

## **Preparation and Evaluation of Brahui Text Books for Primary Education in Balochistan**

**Dr. Waheed Razzaq<sup>1</sup>**

### **Abstract**

*This research paper attempts to demonstrate that how Brahui language was introduced as a medium of education specially at primary level in Balochistan. The first period of Brahui teaching begins when the book of Molvi Allah Bux a Persian teacher of High School Karachi was published in 1886. Purpose of this book was to provide basic knowledge of Brahui to the British army officers who were serving in Balochistan. The second period begins when religious scholars of Durkhani religious institution 'Maktaba e Durkhani' at Dhadar used Brahui and Balochi languages as medium of education for spread of Islam in the first half of the twentieth century. The third period begins from the last quarter of the twentieth century up to now. In this phase Brahui has been introduced as medium of instruction in many educational institutions including public sector universities and colleges in Balochistan. Brahui was introduced at primary school level for a short period of only two academic years in 1990 but ended in 1992. In 2014 government of Balochistan passed an act named 'The Balochistan introduction of mother languages as compulsory additional subject at primary level act 2014' after that bill level one to three books were developed and are being taught in primary levels from last three years, book four is near to published. Some social organizations are also working in this field. The USAID-funded Pakistan Reading Project (PRP), implemented by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is also working on mother languages. Urdu, Sndi and Pashto reading material from PRP have been developed for level one and two. Brahui reading material for level one is ready to be published in 2019.*

**Keywords:** Balochistan, Brahui, Primary Education,

### **Introduction**

Brahui language is spoken mostly in the central parts of Balochistan province, the main area where Brahui language is spoken lies in a narrow corridor

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<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Brahui, University of Balochistan, Quetta (Pakistan)

stretching from just south of Quetta through Nushki, Kalat, and Khuzdar to Las Bela. The town of Kalat divides the region into a northern part, Sarawan, and a southern part, Jahlawan, reflected in the main tribal divisions of the Brahuīs: the Sarawani and Jahlawani tribes. Some interior parts in Sindh province. In Iran it is spoken in the Sistan o Balochistan province. Brahui language is spoken in Helmund and Nimroz provinces in Afghanistan. A small number of Brahuīs are also settled in Soviet Turkmenistan, mainly in the Marv oasis. (Encyclopedia Iranica. 2018) Brahui language belongs to North Dravidian language family which is spoken some 1250 miles far from other Dravidian languages i.e. Talgu, Tamil, Malyalam, Karukh and Malto. According to an estimate there are about three million people in the world who speak Brahui language.

Srawani, Jhalawani and Rakhshani are the three major dialects of Brahui language. Sarawani dialect is mostly used in Brahui literature. Jhalawani dialect of Brahui language is spoken in southern areas of Balochistan, the dialect which is spoken in the Kharan, Panjgur and Chagi area is called Rakhshani dialect. Till post-colonial period in Balochistan there was no tradition of using Brahui language in writing, it has been used only as an oral language, but only few works in Brahui had appeared before then, when Malik Dad Kalati's book '*Tofatul Hajahib*' was written in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. After 1950, a standard literary movement started when some magazines started publishing articles and poetry in Brahui.

Moulana Maik Dad a poet and religious scholar of Kalat first time wrote Brahui in the Pashto style Arabic script in his book '*Tofatul Hajahib*' in the 1759 AD. (Durkhani, 1958) After Malik Dad writers of *Mukatab Durkhani* in Dhadar Balochistan followed same script of Moulana Malik Dad for their Brahui books. From 1950, Brahui language is being written in the Persian style Urdu *Nastaliq* script. Now all the Brahui books, newspapers and magazines are being published in the Persian this script.

A new era was commenced in Balochistan when Khan of Kalat Mir Mehrab Khan martyrdom on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1839 by Britishers and specially after Mastung accord in 1886, between Khan of Kalat Khan Khuidad Khan and British government, most of the powers of rulership were taken by Britishers into their hands. The British officers conveyed by their religious clerics and Christian Missionary to convert the local people of Balochistan into Christianity, in this regard they translated their religious books into Brahui. After that they started their free distribution among the Brahui people. (Sabir. 1994).

