RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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Language Group Specific Informational Reports

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Sindhi Informational Report

http://www.letseducatesindh.org/?p=164

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Where is it Spoken?

- It is the official regional language for Pakistan and recognized by the constitution of India.

- It is also spoken in Oman, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. The total number of Sindhi speakers worldwide is estimated at 21.5 million

(UCLA Language Materials Project, Map from UCLA Language Materials Project)

History

- Sindhi language has a remarkable history that is closely intertwined with the era of British colonial rule in India. Sindhi belongs to Northwestern group of the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European language family

- Sindhi dates back long before the colonial rule. It has been traced as far back as 1500 BC.

- In 1947, Pakistan became an independent nation and was divided with British India. Unfortunately, many Sindhi speakers that lived in Pakistan emigrated to India.

(All About World Languages, Accredited Language Services)

History

- In 1972, a language riot broke out in Pakistan because Sindhi speakers were trying to preserve there language, but it was seen as anti-Urdu actions. Urdu was the primarily language of Pakistan after Sindhi speakers fled

- The Sindhi language is mainly found in the Kachchh district of Gujarat.

- Between the 14-18th centuries, Sindhi was one of the most popular literary languages in the eastern world. Sindhi language had a vast vocabulary that surpassed the vocabularies of many of the major languages of its time.

(Accredited Language Services)

Interesting Facts

- Sindhi splits into three primary dialects, largely on the basis of socio-geographical distribution: Central Sindhi, Hindu Sindhi, and Muslim Sindhi.

- Although Sindhi is an Indo-Aryan language, it shows some signs of Dravidian influence (in both the lexicon and phonology), making it a noteworthy Indic language both linguistically and culturally.

- Central and Muslim Sindhi dialects incorporate a greater number of Arabic loans into their lexicons than the Hindu Sindhi dialect does.

- In education; 3 out of 5 children aged between 5-9 do not go to school and every 6 minutes 4 children quit school for good. Overall literacy rate of Sindhi is 51%, 65% of urban population of Sindhi is literate, while 35% of rural population of Sindhi is literate

(Indus Asia Online Journal, UCLA Language Materials Project)

Writing System

- Sindhi is written in a modified Arabic-Sindhi and Devanagari-Sindhi script in both Pakistan and India

- The Arabic-Sindhi script was written by the British government in 1852. This script is a modified version of the Arabic alphabet.

- A number of Sindhi speakers in India also utilize the Devanagari script. This script has an additional four letters to accommodate certain Sindhi language sounds.

- The Sindhi script is written from right to left and short vowels are omitted in the written form of words. Except at the beginning of a word, short vowels appear only as diacritics on the preceding consonant.

(UCLA Language Materials Project, Accredited Language Services, Sindhi Language)

Arabic Script for Sindhi

ڄ	جھ	ج	پ	ث	ٺ	ٽ	ٿ	ت	ڀ	ٻ	ب	ا	ء
ڄي	جهيم	جيم	پي	ثي	ٺي	ٽي	ٿي	تي	ڀي	ٻي	بي	الف	همزه
ǰē	jhīm	jīm	pē	s̱ē	ṭhē	ṭē	thē	tē	bhē	b̤ē	bē	alif	hamza
ǰ	jh	j	p	s̱	ṭh	ṭ	th	t	bh	b̤	b	-	
[ʃ]	[ʤʰ]	[ʤ]	[p]	[s]	[ʈʰ]	[ʈ]	[tʰ]	[t]	[bʰ]	[ɓ]	[b]	[ɑ]	
ڙھ	ڙ	ر	ذ	ڍ	ڏ	ڊ	ڌ	د	خ	ح	ڇ	چ	ڃ
ڙهي	ڙي	ري	ذال	ڍال	ڏال	ڊال	ڌال	دال	خي	حي	ڇي	چي	ڃي
ṛhē	ṛē	rē	ẕāl	ḍhāl	ḍāl	ḍāl	dhāl	dāl	k̲h̲ē	ḥē	chē	cē	ñē
ṛhē	ṛ	r	ẕ	ḍh	ḍ	ḍ	dh	d	k̲h̲	ḥ	ch	c	ñ
[ɽʰ]	[ɽ]	[r]	[z]	[ɖʰ]	[ɗ]	[ɖ]	[dʰ]	[d]	[x]	[h]	[ʧʰ]	[ʧ]	[ɲ]
ک	ڪ	ق	ڦ	ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش	س	ز
کي	ڪاف	قاف	ڦي	في	غين	عين	ظوي	طوي	ضاد	صاد	شين	سين	زي
khē	kāf	qāf	phē	fē	ghayn	ʻayn	ẓōē	ṭōē	z̤ād	ṣād	shīn	sīn	zē
kh	k	q	ph	f	gh	ʻ	ẓ	ṭ	z̤	ṣ	sh	s	z
[kʰ]	[k]	[q]	[pʰ]	[f]	[ɣ]	[Ø]	[z]	[t]	[z]	[s]	[ʃ]	[s]	[z]
	ي	ھ	ه	و	ڻ	ن	م	ل	ڱ	ڳ	گھ	گ	
	يي	دو چشمي هي	هي	واو	ٽون	نون	ميم	لام	ڱي	ڳي	گهاف	گاف	
	yē	dō-cashmī hē	hē	vāō	ṇūn	nūn	mīm	lām	ṇē	ġē	ghāf	gāf	
	y		h	v	ṇ	n	m	l	ṇ	ġ	gh	g	
	[j/i/e]		[h]	[v/u/o]	[ɳ]	[n]	[m]	[l]	[ŋ]	[ɡ]	[gʰ]	[g]	

