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Influence of Persian in India

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Abstract

Persian was first introduced by Muslim rulers in India especially Delhi Sultanate from 13th Century. Persian was important official language of India during Ghaznavid Period, Mughal Period and Afghan Period, and Persian influenced many of the Indian languages. The ancient Persian emperors created art in many forms including metalwork, rock carvings, weaving and architecture.

Key-Words: Persian language, role, civilization and culture in India.

Introduction:

Persian influence was first introduced to the Indian sub-continent by Muslim rulers of Turki and Afghan origin, especially with the Delhi Sultanate from 13th Century, and in the 16th to 19th Century by the Mughal Empire. In general, from its earliest days, aspects of the culture and language were brought to the Indian sub-continent by various persianized Central Asian Turkic and Afghan rulers, such as Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi in the 11th century.

Northern India has been ruled by Turkic Persians for over 1,000 years, like the Delhi Sultanate, Ghaznavids and Mughals. These Turkic Persians adhered to Persian culture and spread this culture throughout the northern Indian sub-continent. They spoke Farsi, Chagatai and Turkish. Persian became the preferred language of the Muslim elite of north India.

With the presence of Muslim culture in the region of the Ghaznavid period, Lahore and Uch were established as centers of Persian literature. Abu-al-Faraj Runi and Masud Sad Salman were the two earliest Major Indo-Poets based in Lahore. The earliest of the 'great' indo-persian poets was Amir Khusrow of Delhi, who has since attained iconic status within the Urdu speakers of the Indian sub-continent as, among other things, the "father" of Urdu literature.

Persian not only influenced the Muslim cultural heritage in India, but this language is known as one of the oldest languages in the world. This language is directly related to Indo-European language and it is known in the world as a branch of Indo-European language. Parsi or Persian was the language of the Parsa people who ruled Iran.

Role of Persian Language in India:

The Persian language was used as a second language in South Asia and it served as the language of culture and education in several Muslim courts in South Asia and became the important official language under the Mughal Emperors. During the power of Mughal in India, the culture and education of India was influenced by Persian language and the relationship between two nations in literature and science was at its peak and Persian language was official language of India. The Persian language had influence on all aspects of life, such as political, literary, cultural and religious aspects.

The first shape of Iranian civilization in India was Persian language developed by Mughal period. The Persian language became the official and govt. of India, in that time, Mughal had power, specially "Akbar" was one of the powerful emperors developed language as the official language of this empire and Indian people had adopted this language more than the other languages such as Arabic language. The Persian language became the language of diplomacy, main language (administration) of India. Therefore Indian people have borrowed a no. of the Persian words and many Indian poets and writers adopted it as the language of poetry and literature. Indian people adopted the influence of the Persian language on their languages and cultures and this relation was close ties between two nations in the time of Akbar emperor in the 16th century.

Persian Language influences on Indian Languages:

There can be seen in the extent of its influence on the languages of the Indian sub-continent. Many of these areas have been seen a certain influence by Persian not only in literature but also in the speech of the common man. Persian exerted a strong influence on Punjabi, Sindhi, Hindi, Telugu, Marathi, Gujarati, Rajasthani, Bengali, Urdu etc. Many Iranian texts and books have been translated into Gujarati, Telugu and Punjabi languages. The impact of Persian language can be seen in written and spoken and Persian words still exist in Gujarati, Telugu and Punjabi.

There are many stone carvings and plasters of Persian inscriptions in India. There are also many hand-written books mostly from the time of Humayun, a Mughal emperor. Humayun's return from Persia, accompanied by a large no. of nobleman who influenced on art, architecture, language and literature in India.

The History of Persian Language:

Persian is a Western Iranian language belonging to the Iranian branches of Indo-Iranian subdivision of the Indo-European languages. It is spoken and used officially within Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, in three mutually intelligible standard varieties, namely Iranian Persian, Dari Persian (officially named Dari since 1958) and Tajiki Persian (officially named Tajik since Soviet era). The Persian language is a continuation of middle Persian, the official religious and literary of the sasanian empire, itself a continuation of old Persian, which was used in the Achaemenid empire. It originated in the region of Fars (Persia) in Southwestern Iran.

The language known as new Persian, which usually is called at this period (early Islamic times) by the name of Parsi-Dari, can be classified linguistically as a continuation of Middle Persian, the official religious and literary language of Sasanian Iran, itself a continuation of old Persian, the language of the Achaemenids. Unlike the other languages and dialects, ancient and modern, of the Iranian group such as Avestan, Parthian, Soghdian, Kurdish, Pashto, etc. Old, Middle and New Persian represent one and the same language at the three states of its history. It had its origin in Fars and is differentiated by dialectical features, still easily recognizable from the dialect prevailing in north-western and eastern Iran.

Some of the famous works of medieval Persian literature are the shahnameh of ferdowsi, the works of Rumi, the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, the Panj Ganj of Nizami Ganjavi, the Divan of Hafez, Conference of the birds by Attar of Nishapur, and Gulistan and Bustan by Saadi Shirazi.

The Influence of Persians on Indian Civilization:

The Persian empire was one of the first empires to practice religious and cultural tolerance to the people they conquered. And Persians developed roads in India and improved trade with other lands in central Asia. And the social system of the Persian empire was built of communication and transportation. They had a social class that like the Indian social structure.

While the Mughal architectural style have been developed in India and surrounding South Asian Countries in the 16th and 17th Centuries, it is influenced by the foreign styles of Islamic and Persian architectures, as well as the existing Hindu architecture. Persian architecture, on the other hand develops as early as 5000 BC, predating Islamic style, hence seeing closing proximity of South Asia to the Persian world, it is understandable that the Mughals took their influences from their neighbours.

Its main point is as under:

The two famous monuments, the Taj Mahal for the Mughal architecture and the Great Mosque of Isfahan for the Persian architecture displays the examples of this fact. It is built for aesthetic reasons, as well as to place Masyrabias windows to pour into the building.

Although early Mughals spoke the Chagatai language and maintained some Turko-Mongol practices, they became essentially persianized and transferred the Persian literary and high culture to South Asia, thus forming the base for the Indo-Persian Culture and the spread of Islam in South Asia.

Throughout the Mughal empire, a number of ethnic Persian technocrats, bureaucrats, traders, scientists, architects, teachers, poets, artists, theologians and Sufis migrated and settled in different parts of the Indian Sub-Continent.

The Persian empire influenced Indian civilization and culture in the areas of music, art, architecture, language, literature etc. Its culture spread throughout much of the Indian Valley.

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