

Semi-space in Pashto writing, problems and solutions

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Abstract:

Half-Space (Semi-Space) is used in some Indo-European languages. In Pashto, a number of writers use it without any linguistic norms, though few oppose this idea. This so-called space is used in and between the characters if any further space doesn't have to exist between the two words to make them get together tightly. Unlike the English language, any language that uses the Arabic Alphabet, its characters can get connected with each other. Since the Arabic Alphabet is also employed in Pashto language, the Half-Space is required to be used in Pashto writings, too. In writing, Half-Space helps convey the message eloquently, distinguish between simple and compound words, make it easily intelligible and add to the beauty of the text. Hence, it is important to use the Half-Space in our writings. The use of Half-Space will address most of the existed problems in Pashto writings, which will gradually promote the Pashto into a more standardized language. Indeed, the Half-Space has to do a lot with the composition and lexicology. It is mostly used in and between any compound and derivative words whose combination seem very difficult or, at some point, even appear to be impossible. These words are often composed of free morphemes, interconnected with bound morphemes. Therefore, we must realize the need of Half-Space in Pashto writings as Pashto writers and linguists should also keep its notion in mind, build a consensus on applying it as a whole, and let it be disseminated among the writers' community.

Key words: Semi-space, Pashto language, standardized language.