Devanagari Script for Sindhi

आ	ब	ब̱	भ	त	थ	ट	ठ	स	प	ज	झ	ज̱	ञ
-	b	b̤	bh	t	th	ṭ	ṭh	s̱	p	j	jh	ǰ	ñ
[ɑ]	[b]	[ɓ]	[bʰ]	[t]	[tʰ]	[ʈ]	[ʈʰ]	[s]	[p]	[ʤ]	[ʤʰ]	[ʃ]	[ɲ]
च	छ	ह	ख़	द	ध	ड	ड̱	ढ	ज़	र	ड़	ढ़	ज़
c	ch	ḥ	k̲h̲	d	dh	ḍ	ḍ	ḍh	ẕ	r	ṛ	ṛhē	z
[ʧ]	[ʧʰ]	[h]	[x]	[d]	[dʰ]	[ɖ]	[ɗ]	[ɖʰ]	[z]	[r]	[ɽ]	[ɽʰ]	[z]
स	श	स	ज़	त	ज़	ग़	फ़	फ	क़	क	ख	ग	घ
s	sh	ṣ	z̤	ṭ	ẓ	gh	f	ph	q	k	kh	g	gh
[s]	[ʃ]	[s]	[z]	[t]	[z]	[ɣ]	[f]	[pʰ]	[q]	[k]	[kʰ]	[g]	[gʰ]
ग̱	ङ	ल	म	न	ण	व	ह	य					
ġ	ṇ	l	m	n	ṇ	v	h	y					
[ɡ]	[ŋ]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[ɳ]	v/u/o	[h]	[j/i/e]					

(Omniglot)

Linguistic Features

Phonology:

- The phonological system of Sindhi in most respects resembles that of other Indo-Aryan languages. Sindhi has 53 distinct sound-units: 39 consonants, 3 semivowels, 10 vowels, and a unit of nasalization.

http://youtu.be/vo9OleeyO8o

- Sindhi speakers may find it difficult to correctly pronounce consonants and vowels because they have a tenser articulation.
    - Ex: “h” in Sindhi is voiced, so L2 speakers may have difficult pronouncing words like which or ghost
    - Ex: “s” maybe pronounced as /s/ even though at the end of some words like walls and fees the “s” makes the /z/ sound

(Sindhi Language, Swan & Smith, 2001)

Consonants

- The range of consonant clusters we have in English may cause a problem because initial two segment clusters such as *street* may be prefixed with an "i" so they would say or write *istreet.*
- Also most of there initial clusters are broken up by vowels, so the could say "salow" instead of "slow".
- A final "l" or "n" such as *little* or *button* would be pronounced with a clear vowel schwa sound before the "f" or "n".

Syllable Stress

- In English, we stress syllables and in Sindhi they do not so this would be an area of great difficulty.
  - Ex: ne'cessary is how English speakers stress the syllable
  - 'necessary is how speakers of Sindhi would stress it

(Swan & Smith, 2001)

Syntax

- Sindhi is a free word order language, which means that other sequences of subject, object, indirect object and verb are also possible, preserving the same overall (logical) meaning, and are quite common in spoken discourse

Ex: cokria kuto io SOV

Girl,/dog,/saw

`The girl saw the dog.'

and also:

cokria io kuto SVO	kuto cokria io OSV
io cokria kuto VSO	kuto io cokria OVS
io kuto cokria VOS	

(Facts About World Languages)

- In Sindhi they do no have articles, so this is one of the most difficult points for the learner to grasp.

- The most common errors occur in preposition stranding, including those associated with suppressed relative pronouns.
  - Ex: I was angry on him…..(for….angry with him)

    They were sitting on the table…(for….at the table)

- Learners may drop reflexive pronouns in cases where these do not have a mother-tongue counterpart:
  - Ex: ‘Please enjoy’ or ‘Oh, yes, we will enjoy’

(Swan & Smith, 2001)

Communication Styles

- Greetings are therefore often between members of the same sex; on the other hand, when dealing with people in the middle class, greetings may be across sex lines.
- Men shake hands with men and women shake hands with women.
- They do not require as much personal space as other cultures. DO NOT BACK AWAY!!
- They take their time during greetings and ask about the person's health, family, and business success.

(Kwintesstentials: Pakistan-Language, Culture, Customs & Etiquette, and Kwintesstentials: India-Language, Culture, Customs & Etiquette)

Communication Styles

- In general, this is not a culture where first names are commonly used, except among close friends.
- If you are scheduling meetings, it is best to have them late morning or early afternoon.
- Be punctual, while setting the agenda prior to the meeting.
- Dress attire: Men should be in a suit or business like clothing and women should be in a dress.

(Kwintesstentials: Pakistan-Language, Culture, Customs & Etiquette, and Kwintesstentials: India-Language, Culture, Customs & Etiquette)

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