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Language policy, attitudes & role of the Urdu in the sub-continent and in the diaspora

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Language ideologies and indexicality

- Language ideology is “sets of beliefs about language articulated by users as a rationalization or justification of perceived language structure and use” (Silverstein 1979).
 - Part of ideology to sees language as indexing a certain group identity
 - Black English for African Americans
 - Received Pronunciation for educated middle and upper class
 - Pashto for Pashtun identity
 - In India, Urdu for Muslims
- Indexical signs and two orders of indexicality

Indexicalities of the Urdu language

- Ideologies about the indexicality of Urdu changed in post-1947 (Ahmad 2007)
 - Before 1947, both Hindus & Muslims declared it as their common language
 - People born after 1947 associate first if they are Muslims or Hindus before reporting their language
- Muslims do not pronounce distinctive phonemes of Urdu replacing them with the Hindi ones (Ahmad 2007)
 - They consider Urdu as the language of their parents & they report no functional literacy in the Perso-Arabic script.

Different names of Urdu and indexicality (Rahman 2011)

Name	Period of Use	Associations	Ideological Basis
Hindi	13 th -19 th century	India, Hindus	Indianness. Is now used for Modern Hindi in India.
Dehlavi	13 th -14 th century	Delhi	Regional particularism. No longer in use.
Hindvi/Hindui	13 th -19 th century	India, Hindus	Indianness, Hindu identity. No longer used.
Gujri	15 th century	Gujarat; Gojri language	Regional particularism. No longer in use.
Dakkani ou Dakhni	15 th -18 th century	Deccan	Regional particularism. No longer in use.
Indostan	17 th -18 th century	India	Indianness. Used by few English travellers.
Moors	18 th century	Muslims of Spain	Muslim identity. Was used by few European.
Hindustani	18 th -20 th century	India, especially in North India	Includes all Indians of all religions but excludes Pakistan.
Rekhtah	18 th -19 th century	Mixed Persian and Urdu; sub-standard	Assumes that Persian is the standard language implying the inferiority of Indian languages.
Urdu	18 th century	Muslims, Mughal military camps, mixture of Muslim language with local Indian ones.	Muslim identity; Pakistani identity.

Census and place of Urdu

- Role of Census
 - Create categories of Urdu, Hindi, and Hindustani and number of speakers (Rahman 2011).
 - Results regarding numbers of speakers have an impact on the language policy
 - Language policy in education
 - Language policy in giving or not of official status
 - Indicate the vote bank of a particular linguistic group
- Census in India
 - Reports of census not recorded in the ghettos and poor areas of Muslims and other minorities
 - Language whose speakers are less than 10 000 are not recorded as a separate language
 - *Census Reports*
 - 1871 – No mention of language but of religious groups (Hindu 139 millions & Muslims 40 millions)
 - 1881 – Hindustani 82 millions (including Urdu) and Hindi (517,989)
 - 1903 – Western Hindi 40 millions and Dakhini 6 millions
 - 1941 – Urdu 699,523 and Hindi 67,998
 - 1951 – Urdu 131, 600 and Hindi 652,722
 - 1991 – Urdu 43 million
 - 1997- Urdu 48 million
 - 2001 – 51 million
 - 2011 – 85 million

Role of the Urdu language – from 12th century upto 19th century

- Urdu which was known as Hindvi was first used to spread the religion by Sufi saints
 - Mouinuddin Chisti > 1142-1236
 - Bahauddin Zakria > 1170-1267
 - Sheikh Fariduddin Sharkaganj > 1173-1266
- Urdu was the only language to connect with the masses
- Urdu could not establish itself as a literary language between 11th -14th centuries.
- Urdu was the language of administration in the 19th century
 - English replaced Persian as the language of high administration (1835).
 - Urdu was the language of the lower administration but also of the courts
 - Official language in some provinces in India from 1837
 - Bihar, Pundjab, Hyderabad, United Provinces (Agra & Avadh)
- Urdu was the language of the British Indian Army > 1864
- Urdu considered as the vehicular language since the first census in 1871 (Khan 2006)
- Principal language in many schools and particularly in the *madrasas*

