
qalam	kalamu	pen
qual	kaulu	contract
baqi	baki	debt
quli	kulli, kūli	servant
qist	kisti*	instalment
naqi	nakalu	copy
reqam	raamu	a variety

qaba	kabayi	a kind of shirt well made with a thick cloth
qasbā	kasubā	a small city
banduq	banduku	pistol
qarār	kharāru*, karāru	decision
qaid	khaidu, kaidu*	jail
qaidi	khaidi, kaidi*	one who is imprisoned
tāqīd	takidu, takhidu	order
madad	maddatu	support, help
adab	adupu, adabu	control, respect
dimag	dimaku	mind
parāganda	paraku	distributed mind
bābat	bapatu	concerning
had	haddu	limit, boundary
gac	gaccu	flooring
dab	dabbu	a kind of coin
zabu	zabbu	illness
arab	arabbu	Arabian
daulat	daulattu	fortune
huzzat	huzuttu	deceit
bāhad	bāhaddu	limitless
harkat	harkattu	bad work
humat	hurmathu	name of a fort
mahzar	mahajjaru	written petition
niqābat	nikabattu	judge
marifat	marifattu	account
sahamat	sahamattu	courage
manāna	manāyincu	to receive
mēzbani	mēzubani	reception



pēsāni	pesani	first line
ravāna	ravānā*	transport
sān	sānā	grandeur
divāneām	divanamu	royal court
turāni	turāni	man of Turkey
dukān	dukānamu	shop
khāli	khāli	empty
sambhālnā	sambālinu	to manage
suturnāl	sukurnalamu	a kind of pistol
jalwa	jaluva, jalva	gold
dhalvāyi	dalavayi	servant
zurmanā	zulmānā	fine
zarpōs	jalopōsanam	gold coating
zartār	jaratāru, jalataru, jalatari	gold and silver thread
siddiq	siddi	a sect in Muhammadan community
jajail	jayāy	a kind of pistol
jafrān	jāfarā	saffron
zamin	jami*	land
batun	batu	a kind of bird
nigār	nigāramu	drawing
Tarkas	tarakasamu	a quiver
Muktā	muktāyamu	ending
Dukān	dukānamu*	shop
Daftar	daftaramu	office
Mustagir	mustajaru	contractor
Kafir	kafaru	one who does not faith in religion
have		
Sādir	sādaru	to send

Xātirjamā	khatarujama	confidence
Bandage	bandage	devotion
dhagad	dhagidi	mean-minded
		person
bāvali	bāvaili	ornament
badal	badul	substitute
bādar	bālaru	name of a
		Muhammadan
xabar	kaburu	news
muhar	moharu	seal
muqaddmah	mokadamā	affair case
cāder	cādura	a variety of cloth
rah	raha*	way
langar	langara	choultry
dab	dābā	a leather belt worn on
		wrist
jang	janga	war
alisān	alisana	a title
insān	insāna	pity
dar	dara	nearby

**Administrative Terms:**

Abkāri	abkari*	excise
Pancayiti	pancayiti	conflict
Taluk	taluka	revenue division
		of a district
Sistu	sistu*	tax
Dastaveju	dastaveju	documentary
		papers
Khaidu	khaidu	prison

Gumasta	gumasta	clerk
Arji	arji*	petition
Amalu	amalu*	practice
Hakim	hakimu*	a physician
Far	paddu	account
Tahasildar	tahasildar	tax collector

**Military Terms:**

Kasratu	kasrathu*	exercise
Dera	dera	tent
Gasti	gasti	watching
Khila	khila	fort
Sipah	sipah	army
Ranjak	ranjak	a kind of weapon
Kavad	kavatu	parade
Bahadur	bahadur*	warrior

**Legal Terms:**

Dariyapt	dariyaptu*	enquiry
Khaidi	khayidi	prisoner
Daxila	dakhala*	evidence
Firyād	Firyādu	complaint
Bandobast	bandobastu	arrangement
Vakil	vakilu	pleader

