



URDU RESEARCH: ASPECTS AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

The tradition of Urdu literary research goes back to the writing of Tazkiras. The first Tazkira was written in 1752. It was followed by a stream of Tazkira writing. In the next phase Sir Syed and his companions introduced modern style of research. Afterwards objective scientific style of literary research was introduced by Hafiz Mehmood Shirani on the break of 20th century. Henceforward, Urdu research went on the pace and reached at the edge of 21st century. During this journey it saw many changes. In the beginning, most of the works were past-oriented. While in the last 50 years, it has turned towards future. Now both of the streams are going side by side and focus is going to shift towards futurization.

Indexing terms/Keywords

Urdu research, trend, past-oriented, futurization, synchronization.

INTRODUCTION

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan. It is used for communication throughout Indo-Pak subcontinent. It is the 3rd largest language of the world.(Durrani 2002: 24) It took birth in the united India in eleventh century. Researchers differ about its parent language and so the area of evolution. But all agree that Urdu is the language of united India by birth.

BACKGROUND

Research is a careful study or investigation of existing facts in order to discover new realities. (Chaudhry et al 2012:01) History of the research in Urdu is not so long. Dr. Noorina Baber (2003: 101) terms it to be just a 100 years old tradition. Muhammad Saqlain (2008: 26) is also of the same opinion. The first signs of research are seen in Tazkiras. The first Tazkira on the scene is "Nikat ush Shuara" by Mir. It was written in 1752. It was the commentary and introduction of Urdu poets and poetry in the Persian language. Nikat ush Shuara introduced a new trend which was followed by several tazkiras till the end of Eighteenth century. The trend of writing tazkiras was a milestone in the way of saving data about Urdu poets and poetry, although tazkiras didn't fulfill the requirements of research.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, in the mid of nineteenth century, produced Aasaar us Sanadeed, Aayeen e Akbari (edited), Tareekh e Ferozshahi (edited) and Tuzk e Jahangiri (edited). He, for the first time in Urdu, followed objective and scientific style in these works and opened up a new research chapter in the history of Urdu.

These works paved the way towards introducing a research culture in India. Following the new trends, dawn of the pure literary research broke with the works of Naseer ud din Hashmi, Mehmood Shirani and Molvi Abdul Haq. These researchers deliberately applied scientific ways. They applied internal and external criticism on the data to reach conclusion. Thus they set the sound and high standards in Urdu literary research.

Inspired by them, the stream of scientific literary research went on. Qazi Abdul Wadood, Mohi ud Din Qadri Zor, Jamil Jalibi, Syed Abdullah, Ghulam Mustafa Khan, Moin ud Din Aqeel and Attash Durrani added a great deal to the bulk of Urdu research.

ANALYSIS

The research in Urdu is making its way forward. Apart from formal universities' departments, Institutions of Urdu promotion i.e. Idara e Farogh e Urdu, Academy of Letters, Anjuman e Taraqqi e Urdu, Majlis e Taraqqi e Adab, Iqbal Academy are rendering services in this regard.

Like all other phenomena, literature and research are also undergoing continuous change. Materialistic approach is replacing spiritualism. Economic benefit and wealth is getting involved in each act of man. Men of letters are also tempted towards, as they, too, belong to this world. So the literature and literary research are also influenced by this transformation of ideas, and in return introducing new trends.

Urdu is adding rapidly to the bulk of human knowledge. The trend of scientific and objective research (set by Shirani and Abdul Haq) is on the way ahead. The first efforts in this chain were past-oriented. These contributions added many years to the age of Urdu by discovering older literary creations. But when the trend in the whole world turned to the future, Urdu



also joined the stream and the stream of futurization flourished here, too. To judge the journey of orientation, a chart is given:

