FOREWORD

by

PROF. MASOOD HUSAIN
Former Chairman
Department of Linguistics
A.M.U., Aligarh

My daughter Shahida Masood (now Mrs. Shahida Afridi) after taking her Master's degree in Linguistics from Aligarh Muslim University in 1984, was on the look out for a topic of dissertation for her M. Phil. degree. Since the Department of Linguistics in A.M.U., was primarily an Urdu-Oriented Deptt. I suggested that she should take up the topic of "The Urdu dialect of the Pathans of Kaimganj, (U.P.)", where to her family belonged. For this topic she had the advantage of having in her family three informants of graded qualifications:

(1) Her paternal aunt Khadija Begum, a totally uneducated lady aged 72.

(2) Her own mother Najma Begum aged 56, who holds a High School Certificate, but was closely knit with KPU and has an extraordinary discriminatory Linguistic sense in spite of her exposure to standard language.

(3) Her father, Prof. Masood Husain who has been Professor of Urdu and Linguistics, and as such is highly educated. He was at that time.

In this way Shahida Masood has the triple advantage of working with two graded informants, presided over by her father who could check her results.

Shahida has to work at a very high speed in view of the settlement of her marriage date soon after. She could, therefore, do it very briefly bringing out only the salient features of the dialect (KPU) as compared to standard Urdu. Of these features two are very prominent: (1) Remnants of Pashtu in the KPU, especially in the vocabulary, idioms and certain social songs (2) The archaic forms of Old Urdu, which are lost in Standard Urdu.

For getting her results, she has collected enormous linguistic corpus from the above mentioned sources.

Her dissertation though brief, shows her linguistic insight and skill in the analysis of her corpus. Her results may be of use to those who are interested in socio-linguistics, and Dialectology as also in the Development of Urdu Language.

Masood Husain
Prof. Emeritus.
M.A. Ph.D. (Alig.)
Doctorat d'Universite' (Paris)
Former Prof. of Urdu, Osmania University
Former Prof. of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University
Former Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi