Abstract

Introduction

This thesis is an attempt, to make a Socio-Psychological Investigation of Hindi and Urdu along with English in Urban India among Hindi and Urdu speech communities, to find out the actual position of Hindi and Urdu in Urban India and the Perceptual and Attitudinal shift. It has been found that along with Hindi and Urdu, English plays very crucial and significant roles, in personal and interpersonal settings/domains, as well as in administration, education and mass media.

The field survey for the research work was conducted by the investigator herself in the academic year 2007-2008 and the whole research work is completed between the academic years of 2006-2010. As sociolinguistics, is a social science, the study of language with reference to society, its methodology of research or investigation is similar to that of the other social science subjects. It approaches the problem from the societal angle. Unlike natural science, it observes the issues, generally, from inside and not from outside the society.

Presumably, consequences of the modernization of the societies of India are also the cause of modernization of the Human behaviour, thoughts and feelings. A very popular saying or proverb is that when the thought of people become wide the problems will decrease. Because of this reason at present the thoughts and the feelings of the respondents towards Urdu are changed, now, to some extent.

Now, the question arises how it is possible, for this we can see very live examples of our past as well as our present. Take the case of the student and teacher, why they are differing to each other, why one is in higher position and another is in lower position. The only difference is of ‘more knowledge.’ This gap can be filled only by the time, when the students will achieve the same level of knowledge. The same is the case with Hindi and Urdu controversy. Earlier people were not aware of the fact, whereas at present they realize the fact that both of these languages have its own history of origin and both of them are respectable. However, presently attitude shifts from negative and moves towards the favourable, positive thoughts and
Abstract

feelings for Urdu. Earlier there was the lack of information regarding the development of the Urdu and Hindi languages and the crisis increases because of British policies, because of the disputes among Hindu and Muslims, etc. The division of Pakistan functions as a reactor for the negative attitude towards Urdu. Britishers developed the policies for their purposes of ruling in India like as the divide and rule policy etc.

At present, the scene among Hindi and Urdu speakers is totally different, especially in Urban India, the reason behind the positive feeling for both the languages is, now, their area of knowledge regarding the development of Hindi and Urdu has become very vast. Because of this broadening of information in this area, they have favourable thoughts and attitudes for both Hindi and Urdu, as well as for the other languages and its speakers.

In view of the above facts, the objectives of the research proposal take the prominent steps and fixed the very strong pillar for finding the attitude. This study proposes to examine the attitude of the speakers of Urdu and Hindi. What kind of attitude they have towards the Hindi or Urdu, as their other language (i.e. second or third language), as well as the feeling for the speakers of Hindi and Urdu languages. It also proposes to examine what kind of attitude they have towards their mother tongue i.e. Hindi or Urdu, as well as for the speakers of their own language. The attitude of the speakers is drawing upon the resources of the Hindi and Urdu languages, in general.

The present study has been undertaken the comparative attitudinal analysis of both of these languages in urban India. The comparative study represents the very clear cut picture of the attitudes of both of these two languages speaking communities' speakers in urban India towards their own language speaking community speakers and the second and/or third language community speakers and other languages communities' speakers in India.

In this back drop, the present study will assess the perceptual shift of attitude about Hindi and Urdu in urban areas of India. Presumably, the attitude of the speakers of both of these communities, at present, is positive and very pleasant. In the view of
the above statements, the research project seems into the field of Socio-linguistics, specifically we can say, it is the area of socio-psycholinguistics. The purpose of the study is to find out the present mental thought about the Hindi and Urdu speech community speakers' towards Hindi and Urdu language and make the comparison of the past from present. The attitude drawing upon the resources i.e. the questionnaire based analysis.

The socio-psychological assessment will spread all over the five chapters. Chapter one deals with general introduction, chapter two deals with the controversial issues of Hindi and Urdu, chapter three and four deals with the attitudinal analysis of Hindi and Urdu respondents, and finally, chapter five gives the summary and conclusion.

