

Evolution & origin of Urdu

Lecture on Urdu History, 30 OCT 2023, BFSU, Beijing

by

Shahzaman HAQUE

Associate Professor, of Urdu
Inalco, Paris, France.

بقول گارساں داتاسی

’ہندوستانی زبانوں کا آغاز گیارہویں صدی میں ہندوؤں اور مسلمانوں کے میل جول کے بعد ہوا اس لیے اسے ’ہندی‘ کیا گیا ہم اس زبان کا نام کچھ بھی دیں‘

History and origin of Urdu : some questions

- What is the origin of Urdu ? How did it start ? From where did the Urdu begin ?
- What was the first form of Urdu ? How did it take shape as a spoken language ?
- How does written form of Urdu came into shape ?
- What were the first written works in the Urdu language ?

Some different names of Urdu

Hindvi (13th-19th century)

Hindi (13th-19th century)

Musulmani zubaan (13th – 15th century)

Dehlavi (13th-14th century)

Gujri (15th century)

Rekhtah (13th-19th century)

Dakhini (15th-18th century)

Indostan (17th century)

Hindustani (18th-20th century)

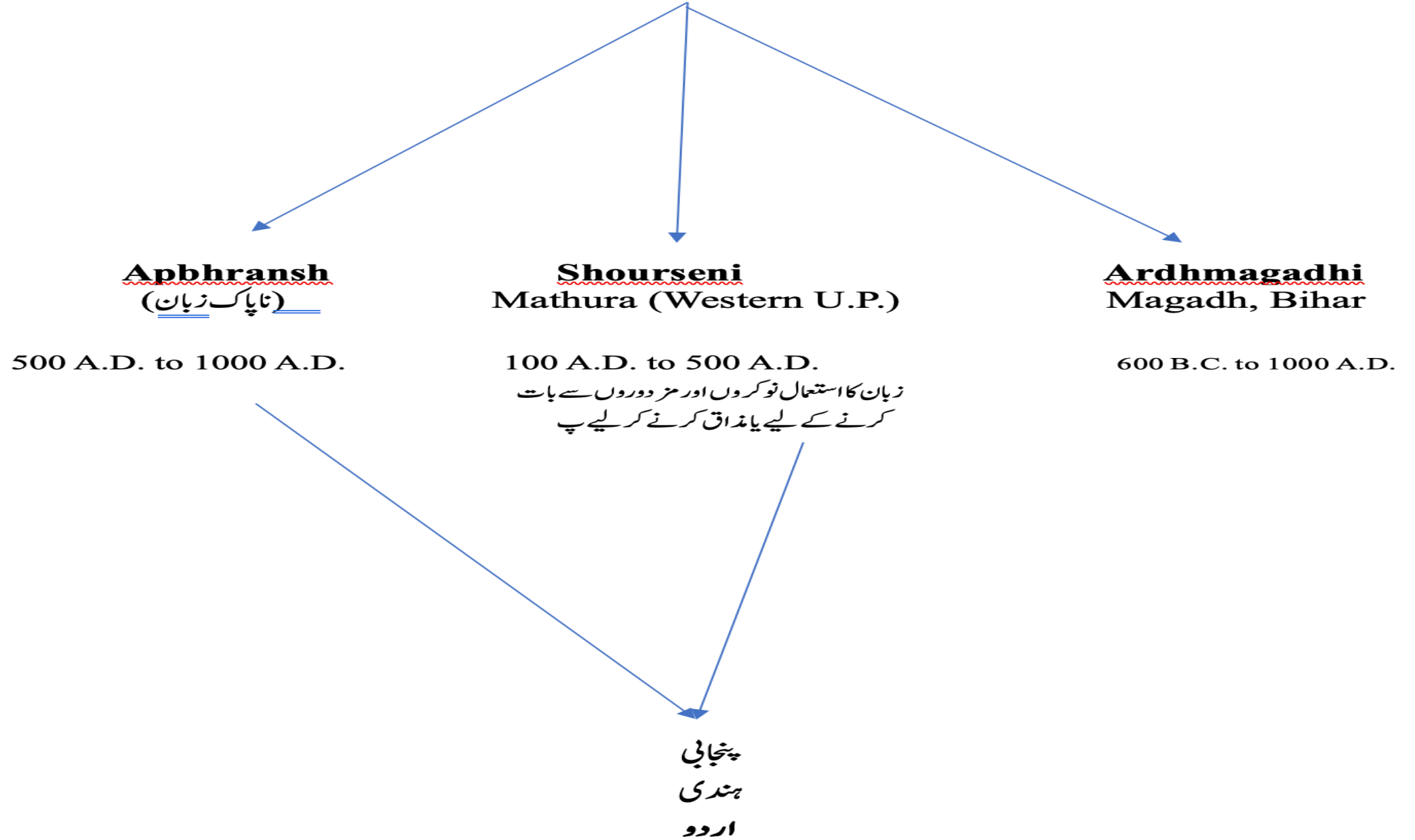
فارسی آمیز ہندوستانی (کھڑی بولی) = ہندی

سنسکرت آمیز ہندوستانی (کھڑی بولی) = جدید ہندی

Meaning & word origin of Urdu

- Urdu means “military camps” , “army” ?
- Urdu word originated from Altai region of Mongolia (Jaffar & Chand)
- Yousuf Khaas Hajib gave the meaning of Urdu as town or palace (1072).
- Mohammad Al-Kashgari wrote the meaning of Urdu as “the town where the king resides” (11th century, cited by Jaffar & Chand)
- For Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, first reference of Urdu was in the term “zaban-e-urdu-e mu’alla-e shahjanabad (the language of the exalted city / Court of Shahjanabad, Delhi)
- Till the 18th century, Urdu meant the “city of Delhi”.

