

Kashmiri Language and Literature: Issues and Perspectives

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Abstract:

Language and literature reflect the identity, ethnicity and social milieu of a particular society. Great civilizations of the world have flourished because of the rich traditions of their language and literature. History is witnessed that nations who have preserved and promoted their language have achieved great success than the nations who neglected their language. In this age of globalization, the widely spoken languages like English is attracting large number of speakers due to its scope in jobs, business and the language of internet and social media. English being the language of internet and technology has made available the world knowledge and information in different fields and disciplines. This has created myriad issues and challenges for regional languages which are lagging behind in making use of AI to promote their languages. Kashmiri language and literature also lack in using technology for its development and promotion. Currently, the corpus of Kashmiri language in the digitized form is very less available for readers. Hence, the need of the hour for the government, academicians and the speakers should be to take different initiatives for digitizing the Kashmiri language corpus on the internet. So that the speakers around the world can access to the language and literature of Kashmiri language. In this context, the present paper aims to highlight the issues and challenges which Kashmiri language and literature is facing today. The paper also explores the reasons for the growing number of speakers towards English and Urdu in the valley. Finally, the paper provides some preventive measures for the promotion of Kashmiri language and literature.

Keywords: Challenges, Digitizing, Globalization, motivation and Promotion.

Introduction

Kashmiri language is an Indo-Aryan language and is placed under the Dardic subgroup of Indo-Aryan language family. As stated by Koul, "Grierson has placed Kashmiri under the Dardic group of languages. He has classified Dardic languages under three major groups: 1. The Kafir Group, 2. The Khowar or Chitrali Group, and 3. The Dard Group. According to his classification, the Dard Group includes Shina, Kashmiri, Kashtawari, Poguli, Siraji, Rambai, and Kohistani-the last comprising Garwi, Torwali and Maiya". (Kashmiri Language...6) Kashmiri language is recognized as the 22 scheduled languages mentioned in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution. Kashmiri language is spoken mainly in Kashmir valley and also outside the valley.