

The Pashto sounds & position in words

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Abstract:

In many Pashto grammars, it is written that there are four types of sounds in this language: vowels, consonants, semi vowels and diphthongs. If we think deeply, there are two types of sounds in Pashto language vowels and consonants. Semi vowels and diphthongs are studied in Pashto due to following the grammar of other languages. Consonants of Pashto language can be used in all three initial, middle and final positions of the words except ځ which is only used in the middle and final position. Vowels can never be used in initial position, w and y sounds which we observe in initial position of the Pashto words are consonants sounds. Similarly, الف sound which is also used in initial position is actually ء consonant of Pashto language, it is neither الف nor any other vowel sound.

Key words: Pashto language, phonology, consonant, vowel, semi vowel, diphthongs.