Researcher	Past-oriented	Present and Future-oriented
Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (Died 1898)	Aasaar us Sanadeed, Aayeen e Akbari, Tareekh e Ferozshahi and Tuzk e Jahangiri	.....
Shibli Nomani (D. 1914)	Sher ul ajam, Al Maamoon, Al Farooq, Al Ghazali, Seerat un Nabi	.....
Hafiz Mehmood Shirani (D. 1946)	Punjab mai Urdu, Tanqeed e Sher ul Ajam	.....
Molvi Abdul Haq (D. 1961)	Discovery, editing and explanatory notes on old manuscripts (Meraj ul Aashiqin, Sub Rus, Masnavi qutub Mushtari, Gulshan e Ishq), Urdu ki Ibtidai Nasho w numa mai Soofia ka Hissa, Muqaddimat e Abdul Haq	Qawaed e Urdu
Qazi Abdul Wadood (D. 1970)	Ghalib bahesiat e Muhaqqiq, editing and explanatory notes on "Dewan e Shorish", "Tazkira e Ibn e Ameen ullah Toofan"	.....
Syed Abdullah (D. 1986)	Sir Syed aur un ke Naamwar Rufaqa, Wali se Iqbal tak, Mir Aman se Abdul Haq tak, Qadeem Arbi Tasaanif mai Hindustani Alfaz	.....
Syed Qudrat Naqvi (D. 2000)	Ghalib Kon Hai, Lisani Maqalat, Editing and Explanatory notes on "Rani Ketki ki Kahani"	.....
Ghulam Mustafa Khan (D. 2005)	Tehqiqi Jayeza, Ilmi Nuqoosh	Fun e Tehqiq, Urdu mai Quran w Hadeeth ke Muhawarat, Farsi per Urdu ka Asar
Mushfiq Khwaja (D. 2005)	Editing of Tazkira e Khosh Maarika Zeba", Jaeza e Makhtootat e Urdu, Tehqiq Nama, Purane Shaaer Naya Kalam.	.....
Rasheed Hasan Khan (D. 2006)	Adabi Tehqeeq: Masail aur Tajzia, Talash w Taabeer	Urdu Imla, Urdu kese likhen
Gyan Chand Jain (D. 2007)	Urdu ki Nasri Daastanen, Urdu ki adabi Tareekh, Urdu Masnavi Shamali Hind mai, Ibtida e Kalam e Iqbal	Tehqeeq ka Fun, Aik Bhasha: 2 Likhawat, 2 Adab
Waheed Qureshi (D. 2009)	Mir Hasan aur Un ka Ahad, Classiki adab ka Tehqiqi Mutalea, Bagh w Bahaar: Aik Jaeza, Shibli ki Hayat e Muashaqa, Mutalaat e Hali, Mutalaat e Tehqiq, Nazr e Ghalib, Asasiat e Iqbal	.....
Wazir Aagha (D. 2010)	Urdu Shaaeri ka Mizaj, Urdu Adab mai Tanz w Mazah,	Nazm e jadeed ki karwatan, Tanqeedi Theory ke 100 saal
Farman Fatehpuri (2013)	Urdu ki Manzoom Dastaanen, Urdu Shuara ke Tazkire aur Tazkira Nigari, Urdu Rubaai: Funni aur Tarikhi Irtiqa, Urdu ki Behtareen Masnavian	Urdu Imla w Qawaed, Tadrees e Urdu, Hindi Urdu Tanazaa, Urdu ki Zarifana Shaeri
Ghulam Hussain Zulfakar (D. 2015)	Urdu Shaaeri ka Siasi w Samaji Pas Manzar, Sahah Hatim: Halaat w kalam, Zafar Ali Khan: Adeeb w Shaaer, Editing of Dewan Zada	.....



Anwar Sadeed (D. 2016)	Urdu adab ki Mukhtasar Tareekh, Urdu ki Tehreeken, Urdu Afsane ki Karwatan, Pakistan mai adabi Rasayel ki Tareekh, Iqbal ke Classiki Nuqoosh	.....
Jamil Jalibi (Born 1929)	Editing of: Dewan e Hassan Shoqi, Dewan e Nusrati, Masnavi Kadam Rao Padam Rao, Qadeem Urdu ki Lughaat, Muhammad Taqi Mir, Qalandar Bakhsh Jurat: Lucknavi Tehzib ka Numainda Shaaer, Farhang e Istelahat e Jaamia Usmania, Tarikh e Adab e Urdu	Adabi Tehqeeq
Saleem Akhtar (B. 1934)	Urdu adab ki Mukhtasar Tareen Tareekh, Urdu Zuban ki Mukhtasar Tareen Tareekh, Bagh w Bahaar: Tehqeeq w Tanqeed ke Aayine mai. Shaor aur la shaor ka Shaaer: Ghalib,	Urdu Zuban kia hai, Iqbal ka Nafsiati Mutaala, Khawateen ki Shaaeri mai Oraton ke Masayel ki Tasveer kashi, Istelaah Sazi
Gopi Chand Narang (B. 1931)	Urdu Ghazal aur Hindustani Zehn w Tehzeeb, Iqbal ka Fun, Amir Khusro ka Hindwi Kalam, Anees Shanasi, Purano ki Kahanian, Wali Dakani	Urdu Afsana: Riwayat w Masail, Sakhtiaat, Pas e Sakhtiaat aur Mashriqi Sheriaat, Jadidiat ke baad, Naya Urdu Afsana
Moin ud Din Aqeel (B, 1946)	Kalam e Nairang, Tehreek e Azadi mai Urdu ka Hissa, Amir Khusro: Fard aur Tareekh, Urdu ki Awwaleen Niswani Khod Nawisht, Kalam e Ranjoor Azimabadi, Bayaz e Ranjoor Azimabadi	Pakistani Zuban w Adab, Pakistan mai Urdu Tehqeeq: Mozooat aur Maayar, Urdu Tehqeeq: Soorat e Haal aur Taqaze, Pakistan mai Urdu Adab: Muharrikat aur Rujhanat ka Tashkili dor
Attash Durrani (B. 1952)	Urdu Musawwadat ki tadween, Asnaf e Urdu ki Mukhtasar Taareekh,	Pakistani urdu, Usool e Tehqeeq, Jadid Rasmiaat e Tehqeeq, Urdu Itlaaiyat, Urdu Istelahaat sazi, Urdu Istelahaat nigari, Ilm e Tadrees e Urdu, Urdu tadrisiat, Tadrees e Urdu: Jadeed Taqaze, Jadeed Tadreesiaat e urdu