**Economic Terms:**

Toku	toku	wholesale
Diwala	divala	bankrupt

Baki	baki	debt
Boni	boni	things first sold
Karcu	kharcu*	expenditure

**Commercial Terms:**

Kirana	kirana	grocery
Dukan	dukanamu	shop
Citta	cittha	account
Xarid	kharidu	purchase
Xarc	kharcu*	expenditure

**Dress:**

Dagla	dagala	a variety of dress
Angi	angi	robe
Kamizu	kamizu	a variety of shirt
Pajjama	payzama	a kind of trousers
Lungi	lungi*	a kind of dress worn by men
Langoti	langoti	piece of loin cloth
Rumal	rumalu	kerchief
Burqa women	burakha	a cloth with which veil their faces Kurta
	kurta	an upper garment and a variety of shirt

**Food:**

Kicidi	kicidi	a variety of rice in which dal is mixed
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Kūrma	kurma	a variety of curry
Kōva	kōva	sweetmeat
Pakōdi	pakōdi	preparation with red
gram		flour
Pulav	pulav	a kind of rice
		preparation
Nāstā	nāstā	breakfast
apathi	capati	bread
Ş arbat	Ş arbat	cool drink
kismis	kismisu	dry grapes
tarbuza	karbuza*	name of a fruit

**Religious Terms:**

Zihad	jehada	religious war
Faqir	fakiru	a muslim saint
Masjid	masidu	mosque
Pīr	pīru	saint
Darga	darga	sacred place
Namaz	namazu*	prayer

**Educational Terms:**

Kalam	kalamu	pen
Kalamdanu	kalandanu	penstand
Kagitam	kagitamu	paper

Even a random look at these words of Urdu origin which have found their way into Telugu under the different heads given are enough to highlight the fact that the Muslim influence was indeed of a most durable and impressive nature, to persist for so many centuries. It embraced all ways of people so intimately and profoundly. There is no article of food, no item of dress, no weapon of war, no procedure of law courts and no aspect of administrative machinery which has not penetrated by Urdu language.

References:

1. The Cultural Heritage of India. Vol. V. Calcutta (1978), P. 642. According to Suniti Kumar Chatterji the origin of the word 'Urdu' is from the Turkish word 'Urdu' which has its root word 'Horde' in English. He also writes that prior to the adoption of the word 'Urdu' and even after, it was known as Hindvi, Rekhtah, Urdu-e-Mo'all, Hindustani, etc.  
Suniti Kumar Chatterji, Indo-Aryan and Hindi, Calcutta (1960) P. 197.
2. Yusuf Husain, Glimpses of Medieval Indian Culture, Bombay (1973). PP. 98-99.
3. Syed Abdul Lateef (ed); An Outline of the Cultural History of India, Hyderabad, (1958). P. 161.
4. Yusuf Husain, Op. Cit., P. 86.
5. The following are some of the other scholars and their theories attended to by Yusuf Husain:
  - A) Muhammad Husain Azad who goes to the extent of saying Urdu language is a mixture of Persian and the Brij Bhasha, a dialect of Western Hindi (P.83).
  - B) Mahmud Sherwani who emphasizes that Urdu language owes its origin to the first contact of the Muslims and Hindus after the conquest and incorporation of the Punjab and Sind in the Empire of Mahmud of Ghazni. (P. 83).
  - C) Mas'ud Husain of the Muslim University, Aligarh who states that the result of the combination of the Persian and Hariani, which Mas'ud Husain proves as the language spoken in Delhi, was the origin of Urdu language.
6. Syed Abdul Lateef, Op. Cit. P. 160-161.
7. H. K. Sherwani and P. M. Joshi (ed), History of Medieval Deccan, Vol. I, Hyderabad (1973), P. 413.
8. Ibid, Vol. II, P. 20.