

## PHONOLOGICAL VARIATION BETWEEN SOME URDU AND TURKISH WORDS

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### **Abstract:**

*Linguistics is the scientific study of human language. Language is that source of expression without which a man cannot progress in the field of Science, Law, Economics, Culture, Traditions and Literature. One needs language for personal as well as for social life. There are several views about the birth of Urdu language; these views are divided into major groups. One group propagates the view that the arrival of Muslims into Sub Continent gave birth to Urdu, they used to speak Arabic, Persian and Turkish languages and Urdu language contain borrowed words from them. The other group is of the view that the arrival of the Aryans gave birth to Urdu. The fact is true about Turkish language. Urdu language not only contains borrowed from Turkish language, but also Proverbs, Idioms, Metaphors and Similes; the Phonetics Phonology, Morphology, Semantics Pragmatics, Syntax, of both languages is surprisingly similar. Culture, traditionally and conceptually Turkish and Urdu languages are related to each other. Through Turkish and Urdu languages transcend from two different language families, yet Turkish language has played a vital role in the development of Urdu language; even the very name of the language, Urdu is a word of Turkish origin that originates from the word “Ordu”, means army. This word is still in common parlance in Turkish language such as Ordugâh and Orduevi. The study is about the Urdu Turkey Linguistic Similarities and Phonological variation between some Urdu and Turkish words.*

**Key words:** Urdu, Turkey, Language, comparative linguistics, Descriptive linguistics, Similarities, Phonological variation, Physiological Influence, Assimilations, semantics.

### **1. Introduction:**

Turks relation, with Sub-Continent date back to Pre-Christian era. These relations not only influenced India cultural and civilizational but also linguistically. The discussion can go far in history if we talk about the relations between Turks and India, because of the historic nature of these relations. Turkish tribes arrival in Indus valley start with the First visit of *You chi* Tribe in 1<sup>st</sup> century and lasts until the end of Turkish Royal family's rule just before *Mehmood Ghaznavi* period. <sup>(1)</sup> During this stretched period of two thousand years the Indus valley's languages, the *Turkish* and *Tatar's* language influenced one another and resultantly gave birth to a new language *Urdu*.

Contacts between nations are natural. Through these contacts civilizational, cultural and linguistic exchange takes place. A single nation or region does not affect the birth of a new language rather it is the amalgamation of many nations, regions and civilizations that makes possible the birth of a new language. This amalgam of civilizations stretches over centuries which in turn help determine that boundaries of a language. The development of a language starts with writing literature in it; the same happened to *Urdu*, it contains words of many languages and it has a distinctive status after the amalgam of many civilizations.

*Urdu* has many words of foreign languages for example; *Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hindi, Sanskrit, English*, etc. The presences of these foreign words indicate that *Urdu* had linguistic contact with many languages. Thousands of foreign words are in currency, in *Urdu* language. In this regards, *Col. Masood Akhtar Sheikh* writes: "Not only *Urdu* and *Turkish* share thirty to forty percent of words but, it a surprising extent that also share many idioms, proverbs, similes, metaphors and sentence structures." (2)

*Urdu* and *Turkish* are all-in to each other civilizationally, socially ad philosophically. They not only share cultural and linguistic similarities but also share a large repertoire of vocabulary. The shared vocabulary is not hundred but at one point it was in thousands. Although *Turkish* and *Urdu* languages belong to different language families i.e. *Urdu* belongs to Indo-European family while *Turkish* belongs to *Turkic* family but quite coincidently as a token of *Turkish* influence on *Urdu* Language, the very name " *Urdu* " is a Turkish word which means a " *caravan, group, or an army* ".

## 2. Literature Review

*Urdu* borrows two types of words from *Turkish* one type of words are those which *Turkish* itself has borrowed from other language but are now *Turkish* words. The second types of words are those which have been borrowed by *Turkish* from *Arabic* and *Persian* language which are now in currency in all of the three (*Arabic, Persian, and Urdu*) Languages. Pure *Turkish* words are in hundreds in *Urdu* language which *Arabic* and *Persian* words in *Urdu* are in thousands. Some scholars are of the view that the number of *Turkish* words in which *Urdu* is Ten Thousand whiles other estimate that these words are three thousand and five hundred in number. But at the same time it is also fact that to date most of the Pure *Arabic, Turkish* and *Persian* words are archaic. So the need of the date is to find out how many of *Turkish* words are in currency in *Urdu* in 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need to find out which of the original *Turkish* words which are now archaic in *Turkish*, are still in currency in *Urdu* language.

