

**THE ROLE OF THE BALOCHI LANGUAGE AND CULTURE  
AMONG THE BALOCH PEOPLE IN BALOCHISTAN**

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***Abstract***

*The paper is set up to evaluate the role of The Balochi language and culture among the Baloch people, and social life of the Baloch society. However, language and culture are integrated, indicating the actual pictorial of the tribal communities and traditional norms, values, customs of Baloch people. The study is covered through an extensive review of the literature to shed the role of The Balochi language and culture perspectives of the Baloch people. The study highlights that Baloch people living within communities and tribes numbered as monolingual and integrated with the respective culture, representing ethnicity, humanity and respecting social norms with the society.*

**Keywords:** The Balochi language, Baloch culture, traditional norms, Balochistan

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**Introduction**

The Balochi language is a source of communication among the Baloch people, and regarded as the regional language and spoken among the communities to present the thoughts, emotion, feelings, and opinions with others among the tribes and communities. Baloch people are scattered at the various regions of the world residing on the Iranian plateau, the Indian lowland, and north of Oman, south of River Helmand and small communities in Europe and America. The Balochi communities present among in Oman, UAE, and other countries. It has been historically contested by the global forces of geopolitics. Balochistan occupies great strategic importance for the whole region.

The Baloch people have traditionally sustained themselves on pastoral nomadism or seasonal agriculture, and some extent is relying on fishing. Thus, the land of Baloch recognized as Balochistan is divided between Iran and Pakistan through a border demarcation during the British regime in 1870-1872. Balochi is the mother-tongue of 3.02 percentage of the individuals within the country (Tariq, 2008). Baloch people live in three different countries: Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. The Baloch population in Pakistan resides mainly in Balochistan. According to the latest census, the total population of Baloch is 6 million of which 70% live in Balochistan and the rest in the other three provinces, as reported in 2005 (Fani et al., 2011).

The Balochi language is integrated with Baloch culture, and the Baloch people speak The Balochi language in the territories of the province. Language is the main tool to communicate with individuals within the regions of the province. Language is associated with human behavior and ritual regulation in human society. Henceforth, language is the expression strategy, inclusion of cohesion, strength and ethnic bonds among the individuals in the shape of culture Ramahobo (2008). Starks et al. (2005) studied 'Language as a Marker of cultural features and social constructions in the tribes or communities of the individuals within the country. Anzaldua (1987), stated as language and culture as twin skin of the human society. Language presents human religion, family, political, historical notions, values of social groups and components of culture and society (Leuner, 2008). Balochi identity is interrelated with the language and culture of the Baloch people. Language is entirely recognized as the cultural element among all Baloch people (Spooner, 2012).

Henceforth, The Balochi language is a central association with Baloch culture among the tribes of Baloch people. According to Sepehri (2010), the values of

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individuals are judged through people's language culture and ethnicity. Jahani (2005) states the Balochi language is an improved language and regularized Baloch culture in the shape of songs and dance and lifestyle.

**Background of Baloch Language and Baloch culture**

Balochistan is a vast province area wise in Pakistan. The Baloch people integrate with Baloch culture for the decades. Thus, these components indicate the reality of social life and linkage among the public of the province who intend to practice such elements for a long time. Baloch people are stated as a reasonable figure of human society, and firm in decision –taking personalities in society.

**The Balochi language**

Balochi is a language mostly spoken in southwestern Pakistan and southeastern Iran, and on the other parts of the country. It is estimated that 8 to 10 million individuals talk about this language, although the Balochi language has remained under the influence of national and local languages within the country (Jahani and Korn, 2009). Therefore, language links with cultural specificities (Blum-Kulka et al., 1989). Language explains the cultural issues and is related to the cultural symbols and so forth. (Daniel et al., 2011). Language develops the connections and reduces the distance among the individuals within the regions, enhancing the ratio of the speakers (Kang and Qian, 2010).