Prakrit



Urdu in 13th & 14th century

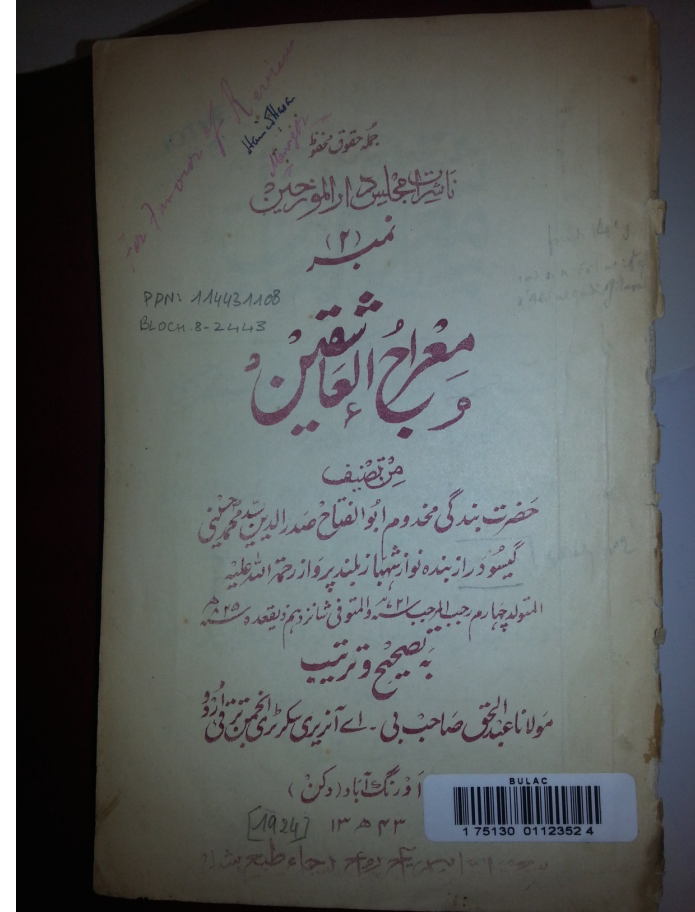
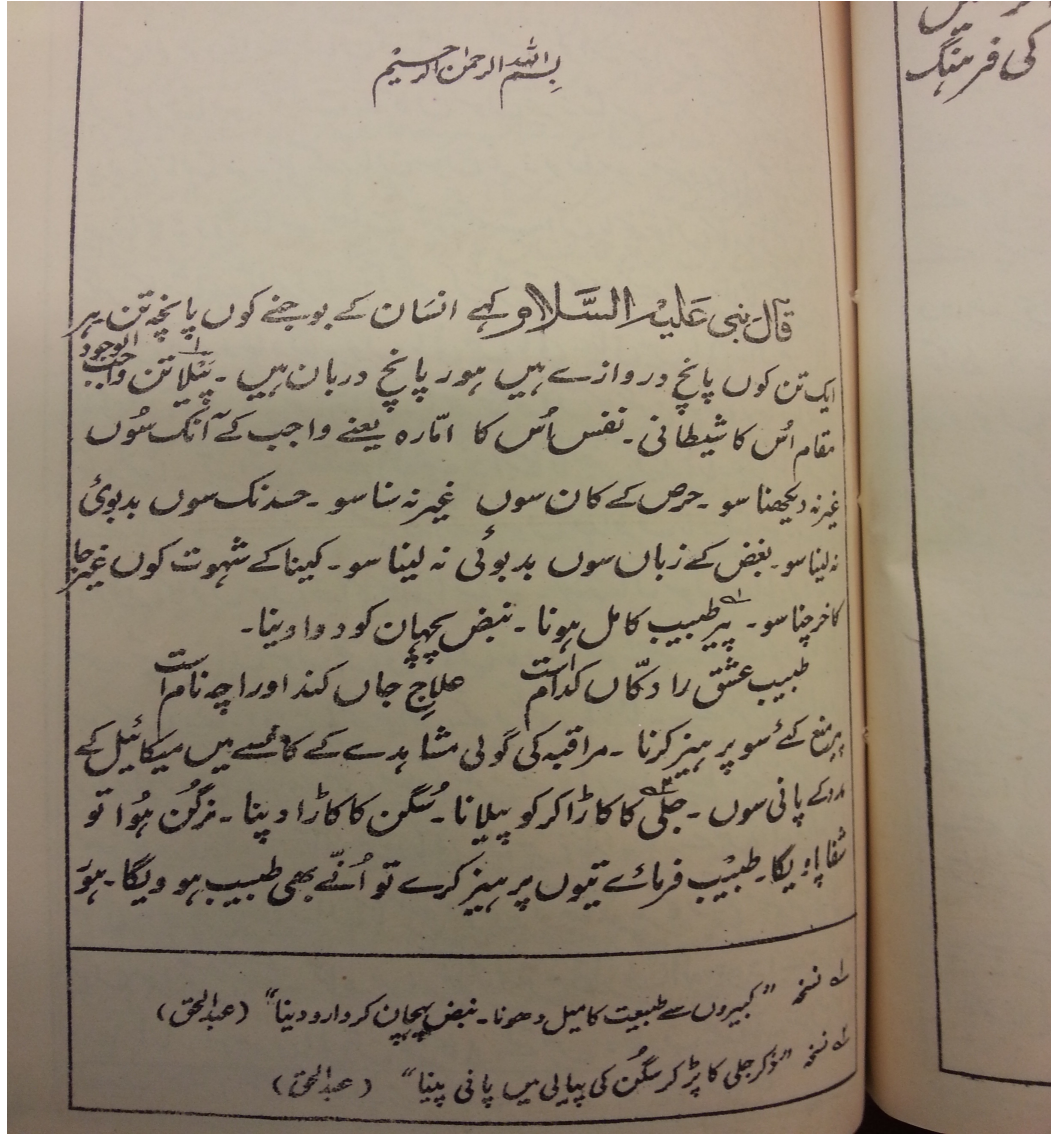


Tracing the origins of Urdu – VII

From 14th century to 17th century

- The first and foremost Hindvi writer was **Shekh Ain Ud Din Ganj ul ilm (1306-1393)**. Born in Delhi but shifted to Daulatabad. He wrote mainly in Persian but believed to be the author of several Dakhani tracts on the duties of religion.
- Hindvi writer whose work survived is Shaikh Bahauddin Bajan (1388-1506)
- Khaja Banda Nawaz Gesu Daraz (1321-1422) wrote two short prose works :
 - Miraj ul Ashiqin
 - Hidayat Nama

Miraj ul Ashiquin, 1398



لوگوں کو جب کھول بتاویں

ہندی میں کہہ کر سمجھاویں

Source : Poem « Tareekh Garibi », between 1751 and 1757
Unknown poet, details in Sheerani, 1966, Vol. 2 (Muqaalat Sheerani)

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