Linguistic connection between *Urdu* and *Turkish* Language can be viewed from different linguistic perspectives, for example historical, analytical, descriptive or comparative linguistics. This article will analyse the connection or similarities between the two languages from Descriptive linguistics perspective. This article studies the phonology, semantics and grammar of the two languages.

- i. The first in this regard is that there are many phonological similarities between the two languages the reason for such similarities between the two similar languages is the historic relation and cultural inheritance between the two languages.
- ii. The second point in this regard is that the etymological survey of the words of two languages brings us to the conclusion that both the languages have increased the repertoire of words by excessive borrowing from other languages words are formed through two process i.e through backformation and compounding. *Urdu* and *Turkish* languages both use these two processes and hundreds of such words are found in *Urdu* and *Turkish* language.
- iii. The third point is the aspect of linguistic similarity which consists of lexical similarity, has been hugely influenced by *Arabic*. During Muslim rule, many *Arabic* words relating to daily life have entered our languages. Some of these Words have maintained their original phonological forms while others have undergone phonological changes.

- iv. The fourth point is that very less grammatical difference can be seen between Turkish and Urdu languages which follow the same pattern. However, besides similarities. There are also some grammatical differences. <sup>(3)</sup>

### 3. Research Objectives:

- 3.1. To identify and analyze the phonological systems of Urdu and Turkish languages.  
3.2. To study the influence of historical contact and shared vocabulary on phonological similarities.

### 4. Methodology:

#### 4.1. Research Design

This study is adopted a qualitative comparative linguistic approach, focusing on the phonological structures of Urdu and Turkish. It is involve descriptive and analytical method to compare sound patterns, phoneme inventories, and phonological rules in both languages. Moreover, it is a cross-sectional study as the data was collected in a small period of time.

#### 4.2. Sample size & Sampling Technique

These participants were selected with non-random purposive sampling technique. The sample size of the were 10 native speakers of each language of Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges Peshawar.

#### 4.3. Data Collection:

The data of this research work was collected from the 10 native speakers of each language in form of audios. The participants were given the list of the words and the audios were recorded. It was made sure that these words are known to the sampled population.

### 5. Results and Discussion.

#### 5.1 Phonological variation between Urdu and Turkish:

Difference in accent, pronunciation and sounds due to regional, racial and environmental variations is quite a natural phenomenon. Such differences can be observed through comparative studies of different language. Just like human beings, languages too modify due to internal and external factors. The same words means one thing in one place but mean quite other in other places, such modification happen at many levels in languages. Language modifies according to time and place and linguists call such modification as natural evolution of language. <sup>(4)</sup>

#### 5.2. Reasons of phonological Differences:

There are many reasons of phonological differences but the following two are very common.

- 5.2.1. **Physiological Influence:** First reason of phonological difference is physiological the linguistic inheritance that one generation leaves for the next generation does not remain the same. This fact must be kept in mind that phonological and physiological habits unconsciously change after one generation exit. The reason for this change is the influence of neighboring languages. Sometimes it happens that as a result a particular generation's interaction with a foreign language influences its words and with the passage of time the articulatory of entire generation slightly move from their original position. <sup>(5)</sup>

- 5.2.2. **Assimilations:** The difference in phonology is also due to the assimilation factor. In this process in order to listen to the whole word, it is often

mispronounced. The assimilation often affects the weak sounds and especially the vowels which often change or vanish altogether from pronunciation. <sup>(6)</sup>

Below are given some words which are basically the same but because of phonological difference their forms are different in both the languages. Although they are phonologically different, still there are similarities between them. Such words in Urdu and Turkish have undergone many phonological changes they seem quite dissimilar to each other but deep down they are same. <sup>(7)</sup>

i. / t /, / d /, / ت /, / د /:

Turkish people are soft accented they often replace / د / with / ت /, / د / and / ت / have the same place of articulation. Both are pronounced with the tip of the tongue on the back of the upper teeth. In this sense / د / and / ت / are close in terms of place of articulation while / t / is voiceless, / d / is voiced. . For this reason / د / is replaced by / ت / in Turkish pronunciation. See the following words.

ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )
امیت ( ümit )	امید	فساد ( Fesat )	فساد	اجتهات ( içtihat )	اجتهاد
اجدات ( Ecdat )	اجداد	مراد ( Murat )	مراد	حزمت ( Hizmat )	خدمت
استمدات ( Istimdat )	استمداد	افراد ( Efrat )	افراد	بت ( Bet )	بد
رُشت ( Rüşt )	رشد	عطارت ( Utarit )	عطارد	تقلیت ( Taklit )	تقلید
توحیت ( Tevhit )	توحید	تولیت ( Tevellüt )	تولد	جست ( Ceset )	جسد
جہات ( Chiat )	جہاد	سرحت ( Serhat )	سرحد	فرت ( Fert )	فرد
مہمت ( Mehmet )	محمد				

ii. / h /, / kh /, / ح /, / خ /:

In Turkish language, /خ/ is replaced with /ح/, although /خ/ is used in its own right. But Turkish speakers have mixed the two sounds and this is very difficult for the foreign language speakers. The following words clearly explain this replacement.

ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )
اخلاق ( Ahlak )	اخلاق	خبردار ( Haberdar )	خبردار	حلق ( Halk )	خلق
خدمت ( Hizmet )	خدمت	خبر ( Haber )	خبر	حسنة ( Hasta )	خسته
خوش ( Hoş )	خوش	خالص ( Halis )	خالص	حام ( Hadim )	خادم
خراج ( Haraç )	خراج	حلیچ ( Haliç )	خلیج	بخت ( Baht )	بخت
خاله ( Hala )	خاله	حانم ( Hanim )	خانم	خلوص ( Hulus )	خلوص
خفیہ ( Hafıya )	خفیہ	حیال ( Hayal )	خیال	حیرات ( Hyart )	خیرات
داخل ( Dahil )	داخل	حو ( Huy )	خو	محتاج ( Muhtaç )	محتاج

iii. / C / , / Ç / , / چ / and / چ / :

It must be noted that the English / C / is replaced with / چ / and / چ / with / ç / Turkish language. The Turks often replace / چ / with / چ / . Although both the sounds are in currency in Turkish language in their own right. / C / and / ç / are used in their own right. For example: can --- جان , cuma --- جمعہ , cavahir --- جواهر , cihan --- جهان , cehalat --- جهالت .

Same for the/ Ç /:

çinar --- چنار , çay --- چائے , çaku --- چاقو , çoban --- چوبان , çakmak --- چقماق .

Words that are normally pronounced with / چ / with / چ / in Turkish language.

The following words will explain it.

ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )
ازدواج ( Izdivaç )	ازدواج	اجتهاد ( içtihat )	اجتهاد	محتاج ( Muhtaç )	محتاج
خراج ( Haraç )	خراج	برج ( Burç )	برج	تاچ ( Taç )	تاج
امتزاز ( Imtizaç )	امتزاز	خلیج ( Haliç )	خلیج	حارج ( Hariç )	خارج
				علاج ( ilaç )	علاج

iv. /b/, /p/, / ب / and / پ /:

/b/ and /p/ sound almost the same place of articulation. Both are used in their own places.

Word from / ب / : Beden --- بدن , Beraber --- برابر , Burak --- براق .

Words from / پ / : Peynir --- پنیر , Pelav --- پلاؤ , Pehlwan --- پہلوان , Piyada --- پیادہ .

This pattern must be not in Turkish language that if / P / sound is followed by a vowel sound, it become / b / . Like: Edep --- Adab ( ادب ) , Edepiat --- Adabiat ( ادبیات ) , Hesap --- Hesab ( حساب ) , Hesapi --- Hesabi ( حسابی ) .

Following are the words which are pronounced with / b / / ب / in Urdu and / p / / پ / in Turkish language.

ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو ( Urdu )
اسلوب ( üslup )	اسلوب	ارتکاب (Irtikap)	ارتکاب	ادب ( Edip )	ادب
پت ( Put )	بت	بازار ( Pazar )	بازار	اضطراب ( istirap )	اضطراب
جانپ ( Canip )	جانب	جنپ ( Cezp )	جنپ	چپ ( Cüppe )	جپہ
مہم ( Müpham )	مہم	احباب ( Ahbap )	احباب	اتجاب ( iticap )	حجاب
پادشاہ ( Padişah )	بادشاہ	کتاب ( Kitap )	کتاب	سب ( Sebepe )	سبب
				پابوچ ( Pabuç )	پاپوش

v. / د / .... / نض /:

Words that are pronounced with / ذ / in Urdu are replace with /d, د / and sometimes / t, ت / in Turkish language like: Gida --- غذا , Kadi --- قاضی , Kagit --- کاغذ