Molvi Allah Bux a High school teacher wrote the first book on Brahui named 'Hand book of the Brahui Language' in 1886. (Bux. 1983) Teaching of Brahui language to the British army officers was the basic purpose of this book, the purpose behind English officers learning Brahui language was to project their power onto the people of Balochistan. Molvi Allah Bux adopted Sindhi orthography for Brahui script in this book.

These causes were the beginning of a prepared movement in which resulted in starting of book writings in Brahui and Balochi. The religious scholars of Maktaba Durkhani adopted Brahui language as medium of education. They translated many religious books in Brahui language. Maulana Muhammad Umer Deenpuri translated the Holy Quran into Brahui in 1914. The Religious scholars of Maktaba Durkhani played a very important role in promotion of not only Brahui languages but they also played a very vital role in spreading of the Islamic knowledge in Balochistan. Due to this movement Christian Missionary become totally failed in converting the people of Balochistan to Christianity. (Rehman. 2001)

Maulvi Muhammad Fazil Durkhani was the pioneer of the Durkhani movement. Durkhan a village, where Maulvi Muhammad Fazul used to live is about ten kilometers from Dhadhar city in Balochistan. Muhammad Fazil Durkhani established this religious school in about 1880. Maktaba e Durkhani was the first school where Brahui language was used as medium of instruction. The purpose behind this movement was spreading religious awareness among the Baloch and Brahui people. Since the British missionaries had translated their holly book bible in the Brahui languages between 1905 to 1907, there was apprehension among the Baloch religious scholars that Christianity would spread among them. Muhammad Fazil and his followers Mullah Nabo Jan, Muhammad Umar Dinpuri, Abdullah Durkhani, Mullah Saleh Muhammad wrote many Islamic books for the common people in Brahui language. This institution started publishing of books written by local scholars and after that they started their free distribution among the Brahui people. (Sabir. 2008).

According to Dr. Abdul Rehman Brahui (1982) books which were published by this institution in Brahui Language were around 1000. While Aseer Abdul Qadir Shahwani (1998) lists 210 books in Brahui, but exact number of books published by this institution cannot be mentioned. There are various lists scattered, each book published from Maktaba e Durkhani has also a list of fresh books published by this institution at its last page.

Drukhan School of Thought *Maktaba Durkhani* became the first institution which gave Brahui language the status of teaching language along with Persian and Arabic. Many scholars from Maktaba Durkhani created best literary books in Brahui language. However, the institution created a very rich religious literature in Brahui, which has now holding the modern Brahui literature's building. Scholars of Maktaba Durkhani adopted Arabic orthography for Brahui and used retroflex lateral voices in their texts. (Sabir. 1994)

In some Madarasas of Balochistan Brahui language is used informally to clarify texts of Persian and Arabic. Brahui language is also informal language for explanation of Urdu and English text in many Urdu medium schools from the remote areas of Balochistan where Brahui is used only for explanation.

### **Brahui Text Books for Primary Education**

According to UNESCO (1953) "Mother-tongue instruction should be the best way for children to learn as it bridges the gap between home language and language of instruction. Every language is sufficient enough to give high cognitive skills to its users and there are no major or minor languages. Therefore, mother tongue instruction should be extended as long as possible. A Lingua Franca or a language of wider communication cannot be a substitute for the mother tongue, and it should be avoided until the child fully acquired their mother tongue". (UNESCO. 1953)

Khan (2014) stated that "Mother tongue is the most appropriate means for effective teaching because it has the learner's experiences. Those children understanding the instruction language are more likely to enter the school at proper age, appropriate times and attend school regularly, less likely to drop out as compared to those who receive instruction in a foreign language".

In Constitution of Pakistan It is clearly mentioned in the article 28 page 14 that "any section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture shall have the right to preserve and promote the same and, subject to law, establish institutions for that purpose", and in article 251 page 149 that "a Provincial Assembly may by law prescribe measures for the teaching, promotion and use of a provincial language in addition to the national language"(Constitution of Pakistan. 2012).

