

Scripts and Characters Used in the Languages of Northern Pakistan

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What does Northern Pakistan mean?

Northern Pakistan includes:

North West Frontier Province (NWFP)

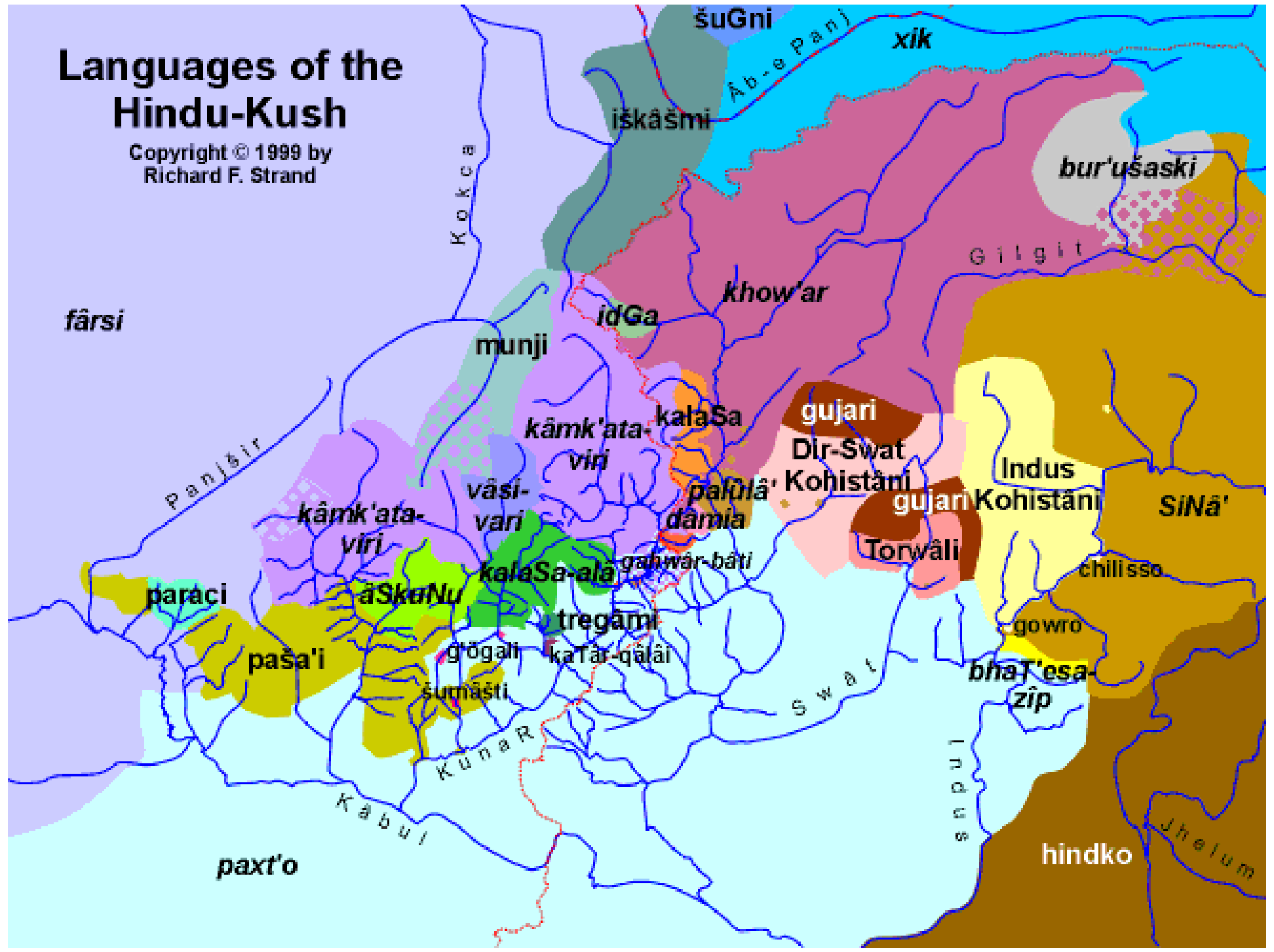
Muree Hills (Punjab)

Azad Jammu Kashmir and

*Federally Administered Northern Areas (Gilgit,
Chilas, Diamar, Skardu etc.)*

Languages of the Hindu-Kush

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**There are more than 25 distinctive languages,
most of these are spoken only...**

Having no writing systems.....