Hindi movement against Urdu

- Linguistic Nationalism in favor of Hindi during the second half of the 19th century
- Started from a pamphlet by Madan Mohan Malviya in 1897
 - Primary education in Urdu does not help pupils in the provinces
 - Urdu was highly Persianized in the school curriculum
 - Not the language of the common people
- Association “*Nagari Pracharini Sabha*” was created in 1893.
- Another organisation “*Hindi Sahitya Sammelan*” was created in 1910.
 - The objective was to promote the sanskritization of Hindi
 - Hindi without bindi
- In reaction, association of Urdu “Anjouman Taraqqi Urdu” was created in 1903 to promote Urdu

Language policy on Urdu – India & Pakistan

India

- Debate on the name Hindustani or Hindi started on 12 September 1949 in the Constituent Assembly of India.
 - It was rejected in favour of Hindi
 - Suspicions among nationalist Indians that Urdu would sneak in under the cover of Hindustani
- Name of Urdu was not proposed in the first 14 official languages of the Constitution
 - Nehru insisted including Urdu with the other 13 languages
 - Urdu is among the 22 official constitutional languages in India
- Official language status in many Indian states
 - First co-official language status with Telugu in Telangana (2015)
 - First co-official language status with English in Kashmir
 - Second official language status in Bihar (1980) and in Uttar Pradesh (1989)
 - Also official language in Delhi

Pakistan

- Urdu was declared as the national language (in East & West Pakistan)
 - Some nationalists recommended that Urdu be called “Pakistani”.
 - *Muqtadra qaumi zaban* presses the government for inclusion of Urdu in public domain.
 - From 1955 until 1971 > Urdu and Bengali were national languages
 - The 1973 Constitution of Pakistan states Urdu is the national language (Article 251).

Role, usage and status of Urdu – post 1947

India

- Hindi in 1947 got the status of Urdu in the 19th century.
- Urdu medium schools
 - Public and private schools in India
 - Thousands of vacancies in Urdu medium schools
 - Bihar > 27 000 vacancies (11 Jan 2016)
 - Uttar Pradesh > 3 500 vacancies (20 Jan 2016)
 - Telangana > 1 215 vacancies (30 Dec 2015)
- Urdu has become a trap for vote bank politics.
- Urdu is widely used in the popular culture like in Bollywood and TV series
- People go to *mushairas* (poetry recitings)
- Very limited literary circle of Urdu in India
 - Very few publication copies
 - Limited Urdu speaking intellectuals are in the public discourse.

Pakistan

- Out of 945 journals & newspapers, 628 are in Urdu and 204 in English (Rahman 2010).
- Radio Pakistan and the television channels are the main purveyors of Urdu in the country (Rahman 2011)

Urdu Language Academies in India & Pakistan

Place	Language	Country	Name of the Academy
Islamabad	Urdu	Pakistan	National Language Promotion Department http://nlpd.gov.pk/
Bihar	Urdu	India	Bihar Urdu Academy
Delhi	Urdu	India	Urdu Academy Delhi http://urduacademydelhi.com/
Karnataka	Urdu	India	Karnataka Urdu Academy http://www.karnatakaurduacademy.org/
Uttar Pradesh	Urdu	India	Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy
Haryana	Urdu	India	Haryana Urdu Academy
Madhya Pradesh	Urdu	India	Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy
Orissa	Urdu	India	Orissa Urdu Academy

Images of Urdu

India

- Often perceived as the language of the army, born in the military camps
- Language of invasion, of colony and subsequently of slavery
- Language & script are foreign ≠ Not Indian / Not bhasha
- Urdu is considered as sister language of Persian & Arabic.
- The Perso-Arabic script is unknown to the majority of Indians

Pakistan

- Cultural hegemony by Mujahir whose mother tongue is Urdu
- Considered also as a language imposed from the exterior.
- Symbol of the elite rulers of Punjab.

Identities and stereotypes related with Urdu in India

- Language of Muslims
- Language of Pakistanis, an enemy country
 - Mother tongue of Muslims who were converted from Hinduism
 - Language of traitors
 - Forced “*gharvapsi*” (a reconvert to the original religion)
- Language of *madrasa* (Qur’anic school)
- Secret Language / Language to plot against the government
 - Muslim readership (journals, texts and religious pamphlets...)
 - Urdu writers asked to declare that their books are not against the government and not against the nation (March 2016)
- A case study on three generations by Ahmad (2015)
 - Urdu is not the marker of a Muslim identity for the people born before 1947.
 - Urdu is exclusively associated with the identity of Muslims for those who were born after the partition.
 - Urdu is compared with poverty, illiteracy and a conservative identity for those born in the early 80s
 - Disaffiliation with the Urdu language and its culture by the young generation
 - They report of speaking a mixed language (Hindi, English & Punjabi)

