







Bollywood: History, Language and Gender

Miriam Butt November 2006





History: Urdu/Hindi

The name *Urdu* or *Oordoo* originally meant "camp", short for zaban-i-urdu "language of the camp".

The word *Urdu* comes from Turkish *ordu*, which is related to Horde.

Oxford English Dictionary

Reminds one of the Mongols...



Relevant Languages

- Urdu (most formal)/Hindi (normal)
- Punjabi ("more informal")
- English ("cool")
- Bombay Hindi, Dialects (regional color)



History of the Moghuls

Timurid Dynasty (= Mongols) 1556-1857

Genghis Khan

Timurlane

Founder of Moghul Dynasty: Babur

Religion: Islam.

Religions already present in India:

Hindus, Muslims (Schia and Sunni), Jews (since

Antiquity), Parsis (Zarathustra, since 8th cent.),

Buddhists (since antiquity) a.o.

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History of the Moghuls

BABUR (1526-30) — took North India from Afghanistan (Kabul). Was crowned in Agra, which became a capital city of the Moghul Empire.



From the Autobiography Babur Nama

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History of the Moghuls

HUMAYUN (1530-1556) consolidated the empire, quelled the rebelling Afghans, but then slipped, fell and died in his library.



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History of the Moghuls

AKBAR (1556-1605) — known for integration of religions: Hindu, Muslim und Sikh.





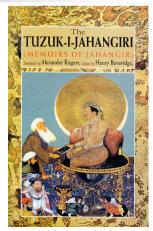


History of the Moghuls

JAHANGIR (1605-27) — married to Nur Jahan, one of the most powerful women of the time. Buried in Lahore.











History of the Moghuls

SHAH JAHAN (1628-58) — Height of Empire. Modern *Ergative* case was found first in this time.







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Spoken by:

Urdu/Hindi

| Urdu | Hindi |
|----------------|---------------|
| mainly Muslims | mainly Hindus |

Spoken in: Pakistan and India India

Differences: No structural ones (lexicon, a few sounds)

draxt 'tree' per 'tree' /f/ (filem), /x/ (xuda) no /f/ (p^h ilem), /x/ (k^h uda) -

History of the Moghuls

AURANGZEB (1658-1707) — fanatical Muslim. Literature and Art were curtailed, but Empire hat its greatest area. No great emperors came after him.



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Urdu/Hindi

- Dialects of the same language
- Urdu (vocabulary) is the declared/historic language of poetry/love, hence important for Bollywood.

1872 Beames Comp. Gram. Aryan Lang. I. 39:

"By a curious caprice, Hindi, when it uses Arabic words, is assumed to become a new language, and is called by a new name *Urdu*."



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Example: Riddles/Poets by Amir Khusro (1253-1325).

Hindi

खीर पकाइ जतन से चरखा दिया जला /आया कुत्ता खागया तू बैठी ढोल बजा

Urdu تھیر پکائی جتن سے چرخا دیا جلا آیا کتا کھاگیا تو بیٹھی ڈھول بجا

"You prepared the kheer (rice pudding) with much hard work and lit up the lamp.

The dog came and ate it all,

nothing for you now than to sit and play the drum."







- Basic Primer on Urdu/Hindi (see extra sheet)
 - 1. Words for Love/Heart
 - 2. Religion (Deities/Greetings)
 - 3. Significance of Names (Religion/Tribes/Caste)
 - 4. Basic Sentence Structure (Topic/Focus)
 - 5. Pronouns
 - 6. Case
 - 7. Verbs (Gender, etc.)
 - 8. Basic Vocabulary

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Language and Gender

- Gender Related Differences?
 - 1. Supposedly more use of hum 'we'
 - 2. Less rapid topic changes
 - 3. Interruptions?
 - 4. Exclamations of Despair (ye nahiiN ho sakta!)?
 - 5. Tag Questions (hai na?)?
 - 6. Adjectives? Diminutives?
 - 7. Swear Words or Words of Violence?



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Movie Clips

- K3G: 2nd Scene, Codeswichting
- K3G: Rich boy meets poor girl (use of Punjabi)
- Kahoo Na Pyaar Hai: Urdu Sickness
- Kahoo Na Pyaar Hai: Hindi dialect



Code-Switching



- · A lot of code-switching goes on all the time
 - 1. Between dialects/languages
 - 2. Main one that is easy to notice is English/Hindi
- Question: who does it and why? Gender differences?
- For general linguistic background on Code-switching, see Susanne Romaine's book *Bilingualism*.

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