divided by a "line of control", agreed in 1971, that leaves an area of 46,976 square miles in the north and west of Pakistan, and the remainder territory, amounting to 38,830 square miles under Indian control. (Encyclopedia Britanica vol. 21, p. 170). The administrative capitals of the Indian sector are Srinagar in summer and Jammu in winter.

1.2. Kashmiri Language and its Origin

The Kashmiri language is generally said to possess a Dardic base, modified considerably by the superstructure of Sanskrit and Persian vocabulary acquired through hundreds of years of interaction with immigrants from other cultures. The Dardic structure of Kashmiri, was first indicated by the famous orientalist Earnest Kohan in 1877 A.D. According to him, the ancient Sanskrit and Persian which were spoken in its neighborhood had such a deep influence on Kashmiri that its Dardic structure was largely suppressed. (Aslam 1996: 4-5).

Grierson was of the opinion that,

"Kashmiri is a mixed language, having as its basis a language of the Dard group of the Dard family allied to Shina. It has been powerfully influenced by Indian
culture and literature, and great part of its vocabulary is now of Indian origin and is allied to that of the Sanskrit Indo-Aryan language of Northern India. As however, its basis- in other words, its phonetic system, its accidence, its syntax, its prosody is Dardic. It must be classed as such and not as a Sanskrit form of speech. (Linguistic Survey of India vol.8, part 2:253).

According to Dr. S. K. Chatterji, Kashmiri is an offshoot of Indo-Aryan language family. He was of the opinion that a group of Aryan's had come and settled in some hilly areas of Kashmir as early as 1000B.C. These people spoke a language, which was not only similar to the language of Rig-ved, but it had also certain unique features too. This language is supposed to be a language, which provided bases for the Dardic sub-group of Indo-Aryan language family (S.K. Chatterji, Languages and Literature of Modern India, p. 256).

Reflecting the history of Kashmiri, the Kashmiri vocabulary is mixed, containing Dardic, Sanskrit, Punjabi Urdu and Persian elements. Vocabulary and the choice of