/ d, د / Elliptic:

In Turkish, /d, د / sound is elliptic in some words i.e. it is not pronounced. Like:

Üsta --- استاد , Istida --- استعداد .

vi. / N, ن / , / B, ب / --- / M, م /:



Words in which /N/ sound is followed by /b/ it changes into /m/. The following words will explain this:

ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)
Tembih	تنبيه	Ambar	انبار	Embiya	انبیاء
Zembil	زنبیل	Tambura	طنبوره	Mimber	منبر

vii. /k, ق, ک/:

Turkish language does not differentiate in /k/ and /q/ in pronunciation. Same as the case in Urdu language in day to day life, no difference is maintained in the pronunciation of /ک, ق/. However in written form, the difference is strictly maintained. In Turkish writing system, the letter “k” is used for both /ک, ق/ written and spoken form. The following words explain the case:

ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)
Kabiliyet	قابلیت	Kabir	قبر	Tumturak	طمطراق
Keşke	کاش کہ	Kitap	کتاب	Karamat	کرامت

viii. Miscellaneous sounds:

As phonology is concerned with the actual speaking, languages are studied as they are used by the speakers. Some words are given below which are pronounced differently in two languages: the difference is in some sounds here and there. There is no pattern for such pronunciation's variation. These differences are, however, based on the actual language use by the speakers. The following table will illustrate this point.

ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)
Karpuz (خرپوز)	تربوزہ	Yabancı (یابنجی)	اجنبی	Tandur (تندور)	تنور
Kina (کنا)	حنا	Kayıp (کائپ)	غائب	İstirap (اضطراب)	اضطراب
İdbar (ادبار)	اعتبار	Combaz (جمباز)	جانباز	Renk (رنگ)	رنگ
Sipariş (سپارش)	سفارش	Galip (گالپ)	غالب	Padişah (پادشاه)	بادشاه

Generally, there are at least three thousand words common in Urdu and Turkish but many words are morphologically different from each other which is the basic reason of phonological variation. For example, in the Urdu word “mihrab”, /m/ is followed by /h/ but in Turkish “mirhap” the /m/ is followed by /r/ sound. In the Urdu word “ajnabi” (اجنبی) the /j, ج/ sound is followed by /n, ن/ sound while but in Turkish, first comes /b/ and then comes /j/ sound.

ix. Pronunciation of Latin words in Urdu and Turkish:

Urdu and Turkish have borrowed Latin words. In today's scientific world, because of trade, economic inventors and cultural effects, goods are exchanged. That's the reason both languages are affected by Latin and English languages. Following table presents a list of words which are taken from Latin and English and pronounced differently according to each language own phonological makeup.

ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)	ترکی (Türkçe)	اردو (Urdu)
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	)	(Türkçe)	)		)
Orkestra	آرکسٹرا	Kolej	کالج	Okul	اسکول
Tütün	تمبوکو	Pantolon	پتلون	Gaz	گیس
Televizyon	ٹیلی وژن	Otobüs	بس	Doktor	ڈاکٹر
Laboratuvar	لیبارٹری	Tuvalet	ٹائلٹ	Dikatürlük	ڈکٹر شپ
Kooperatif	کوپریٹو	Otokar	موٹر کار	Fotograf çi	فوٹوگرافر
Konfederasyon	کنفیڈریشن	Konkrat	کنٹریکٹ	Konfor	کمفرٹ
Organizasyon	آرگنائزیشن	Makine	مشین	Kongre	کانگریس
Politka	پالیسی	Pompa	پمپ	Boykot	بائییکاٹ
Traktör	ٹریکٹر	KÜltÜr	کلچر	Milyon	ملین
Radyo	ریڈیو	Mikrop	مائیکروپ	Turnuva	ٹورنامنٹ
Senatör	سینٹر	çimento	سیمنٹ	Sampiyon	چمپین
Formu	فارم	İngilizce	انگریزی	Otel	ہوٹل
Sigara	سگریٹ	İstaşyon	اسٹیشن		

## 6. Recommendations:

An old saying: "If you know *Turkish* Language, you can travel with a caravan from *Istanbul* to the *Great wall of China*. In today modern world, money problems relating to History, Civilization, and Social interaction solve with the help of linguistics. Linguistics detect the commonalties and differences among generations and language.

Similarly, the comparative study of *Turkish* and *Urdu* languages can resolve many issues of the history, civilization and societies between the neighbor countries and especially, *Pakistan*, *Turkey* and *Iran*.

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