The above chart shows that the preliminary research works were past-oriented. Researches of the pre-twentieth century were inclined towards discoveries of the past assets. Sir Syed and his companions were more reformers than researchers. Mahmood Shirani, Abdul Haq, Abdul Wadood, Syed Abdullah, Mushfiq Khwaja, Farman Fatehpuri and Waheed Qureshi all looked back into past and disclosed valuable literary works. Their services are of great importance, no doubt, because they approached the roots of Urdu and watered this plant.

The modern researchers turned towards future. Of course, the study of past enlightens the ways but ignoring future leads to loss and decline. Life is more influenced by future than the past.(Aqeel 2003: 47) According to Toffler (1970: 03):

Previously, men studied the past to shed light on the present. I have turned the time mirror round, convinced that a coherent image of the future can also shower us with valuable insights into today. We shall find it increasingly difficult to understand our personal and public problems without making use of the future as an intellectual tool.

Zohra Azam (1993: 18) also says that It is not enough to think or talk of future, but it should best be anticipated and prepared for, because it is simply unavoidable.

Modern world is ruled by future. Researchers, in all fields, deal with the future and progress. The needs and prospects of tomorrow are the main targets of knowledge as well as research. According to Hoodbhoy (2009: 591):

Research is the discovery of new and interesting phenomena, creation of concepts that have explanatory of predictive power, making of new and useful inventions and processes etc. The



researcher must certainly do something original, not merely repeat what is already known.

So Urdu research is also witnessing a change. It is also focusing on practical, synchronic and futuristic studies.

Ghulam Mustafa Khan and Jamil Jalibi directed towards synchronization while Moin ud Din Aqeel, Gopi Chand Narang and Attash Durrani dealt with futurization. Aqeel presented researches about the current trends and style. He linked Urdu research with other social sciences. Narang's contributions also covers past, present and future aspects. Durrani focused on present and future. He disclosed modern aspects of research and tried to link Urdu research with the job market. This market-oriented and future-focused research is the need of the day as the fields which have no economic fruitfulness are losing attention.

Urdu departments at universities are also involved in research. But most of the research conducted here is only for the acquisition of degrees. So the quality is also low. Independent and non-degree research is very rare at these departments. Moin ud din Aqeel (2010:18) commented on the situation as:

The research here, any discipline or subject it may be, remains abstract and confined to a short circle. Interdisciplinary research, comparative research or sociological studies have not got attention of our universities, researchers and research supervisors as yet. That is why our research topics have a very meagre connection with our society and social problems. And this kind of research does not contribute to the social development.

Universities' researches mostly deal with the collection of information. Scientific analysis is seen in very few dissertations. Stereotype tools like "Fikri o Funni Jayeza" and cliché type topics like "...Tehqiqi o Tanqidi Jayeza" are seen everywhere. Another shortcut to degree is seen in the research on personalities. Higher Education Commission Pakistan has published a book "Jaameat mai Urdu Tehqiq" in 2008. The book contains 4374 topics on which researches have been conducted in universities. The topics are categorized below:

Personalities	1695	38.75%
Iqbal	845	19.31%
Prose	640	14.63%
Poetry	466	10.65%
Linguistics	51	1.16%
Teaching and curriculum	17	0.38%
Research	13	0.29%

The above given figures clearly state the tendency of university research.

CONCLUSION

Urdu research took its start with orientation to the past. Primary and the middle age researchers were mostly involved in discoveries of past assets. Their services are really appreciable and worthwhile. But when the world turned to futurization, Urdu researches still remained stuck to the past. After the mid of 20th century Urdu research also went through a change and future got focus here. The researchers of the last 6 decades addressed the situation and added a great deal to the bulk of Urdu in futurized context. Gopi Chand Narang, Moin ud Din Aqeel and Attash Durrani are leading this new trend and Urdu research is going to grasp the pulse of the modern research. This trend needs to be strengthened by universities as well as at independent level.

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