Language is in contact with other different languages and the state of the country. In this way, language becomes an enriched language of the society and irrespective to it may lose the own identity and vanish from the map of the social world. For The Balochi language, it remains a likely position to survive in the context of educational set up and other countries of the world. Meanwhile, this language is practiced at the basic level within the province in comparison to other languages. As many politicians and literary figures remain non-serious for imposition any penalties upon the institutions or departments avoid working and promoting on this language. The policies in this regard numbered as obsolete and worsened the linguistic status of the Balochi language in the context of the country.

However, the position of this language is observed the same throughout the historical records. The pattern of speech and cultural manner focus on the Baloch people who have interacted and represent the suitable manner of expressive linguistic approach with the communities (Katriel, 1986). Language is informative means for a vast majority of Baloch people among the communities in a meaningful

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dialogue with the same language speakers within the territory (Sherrington, 1975; Lysaght, 2009). Human behavior is an indication of human language in a society and Baloch people's attitudes is depicted with the assistance with language (Bani-Shoraka 2009, p. 106; Erfani 2012, 10). Language is connected with the social situation representing the ideology of the nation. Thus, language represents thinking through social slot Kulyk (2010). According to Mirvahedi (2012, p.1), language is a need of the persons of society, and showing native connections among the people in social life. This language is a need of the Balochi persons. Similarly, Mehrton (2008) observed language and sociolinguistic characteristics of individuals in social life.

**Baloch culture**

Baloch culture assists individuals to develop the mindset of peace consciousness, and lead a social life. Baloch culture witnesses the behavior, values, communication, norms and cultural directions of Baloch people in a society. Culture is the collective programmed of the mind distinguishing the individuals from one group to another (Hofstede et al., 1997; Hofstede et al., 2010). Culture is collectively linked with society and discussing the action, feelings, and human thoughts (Nielsen, 1996). Culture indicates own priorities, norms and the patterns of thinking in the society (Hofstede et al., 2010). Culture varies from region to region and producing relations and usability geographically within the individuals (Chu and Zhu, 2010; Daniel et al., 2011; Sohaib and Kang, 2014). Culture retains the subjective and objective purpose in society (Daniel et al., 2011; Smith et al., 2004).

Culture discloses the situations, effectual factors, the language of communities concerning religion prevailing among the populations (Afghari, 2007). Culture is a central notion of the communities (Ogiermann, 2009). Baloch people maintain their cultural norms within the various parts of the province and the country. Further, it has been found in the homes and public places, witnessing the traditional beards and adopting own culture exposing on the marketplaces of the country. Thus, cultural norms are an indication of Baloch people.

Additionally, Balochistan province is integrated with different regions like Iran and Afghanistan regions and other parts of the social world. The area is linguistically, ethnically and religiously diversity that is why presenting the specific geographic situation concerning social and cultural structures. Baloch culture is amalgamated with two cultural regions as Sistan and Balochistan, besides this, the influence of the political strategies resulted in the division of culture within and other isolated areas outside the province. Thereof, disintegration taken place between two united cultural patterns. At the present times, Baloch culture passes through the two

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distinct sides such as Iranian-Afghanistan border, and Iran-Pakistani border. Thus, cultural expansion has enormously intertwined with socio-economic bonds among such the individuals and indicating the present social-cultural status meanwhile exchanging and trading interaction among themselves.

Moreover, the Baloch culture included double-edged and interrelated with cultural and socio-economic growth among the individuals. Additionally, Baloch people are prone to practice owns the customs, hospitality, the idea of honor, and the protection of the women in one's family. The nature of Baloch people is concerned with hardness, fearless, hospitable, respect for the honor, solidarity, and reverence for lineage and families, tribes and communities. Thus, they are tribal and patriarchic figures of society and showing no more interest in modernity, human development, infrastructures, and advanced technologies. Besides to this, for communities and relatives indicate positively attitude and honor benefitting in the different manners. Nevertheless, the population is still residing in the countryside and escapes from high expenditures of city life, and focusing on rural regions for sustenance and survival in social life.

