

Minutes of Meeting with Pashto Academy

Attendees:

Dr. Raj Wali Shah Khattak, Director Pushto Academy

Dr. Muhammad Afzal, member URLSDF & Director CIT, AAU, Rawalpindi

Dr. Sarmad Hussain, member URLSDF & Associate Professor, CRULP, FAST NU, Lahore.

Date: 29th November, 2002

Venue: Pashto Academy, University of Peshawar

Details of Meeting:

- The meeting convened at 9:30am until 12:30 pm
- Dr. Raj Wali Shah Khattak apprised the attendees about two distinct dialects of Pushto: Southern Pushto (spoken in Kandhar, Afghanistan) and Northern Pushto (spoken in Peshawar and adjoining areas in Pakistan)
- Dr. Raj Wali Shah Khattak also apprised the attendees that in early 1990's both the Afghani and Pakistani experts got together and agreed on a unified script for both the dialects
- The agreed script has the following characters in the order given (top down, right to left):

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- The five forms of Yay represent differing vowels and diphthongs (called Ya-e Maroof, Makhsoos, Taanees, Failey and Majhool respectively)
- Hay may be written as do-chashmey-hay, but that is a stylistic variation of gol-hay and does not represent aspirated consonants (as in Urdu).
- Hamza diacritic is used (causing the word to follow the word without hamza). When used with hay, it makes the previous consonant aspirated, e.g. زده would come before زده^ه
- Zabar (zwer in Pushto) is used frequently, while zer and pesh are used but infrequently (mostly by the educated population). When used they would sort in the sequence listed
- There is no Mad in Pushto
- Other aerab in Urdu are not native to Pushto, but may be used to write loan words of other languages (e.g khari zabar, do zabar, do zer, do pesh, etc.)
- Traditionally Pushto used the following digit shapes(٠ ١ ٢ ٣ ٤ ٥ ٦ ٧ ٨ ٩). However, English digits (0123456789) are also being used these days.

Future Actions:

- URLSDF, MoST would request the Governor of NWFP to standardize Pushto character set and collation sequence. A meeting to this effect must be called by the Government of NWFP. Once it is standardized at provincial level, URLSDF will move it for notification at the center
- URLSDF and Pushto Academy will advertise and spread the usage of this standard, once formalized