



Multilingual Children's Speech Development



URDU

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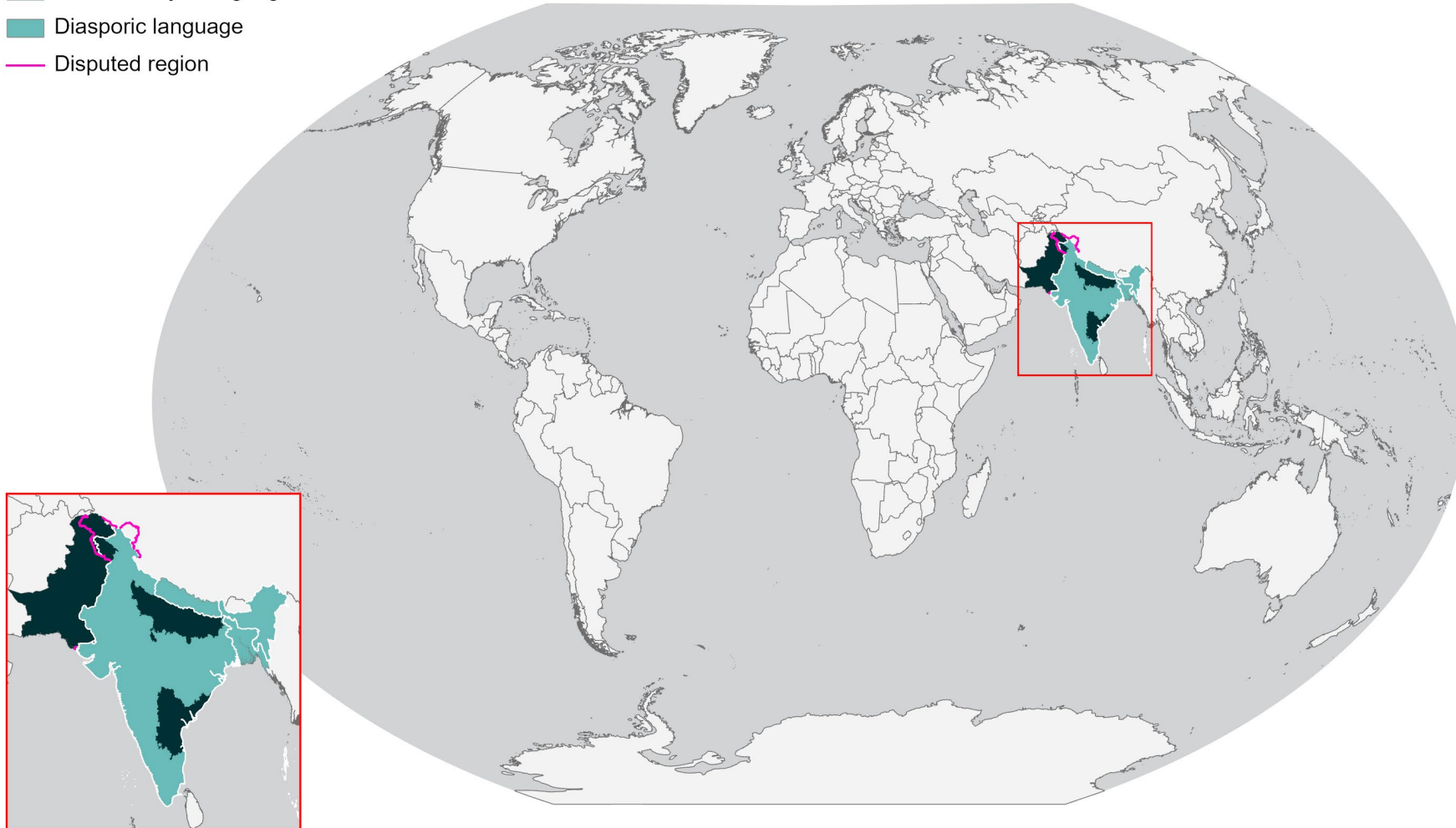


Urdu

- **Commonly spoken in**
 - Pakistan, India
- **Dialects and variants**
 - Bhojpuri, Bihari, Deccani, Dhakaiya, Haryanvi, and Hyderabadhi
- **Writing**
 - Right to left. Perso-Arabic script.