Henceforth, contemporary societies are equipped with standard and new technologies, cultural forms, and experiencing the various aspects of social life inclusion of political and socio-economic transformations. Irrespective to them, Baloch society retains the constant value and norms of society which are brought into use today's time in communities. Cultural amalgamation trend is an outcome of the different cultures in Balochistan as the two most essential regions (Sistan and Balochistan) witnessing social and cultural systems of the individual residing in and outside of the regions. Coexistence of such cultural is associated with traditional and modern approaches among community and society. However, it points out the mentalities, social learnings, and communicative attitudes in the mixed cultural perspectives. Hence, culture removed many differences among the individuals of the regions and made adjustable with each other in social life.

Therefore, Baloch culture maintains trade strategies, proper policies for the individuals in the areas without discriminations in the walks of life. This way, Baloch culture in enriched with literature, spiritual knowledge and musical patterns within the tribes and communities of the regions. Baloch lifestyle is maintained through traditions and customs as worn Balochi clothes and listen to the Balochi music. The Baloch customs and traditions are the sources of symbolization. The Baloch culture represents Baloch identity and language in the shape of unique style among the individuals.

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Moreover, the specification of the norms and culture provides unity, social bonds, and humanity among the Baloch people. The Balochi tradition and culture specifies the symbolic identity of being commonness within the tribes and communities. Culture pattern represents the norms, communicative strategy (Felix-Brasdefer, 2006).

**Impact of the Balochi language and Culture in the Baloch society**

The Balochi language and culture are integrated, and the plausible parts of of the Baloch society. However, culture and language are associated with the social network, family structure, and psychological perspectives. Thus as the strength is developed through the integration among the Baloch people (Sara et al., 2006). Language and culture encourage the psychological mutuality in the walks of life, assisting through performance despite the failure and negligence among the people of the province (Martin, 1999) Language and culture develop the bonds from associations and confirmation in a society. Schwarz (2003) stated as culture and language are interconnected with each other in society, and they are numbered as an emotional bond among the people (Baluch, 1977) as revealed that Baloch culture and language are an indicator the traditions and human history. Cultural –bonds, and equivalence with the assistance of language and the culture as stated by (Wylie 2004). Communities share suitable patterns through culture and language and focus on interactional styles Blum-Kulka et al. (1989). Baloch shares their set of characteristics and linguistic features. The culture and language in the contemporary world remained under the same circumstance (Jahani and Korn 2009).

According to Delforooz (2010), the Balochi language represents the geographical regions and specifies the Baloch culture of the regions. The Baloch culture and language are specific norms of the society, and nevertheless, socio-cultural and social interaction are related with a society (Felix-Brasdefer, 2006). However, The Balochi language numbered as native, an official language in the province and culture is the specific section of language (Jahani and Korn, 2009). Culture is the collective programm of the mind distinguishing the individuals from one group to another (Hofstede et al., 1997; Hofstede et al., 2010). Culture is collectively linked with society and discussing the action, feelings, and human thoughts (Nielsen, 1996).

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**Conclusion**

The study explored out the linkage through the role of the Balochi language and culture in human society. Extensive literature was reviewed to shed the part of the Balochi language and culture perspectives of the Baloch people. The study found the following primary outcomes.

- Baloch people employ daily routines norms, values, skills and practice of special events through cultural celebration among the communities and tribes.
- Public opinions of the Baloch people enhance the culture and language among the communities and tribes.
- Language cum culture influence the mind of the Baloch people.
- The Baloch people living within communities and tribes numbered as monolingual and integrated with the respective culture, representing ethnicity, humanity and respecting social norms with the society.
- The language and culture are incorporated, indicating the actual pictorial of the tribal communities and traditional norms, values, customs of Baloch people.

Moreover, the findings of the study more provide further guidelines to understand the association between the Balochi language as well as culture among the Baloch people of Balochistan. Finally, the study may contribute in the relevant domains of language as well as cultures.

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