**But now speakers of some of these languages have
started to develop orthographies for their
languages and write down what they speak.**

Languages of NWFP

Major Languages

Language

Location

- **Pashto** **Throughout NWFP**
- **Hindko** **Peshawar, Kohat, Hazara**
- **Gojri** **Swat, Dir, Chitral, Buner**
- **Khowar** **District Chitral**
- **Indus-Kohistani** **District Kohistan**

Languages of NWFP

Minor Languages

Language

Location

- **Torwali** **Bahrain, Swat**
- **Gawri** **Upper Swat, Upper Dir**
- **Bateri** **District Kohistan**
- **Chiliso** **District Kohistan**
- **Palula** **Ashret, Chitral**

Languages of NWFP

(Minor Languages)

Language

Location

- **Gawro.....Indus KohistaniChitral**
- **Kamveri/Kataveri..Chitral**
- **Gwarbati.....Arandu, Chitral**
- **Kalasha.....Chitral**
- **Dameli.....Chitral**
- **Oshojo.....Chail Valley, Swat**
- **UrmuriSouth Waziristan**
- **Yidgha.....Ladkho Valley, Chitral**

Languages of the Northern Areas

<u>Language name</u>	<u>Location</u>
• Shina	Gilgit, Chilas
• Balti	Skardu, Baltistan
• Brushaski	Hunza, Nagar, Yasin
• Domaki	Hunza, Gilgit
• Wakhi	Wakhan, N.A

Languages of Azad Jammu Kashmir & Muree Hills

Languages

Location

Paharri/Pothohari

Azad Kashmir, Murree hills

Kashmiri

Azad Kashmir

Kundal Shahi

Neelam Valley, Azad Kashmir

Script used in Pashto


(Characters different from Urdu are encircled)

ا ب پ ت ټ ټ ش ج چ ځ ځ
ح خ د ډ ډ ذ ر ږ ږ ز ژ ښ
س ش ښ ښ ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف
ق ك هگ هگ ل م ن ڼ ڼ و ی
ي ي ې ې ی ی ی

Script Used in Hindko Language

**Almost the same Urdu script is used in
Hindko Language**

Characters Used in Torwali other than Urdu



0687



0772



075C



0699



0623

Characters Used in Gawri language (Characters missing in Urdu or Pashto are encircled in red)

آ	آ	پ	ب	آ	آ
ث	ت	چ	ب	ج	ث
ح	خ	ج	چ	ج	خ
ڑ	ر	ذ	ڈ	د	ذ
ص	ش	ش	س	ژ	ز
ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض
م	ل	ل	گ	ک	ق
ہ	او	اُو	و	ں	ن
	ھ	اے	ای	ی	ی

Brushaski Characters

(missing characters in Urdu alphabet)

شمار	جدید حروف	علامت	لفظ	ترجمہ
۱	اچ	م =	چن	سیدھا
۲	اچھ	چھ	اچھو	بھائی
۳	اچھڑ	چھڑ	اچھڑ	سٹری
۴	اچھڑا	چھڑا	اچھڑا	بہتر
۵	اچھڑا	چھڑا =	اچھڑا	شاخ
۶	اچھڑا	چھڑا	اچھڑا	ہمیشہ
۷	اچھڑا	چھڑا	اچھڑا	نہیند
۸	اچھڑا	چھڑا =	اچھڑا	میرے باپ

Who introduced new characters?

- ❑ **Local language activists, mostly supported by field researchers of SIL international (formerly Summer Institute of Linguistics)**
- ❑ **SIL works on the undocumented smaller languages of the North Pakistan**
- ❑ **They help local language activists to make orthography of their languages**

- **Local activists make Language Committees on community basis to decide orthography issues**
- **SIL International conducts training workshops on linguistic software**

Major Language Resource Centre in the North Pakistan

- **Frontier Language Institute, FLI, Peshawar is the major linguistic resource center for the language activists.**

www.fli-online.org

Preferred Script of the smaller languages of northern Pakistan

Almost all the language communities have decided to adapt modified Indo-Perso-Arabic script for their languages, except Wakhi community who preferred to write in Latin script. Some elements among the Balti and Kalasha communities also insist to write in scripts other than the Indo-Perso-Arabic script.

References

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