Urdu Map

- Official / major language
- Diasporic language
- Disputed region



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Urdu

Speech Components

- **Consonants (38):** /p, p^h, b, b^h, t̪, t̪^h, d̪, d̪^h, tʃ, tʃ^h, dʒ, dʒ^h, k, k^h, g, g^h, q, ʔ, m, n, ŋ, r, ɽ, f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, ʎ, x, h, tʃ, tʃ^h, dʒ, dʒ^h, j, l/
- **Consonant clusters (15):** /st̪, rz, rs, rf, ft̪, rd̪, rt̪, bt̪, rdʒ, rk, lk, ns, xt̪, rg, ʃt/
- **Vowels (23+15):** /i:, ã:, u:, ã:, e:, ã:, o:, õ:, ɔ:, õ:, æ:, ã:, a:, ã:, ɪ, ã, ʊ, ã, e, ə, ã, o, æ/
and /a:ɪ, əe:, əi:, a:e:, a:i:, a:o:, o:i:, u:i:, a:e, æa:, ea:, əĩ:, iõ:, iũ:, a:ẽ/
- **Tones (0):** None
- **Phonotactic restrictions:** C₍₀₋₁₎V₍₁₋₂₎C₍₀₋₂₎
- **Prosody:** Urdu is a syllable-timed language (Hussain, 1997; M. O. Khan, 2011).

Urdu

Age of Acquisition

■ Consonants

- 3 years of age: /p, b, t̪, t̪^h, d̪, m, j, l/
- 4-5 years of age: /p^h, d̪^h, t̪, t̪^h, d̪, d̪^h, k, k^h, g, g^h, n, ŋ, r, ɾ, f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h, tʃ, tʃ^h, ʈ, ʈ^h/
- After 5 years: /b^h, q, ʔ, x, ɣ/

■ Consonant clusters

- Not studied

■ Vowels

- Not studied

■ Tones

- Not applicable

Urdu

Speech Development

■ Percentage correct

- PCC: 28.01% at 2;6 years (Mumtaz, 2017) increasing to 82.06% at 7;0 years (Ali, 2017)
- PPC: 65.79% at 3;6 years (Zahra, 2016) increasing to 90.34% at 7;0 years (Ali, 2017)

■ Intelligibility

- Not studied

■ Common phonological patterns

- Fronting, stopping, devoicing, nasal assimilation, medial consonant deletion, final consonant deletion, deletion of aspiration, addition of aspiration (Ambreen & To, 2021)

Urdu

Children with Speech Sound Disorders

- **Also called**
 - Articulation and phonological disorder
- **Research has focused on**
 - Prevalence and assessment of children with speech sound disorders
- **Studies (examples)**
 - Children with speech sound disorders (Noveen et al., 2017)
 - Children with analog (AHA) and digital hearing aids (DHA) (Majid et al., 2012)

Urdu Speech Assessments

- **Urdu Wordlist**
 - (Shabbir & Zahra, 2016)
- **Test of Articulation and Phonology of Urdu (TAAPU)**
 - (Noveen et al., 2017)
- **Urdu Articulation Screening Test (UAST)**
 - (Muzaffar et al., 2019)
- **Urdu Speech Assessment Test (USAT)**
 - (Ambreen & To, 2022)

Urdu Speech Interventions

- No language-specific interventions

Reference

Book chapter

- Ambreen, S. & To, C. K. S. (2025). Urdu speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

Presentation

- Ambreen, S. & To, C. K. S. (2023). *Urdu: Multilingual children's speech development*. Charles Sturt University, Australia.
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