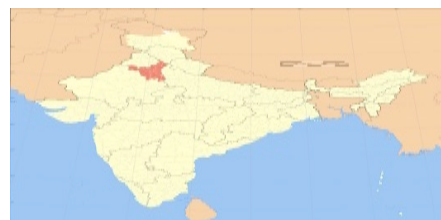
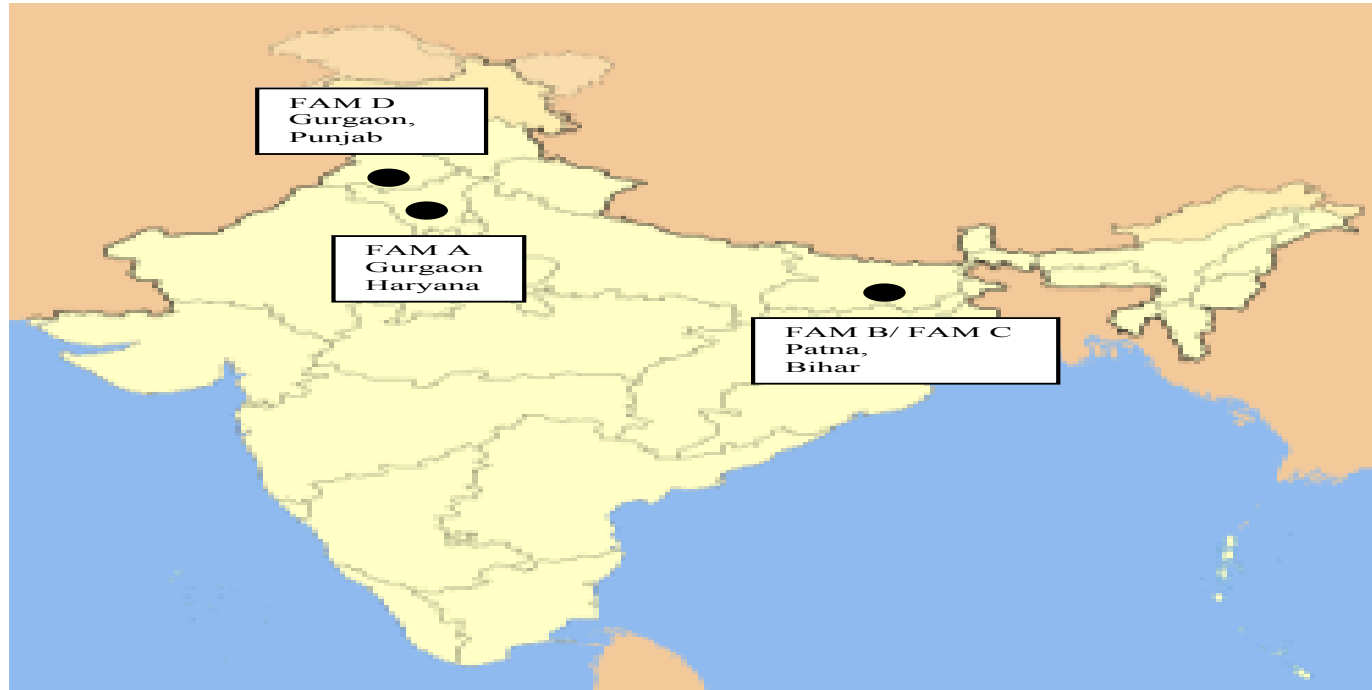
Urdu educational policies in India & Pakistan

India

- Urdu declining as medium of instruction because of lack of Urdu texts books for science and technology.
- Urdu medium schools lack qualified teachers.
- English-medium schools have imposed a penalty on students who speak other languages like Hindi or Urdu.