**Summary of the Chapters**

The first chapter commence with a brief description about the research work and the area under which the research work has been done. Chapter one highlights some of the basic issues related to our study. This chapter is devised into fifteen sections, some of it having sub sections. The points we discussed in detail under this chapter into different sections and sub sections are about the speech community, social psychology, language situation in India and its geographical boundaries, scheduled languages, Urdu speakers in India, about Hindi and Urdu, about Urdu speakers according to social groups, functions of Urdu, Hindi and Urdu controversy, official language, attitude and attitude change, concept of attitude, different paths to find the attitude, the centrality of attitude, attitude to language, nature and origin of attitude, study of attitude in social psychology, attitude change, changing attitudes by changing behaviour, cognitive dissonance theory revisited, persuasive communication and attitude change, definitions of attitude change by scholars, language attitude studies, definitions of attitude change by scholars, attitude-scaling methods, problem of the study, formation of the hypothesis, research design, sample design, purpose of the study, objectives and goals of the study, scope and limitations of the study, methodology, research questions. Thus, in his chapter researcher gives introduction about the research topic, as well the other concepts and fields cover under the present research work.
In the chapter two entitled as 'The Hindi-Urdu controversy: a linguistic assessment', the researcher have been discussed about the controversy in the origin of Hindi and Urdu and in the development of both of these languages in different periods of time, how they come into existence, and what the present scenario of these two Indic languages? The researcher intends to present the theoretical background of the research work, and also provide the evidences by giving and quoting other scholars as reference. Under this chapter we discuss about the history of Hindi and Urdu development and controversies held during the British rules and in the post-independent India. Here we also try to provide the concrete examples for the exact point of the development of the Urdu language. We also discuss the purpose of the establishment of the fort William College, and the significance of the article in Swarsiti, and the role of Nagari Prachami. At the end we try to summarise all the views in its conclusion.

The chapter three will concerned with the main comparative analysis of Hindi and Urdu speakers regarding their education, their bilingualism, tri or multi-lingualism, their knowledge about the script of their language, linguistic proficiency, degree of similarity of the two languages, language prestige, language usage, factors and reason of relationship, language threat, other major languages of the Hindi and Urdu speaking region, regarding the proficiency in English. The purpose of all these questions is to find out the background of the respondents and their known languages, and this also depicts the reason of the nature of the positive attitudes towards Hindi and Urdu.

The fourth chapter will attempt to analyze the present work based on attitudinal analysis of Urdu speakers in Urban India. Under this chapter we analyze the bilingualism and trilingualism among Hindi and Urdu respondents, attitudes of mother tongue and other knowing languages in different pre-defined attributes, attitude towards the second language and also attitude of the respondents’ towards their third known language, attitude towards their own community speakers and attitude towards the second and third known languages communities speakers, attitude towards the mother tongue, second and third language usage, attitude towards the usage of mother tongue in different formal as well as in informal
domains, attitude towards the usage of second and third languages in different formal as well as in informal domains, attitude towards the additional languages, attitude towards the functions of the languages. This way, present work makes the comparative attitudinal analysis of Hindi and Urdu in Urban India.

The fifth or the final chapter is continuing the summary and conclusion of the thesis. It will furnish a chapter-wise summary of the whole thesis. Besides the summary, the conclusions drawn from the research will submit in these chapters.

**Conclusion**

Conducting the study, which investigates and analyzes the research work based on the topic ‘Perceptual shift of Attitude About Hindi and Urdu in Urban Areas of India’ in any context, is very hard task to analyze. This is because of the reason that there are certain limitations i.e. time limitations, and we cannot cover the whole things as a result of which, all factors are not covered under the research work. The present research work, basically, is an effort to find out the thoughts and feelings of the people belong to both Hindi and Urdu speech communities, and also evaluate the differences in the thoughts and feelings of the communities, at present. And also to find, what is the nature of the thoughts, feelings and behaviours, whether it is positive or negative? It is found positive during the statistical analysis of the data taken from the respondents of the Urdu and Hindi languages. After all this attitudinal analysis proves to be attainable, as we proceed from chapter one to chapter five of the research work.

The findings of the present study show that both the Hindi and Urdu languages play significant roles in the socio-cultural life of their speakers. These languages have their functional roles in various domains in the state. These languages affect their functions and role in the society. Sometime it is used in formal domain and some time not used in formal domains and sometime partially used.

Thus, the work is an attempt to make socio-psychological investigation of the two languages of India i.e. Urdu and Hindi, and try to find out the actual position of their usage preferences and attitudes along with other languages, especially, both the languages towards each other and towards English.
Abstract

The Urdu speech community complain about why most of Hindi speaking population cannot attain the desired level of proficiency in Urdu. Within the frame of this study, it is assumed that the provocative relation between language attitude and language use is a missing point of discussion on the problems of promoting Urdu in India. This study examines the relationship between language attitudes towards Urdu, Hindi, and English.

Languages and their use in India

An interesting multilingual situation found in South Asia, especially in India and more specifically in Urban India, as the five major language families are living here together. Some of these languages play very crucial roles. The present research work dealing with the perceptual shift of attitude of Hindi and Urdu speakers towards Hindi, Urdu and its parallel English language. As a result of the contact situation, among all Indic languages, they carry different cultures of different languages. Because of the Co-exist and cultural phenomenon, these languages have influence of each other shows the positivity towards each other.

The use of both languages differs according to variation in domains as well as regions. Mostly, at home, mother tongue (MT) has been preferred among both of these groups. Respondents are more inclined to use their mother tongue. Besides their mother tongue Urdu and Hindi respondents are inclined towards English because this is the window to the success for their children. Both Hindi and Urdu speakers preferred to use their mother tongue in the entire informal domains.

