Abstract

When the Arabic language put its steps on the soil of the subcontinent as the language of the "conquerors" and "the superior race", its effects on native languages were multiple. Besides showering with new Arabic words reaching thousands in number, it also affected their scripts immensely. If we analyze the systems of alphabets of big five Pakistani languages, we will find that all of them have adopted all or most of the Arabic alphabets and, thus, contributed significantly in creating integration among different segments of Islamic society. In this short piece of research it has been tried to study the top five alphabetic systems of Pakistan, namely, Urdu, Punjabi, Sidhi, Pushto and Baluchi, to identify the extent to which these scripts are influenced by the Arabic alphabetical system.

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* The Arabic Element in Sindh, G. Allana, Maktab-e-Danishwaran, Lahore.