In 1989 Federal government allowed Balochistan Government to use the local languages "Brahui, Balochi, and Pashto" at primary level in schools. The Balochistan cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, in its meeting held on 14 March 1989 decided that education shall be imparted in the mother tongue "Balochi, Brahui and Pashto" of the child at primary level in Balochistan province from academic year 1990.

(Working Papers of Balochistan Cabnit. 1989) For this purpose Balochistan Text Book Board Quetta appointed Panels of prominent writers to prepare text books for class one in Balochi, Brahui and Pashto. Brahui language formally inducted as medium of education at Primary level in Balochistan in 1990. Local writers of Brahui language wrote the initial books in Brahui for class one in the same year.

For teaching of mother languages first time in the province a grand master training course was also developed for Primary Teachers from the districts where Brahui language is spoken by majority of the people. Master Training Course for Brahui language teachers was designed by Prof. Abdul Razzaq Sabir and Prof. Nadir Qambrani from Department of Brahui University of Balochistan. First book for class one was prepared in 1989, for class two books in 1990 and class three books were prepared in 1991. The Brahui Text book writers were Prof. Nadir Qambrani, Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, Dr. Hameed Shawani, Abdul Haleem Sadiq, Muhammad Afzal Mengal, Khuda-I-Dad Gul. Abdul Samad Shaheen. (Sabir. 2008).

Teaching in the Brahui was running very successfully in the Brahui speaking districts of the province when provisional Government was dissolve. After Nawab Akbar Bugti government Mir Taj Muhammad Jamali sworn as new Chief Minister Balochistan". Unfortunately, in his chairmanship the Balochistan provincial cabinet in its meeting held on 6-10-92 decided to stop the teaching of these languages at Primary level. (Working Papers of Balochistan Cabnit. 1992)

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014 provisional assembly Government of Balochistan passed an act named 'The Balochistan introduction of mother languages as compulsory additional subject at primary level act 2014' to provide measures for introduction of mother tongue (Balochi, Brahui, Pashto) as compulsory additional subject at primary level in the province of Balochistan. To implement these decisions Balochistan Text Book Board Quetta was assigned duty to appointed Panels of writers to prepare manuscripts and text books in Brahui. For level one the Brahui text book which was written in 1989 by Prof: Nadir Qambarani and Prof Abdul Razzaq Sabir was re printed after some necessary amendments in 2015. Level one and three books were written by Prof: Abdul Qayyum Sosan and Mr. Saghir Ahmed Saghir, and were published in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Level four Brahui text book is written by Prof Sosan Braui and Elahi Bakhsh Anjum which ready to be published in 2018. Some social organization are also working on primary education in Paksitan form last may decades. The USAID-funded Pakistan Reading Project (PRP), is working specially reading of mother languages at primary level in Pakistan from last few years. In this regard PRP has developed work books, Big Books,

lesson plans etc for Urdu, Sindhi and Pashto languages. PRP started reading material development for Balochi and Brahui languages in 2018. Brahui reading material for level are ready to be published in 2019. Teaching in the Brahui at primary level is running successfully in those districts of Balochistan where Brahui speaking people live in majority. Thus, mother tongue is the key to success in education.

### **Conclusion**

Brahui language was introduced as a medium of education at primary level in Balochistan in 1989 but ended in 1992, for a short period of only two academic years. The text books only for class 1, 2, and 3 were developed in Brahui. The basic book for class 1 was prepared in 1989, for class 2 books in 1990 and the class 3 book was under preparation in 1991 when that time Balochistan provisional government was dissolved. Unfortunately this important initiative of Balochistan government ended after three years. In 2014 once again government of Balochistan passed an act for introducing and promoting mother languages at primary level in Balochistan named 'The Balochistan introduction of mother languages as compulsory additional subject at primary level act 2014' after this bill Balochistan text Book Board started preparing and developing books in mother languages (Balochi, Brahui, Pashto ect) level one to three books were developed and are being though in primary levels last two years, level four book is near to published. Once again teaching in mother language programe is running very successfully. So for educational achievements, national development and reconstruction it is advised that the mother tongue should be used as a medium of instruction in institutions specially at primary level.

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