The sample of the present study

The entire study has been based on the data collected through field survey covering 237 respondents belonging to the different states of different cities. All the 237 respondents were selected from both Hindi and Urdu speech communities by keeping in view a number of variables viz., gender, age, occupation, migratory pattern and education. Among all these 237 respondents, 120 belong to Hindi speech community, whereas, 117 belong to the Urdu speech community.
The main tool for the data collection is questionnaire. In order to determine the actual position of these three languages, we may analyze by adopting the techniques such as participant observation method and matched guised techniques. Here we followed the matched guised techniques.

The analysis and findings of the data, collected through the questionnaire, the survey and observation, were processed and analyzed with the help of SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), is the tool of Version 12.0. T-test and the percentage of the frequencies of these data and the main findings were presented in Chapters 3 and 4.

**Description of Questionnaire**

The questionnaire consisted of two parts and four sections. The first part (i.e. section 1) is based on personal information, such as, gender and age, when they started to learn Urdu, Hindi and/or English, and the place where they started to learn Urdu, Hindi, and/or English. The second part (i.e. comprises of section 2 and 3) is based on the questions about the attitudes towards the Hindi, Urdu, and English languages and its speakers. Some questions are also based on the language usage to find out their attitudes towards the use of Urdu, Hindi, and English in different Indian pre-defined contexts, attributes and domains. The final section 4 comprises of comments and suggestions.

It is found that some of the respondents from villages are exposed to English in a school environment not as frequently as other respondents from public schools are, and therefore they have only mildly positive attitude towards English. They recognize the importance of the English language, but interestingly, do not reveal high level orientation towards learning the language. In Other words, they have mildly positive attitude towards the English language but they are not tolerant to Indian speaking English among themselves. It suggests that they have positive attitude towards Urdu and Hindi languages.

In the past two decades a number of national sociolinguistic surveys have been conducted which sought to delineate patterns and trends in the Indian publics’ language attitudes, competence and usage. The first major analysis was conducted
by A. R. Fatihi and extensive data was gathered on attitude towards Urdu and Urdu language policy, patterns of competency and usage of Urdu also formed part of the research design. This report, published in 2003 in *Language in India* established a comprehensive base-line in bilingual research in Urdu which was, and still is, acknowledged to be of major significance, both nationally and internationally. Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, and Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi also conducted a series of national research projects during this period on Urdu language attitudes and competence. The present research conducted by the researcher has examined the followings:

- General attitude to Urdu.
- Attitudes to Urdu as an ethnic symbol.
- Attitudes and perceptions regarding the viability and future of Urdu.
- Attitudes towards public and state support for Urdu.

The study suggests that in general terms a majority of the respondents reported favourable attitudes and feelings towards Urdu with 56% on average indicating that they were "strongly or somewhat in favour" of Urdu along with Hindi. Interestingly, nearly one-third of the respondents reported neutral feelings towards Urdu. This pattern of positive attitude to Urdu is maintained in attitudes to Urdu as an ethnic symbol.

Hindi enjoys the status of the state language, as well as, the link language. It is also used as the medium of the instruction at the school and college levels. As Hindi and English are the two official languages, as a result of it, most of the Indians in Urban India claim that their second language is Hindi, if they are speakers of any other language. Even the Dr. B. Malikarjun, working in CIIL, head of the LDC-IL, which is one of the three major project in CIIL, make the statement , 'sabhi ko Hindi bhasha sikhni chahiye, kamsekm samajh aur bol to ana chahiye kyunki ye hi to hamri official language hai'. It seems that Hindi has become the super-language as it enjoys the status of official language. But the trend of using English has become more common for medium of instruction, as well as, the other especial usage.
The feasibility and future of Urdu is seems bright in the output of the results analyzed and observed. An interesting language contact situation has been found in the newly developed nation where a number of languages co-exist side by side. In our nation, at present, language demand is continuously increasing, and the reason behind it is that people change their mythology towards the different minority languages; it does not matter whether they are scheduled or non-scheduled languages. Lots of Microsoft companies in India are demanding the work on the languages, and also planning to start work on those languages, which are using by the larger strength and still not have larger script. Different Microsoft companies like IBM etc. also demanded for the annotated corpora of the different languages. At present, they are demanding for the Urdu annotated data for developing the different tools for Urdu corpora. The Indo-Word Net launch during the 5th global word-net, held in IIT Bombay at 3rd February 2010, have all scheduled languages of India included Urdu. It seems that the people, at present, are eager towards all the languages. Companies and institutes are demanding the Urdu language. They are showing their great interests in Urdu if we observe the Urdu in 21st century.