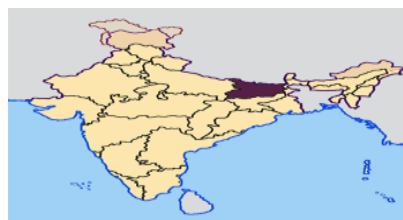
Pakistan

- Urdu textbooks are old fashioned and out of touch with radical thinking (Rahman 2010).
 - Computer books in Urdu
- Urdu remains the medium of instruction in most of schools.
- Sindhis, Pashtuns and parents from other provinces want their children to learn Urdu for upward mobility.
 - Regional languages lose out against Urdu
 - Shame among Punjabis regarding their own language
 - With large scale immigration to urban cities, like Karachi, people seek to be literate in Urdu and English (Rahman 2010)
- English-medium schools forbid students to speak Urdu
 - Pupils were taunted as *Paendu* (country bumpkin)



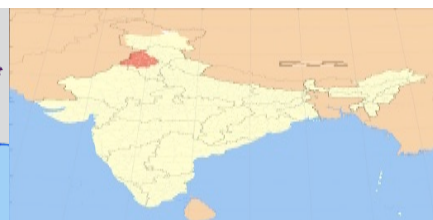
FAM A

**Gurgaon
Haryana**



FAM B/ FAM C

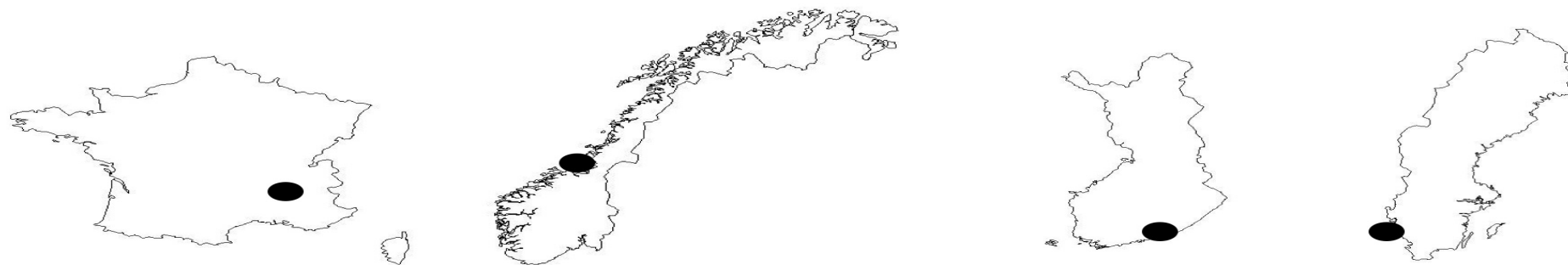
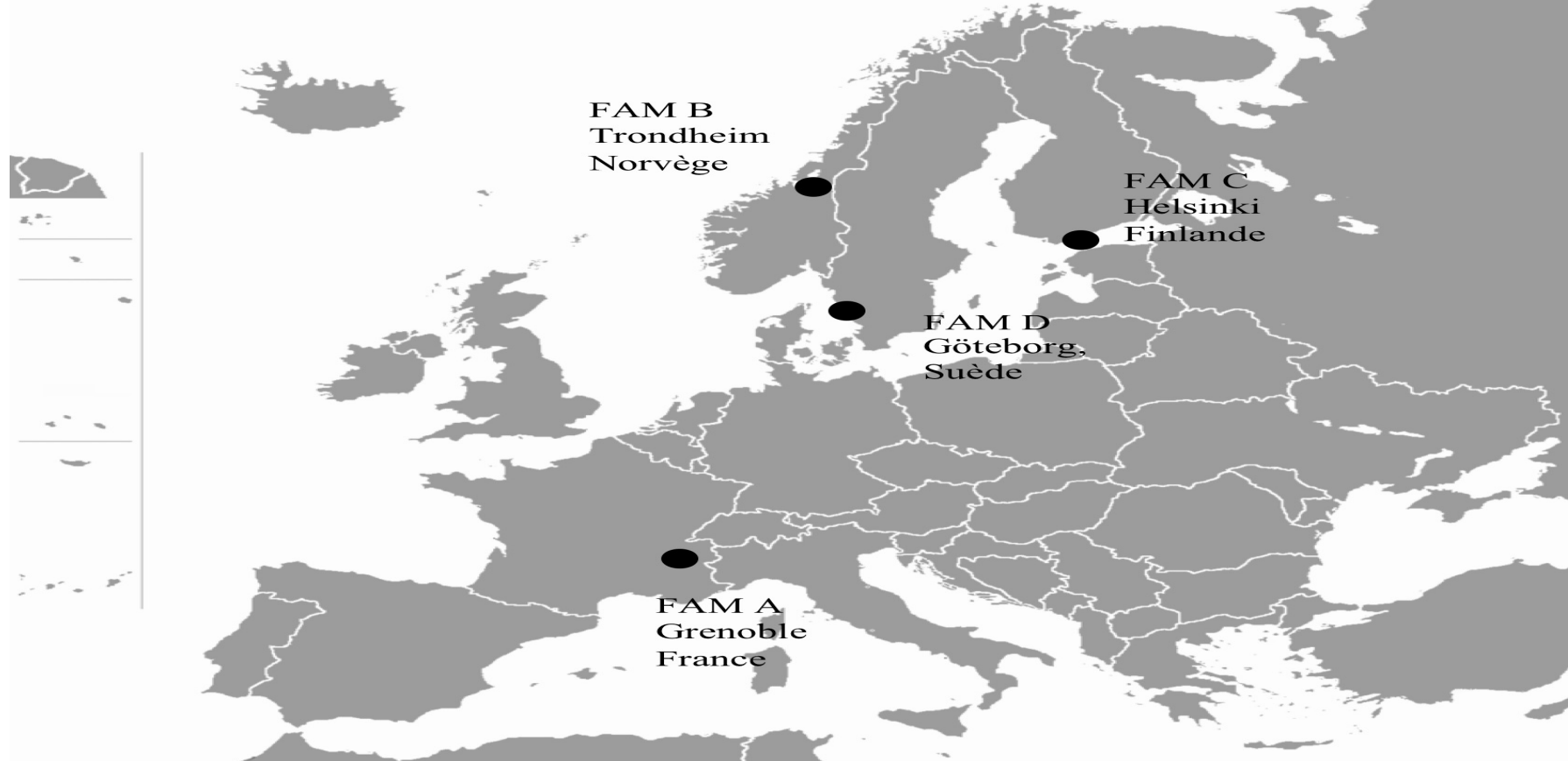
**Patna
Bihar**



