The Genesis of Persian and Urdu Languages and Literatures in India

By: Islam, A. (Islam, Anas B)1

A SALTIMBIONI JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
Volume: 5 Issue: 2 Pages: 155-172
Published: 05/2016

Abstract

The Indian subcontinent has contained a vast array of ethnicities, cultures, traditions and languages since the beginning of civilization. While classical Indian civilization was based on Sanskrit, the sacred language of the Brahmins, this sacred language did not affect the general mass of people, nor literature beyond a privileged elite. The first true lingua franca that transcended caste barriers to a certain extent was Persian, which was adopted by the ruling dynasties of Muslims in India (who themselves were generally Turk or indigenous Hindus rather than Persians), their何必s, as well as the civil servants. However, from the beginning of the seventeenth century Urdu began to form around the lower echelons of society, as a patois common tongue to enable communication between the myriad classifications of the Mughal Empire, ultimately restraining Persian to a refined language of culture and courtly life in the Mughal court and becoming a vibrant and dynamic language in its own right, thus becoming the first literary language with a substantial original contribution from Indians since ancient Sanskrit. This article charts the adoption of Persia and later the emergence of Urdu as spoken and literary languages in the Indian subcontinent using original sources in these languages.

Keywords

Author Keywords: Indo, language, Mughals, Sanskrit, Persian, Urdu.

Author Information

Registered Address: Islam, A (expert author)
- INT Islam Uni Malaysia, Hod, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
  Organization Enhanced Name(s)
  International Islamic University Malaysia

Address:
- INT Islam Uni Malaysia, Hod, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
  Organization Enhanced Name(s)
  International Islamic University Malaysia

Publisher

INT ISLAMIC UNIV MALAYSIA, DEPT ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE, JALAN Gombak, SELANGOR, SELANGOR, 50728, MALAYSIA

Categories / Classification

Research Areas: Literature
Web of Science Categories: Literature

Document Information

Document Type: Article
Language: English
Accession Number: WOS:000370291400016
ISSN: 1365-3197

Other Information

DOI Number: DEEYS
Cited References in Web of Science Core Collection: 50
Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 0