FAM D

**Chandigarh
Punjab**

Cities/States of the immigrant Indian families



Countries of immigration of Indian families in Europe

Verbal Repertoire of Indian immigrant families

It can be classified in three types of languages :

- 1) First language (regional) : Variety of Haryanvi, Ourdou, and Pendjabi
- 2) Standard Language : Hindi, Ourdou, Pendjabi
- 3) Prestigious languages : English, French, Swedish, Norwegian

FAM C: Profile and Language Practices

Family Members	YAS (Father)	ERA (Mother)	ARI (Child I)	ASH (Child II)
Age and Sex	35 yrs M	26 yrs F	10 yrs M	3 yrs M
Country of Birth	India	India	India	Finland
Occupation	Engineer	Housewife/Teacher	Student	Student
First Language	Urdu	Urdu	Urdu	Urdu
Language spoken with parents	Urdu	Urdu	Urdu	Urdu
Language(s) spoken with children	Urdu	Urdu	-	-
Language(s) spoken at work/school	English	Finnish/ English	English	Finnish
Language(s) spoken in home	Urdu	Urdu	Urdu/ English	Urdu
Language(s) spoken with the people of the resident country	English	Finnish/ English	English	Finnish/ English
Language(s) spoken with the people of the country of origin	Urdu/Hindi/ English	Urdu/Hindi/ English	Urdu/Hindi/ English	Urdu/ English
Nationality	Indian	Indian	Indian	Indian

FAM B (Trondheim): Language Transmission

 		FAZ	ASF	RAF	MUS	ZAN	ZAR
First language of parents		Urdu	Urdu	-	-	-	-
Second language of parents		Hindi	Hindi	-	-	-	-
Language acquired by children		-	-	Urdu	Urdu	Urdu	Urdu
Languages taught by parents		-	-	Urdu Arabic	Urdu Arabic	Urdu Arabic	Urdu Arabic
Languages learnt by children in school		-	-	Hindi English Norwegian	English Norwegian	English Norwegian	English Norwegian
Language of instruction in school		-	-	Norwegian	Norwegian	Norwegian	Norwegian
Language spoken by children	In home	-	-	Urdu	Urdu	Urdu	Urdu
	In school	-	-	Norwegian	Norwegian	Norwegian	Norwegian

First language of parents = Language spoken by children
(Urdu) **(Urdu)**

Urdu in the diaspora: some final points

- Non-Asian countries with Urdu speakers : South Africa (12 000, Ethnologue 2006), USA (5 00 000, VOA 2015), UK (269 000, Census 2011, UK), Canada, Norway, France, Germany and Turkey.
- Other than South Asia, Urdu speakers found in the Middle East.
- Urdu students in Inalco
- Young Pakistani diaspora in Canada is unable to read Urdu (Dawn 2016).

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