

what language do pakistan speak

What Language Do Pakistan Speak: Exploring the Linguistic Diversity of Pakistan

what language do pakistan speak is a question that often arises due to the country's rich cultural and ethnic diversity. Pakistan, a South Asian nation with a population exceeding 220 million, is home to a mosaic of languages and dialects spoken across its provinces and regions. Understanding the linguistic landscape of Pakistan not only sheds light on its cultural heritage but also reveals how language plays a vital role in communication, education, and identity within the country.

The Official Language of Pakistan

When people ask, "what language do Pakistan speak," the first answer that usually comes to mind is Urdu. Urdu is the national language and one of the two official languages of Pakistan, the other being English. Despite being the mother tongue of only a small percentage of the population, Urdu serves as a unifying language spoken and understood widely across the country.

Urdu's prominence in Pakistan is deeply rooted in history. It evolved as a lingua franca during the Mughal era and was later adopted as a symbol of cultural identity during the Pakistan Movement. Today, it is the language of government, media, literature, and education. Schools across Pakistan teach Urdu, and it is commonly used in formal communications and national broadcasts.

Why Urdu is Important in Pakistan

- **National Unity:** Urdu connects diverse ethnic groups by providing a common mode of communication.
- **Cultural Significance:** It is the language of classical poetry, music, and literature.
- **Official Communication:** Government documents and proceedings often use Urdu.
- **Media Dominance:** Television, radio, and newspapers widely use Urdu to reach a broad audience.

Regional Languages: The Heartbeat of Pakistan's Diversity

While Urdu holds the official status, Pakistan's linguistic reality is far

more complex. The country boasts dozens of regional languages spoken by millions, reflecting its ethnic and cultural variety. Each region has its own primary language(s), which are often the mother tongues of the local population.

Punjabi: The Most Spoken Language

Punjabi is the most widely spoken language in Pakistan, with over 38% of the population using it as their first language. It dominates the province of Punjab, the country's most populous region. Punjabi is not only a language of everyday conversation but also a vibrant cultural force expressed through music, folklore, and literature.

Despite its popularity, Punjabi does not have official status at the national level, and Urdu is preferred for formal settings within Punjab. This has sparked ongoing discussions about the promotion and preservation of Punjabi in education and media.

Sindhi: The Language of Sindh Province

Sindhi is spoken by around 14% of Pakistanis, primarily in the southern province of Sindh. It has a rich literary tradition dating back centuries and uses a modified Arabic script. Sindhi is taught in schools within Sindh and is widely used in local media and cultural events.

Pashto: The Language of the Pashtun People

Pashto is the native language of the Pashtun ethnic group, making up about 15% of Pakistan's population. Predominantly spoken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and northern Balochistan, Pashto has its own unique script and a deep oral tradition including poetry and storytelling.

Balochi: The Voice of Balochistan

Balochi, spoken by roughly 4% of Pakistan's population, is the main language in the southwestern province of Balochistan. It reflects the nomadic and tribal culture of the region and has several dialects. Efforts are ongoing to promote Balochi language education and media presence.

Other Languages in Pakistan

Several other languages contribute to Pakistan's linguistic tapestry:

- **Saraiki:** Spoken mainly in southern Punjab, Saraiki is considered a dialect of Punjabi by some but has distinct features.
- **Hindko:** Used by communities in northern Pakistan.
- **Brahui:** A Dravidian language spoken in parts of Balochistan.
- **Shina, Balti, and others:** Languages spoken in the northern mountainous areas.

English in Pakistan: A Lingua Franca for Education and Business

English holds the status of an official language alongside Urdu and plays a crucial role in Pakistan's education system, government, judiciary, and business sectors. It is widely used in higher education and among the urban middle and upper classes. Many Pakistani universities conduct classes in English, and it is the preferred language for international communication.

English proficiency is often associated with social mobility and economic opportunity, making it a highly valued skill. For many Pakistanis, English serves as a bridge to the global community and advances careers in technology, law, medicine, and diplomacy.

How Language Shapes Identity and Culture in Pakistan

The question of "what language do Pakistan speak" cannot be answered without acknowledging the deep connection between language and identity. Each language in Pakistan represents a unique cultural heritage, history, and worldview.

Preserving Regional Languages

While Urdu and English dominate official and educational domains, regional languages are central to the daily lives and cultural expressions of millions. However, these languages face challenges such as:

- **Lack of formal education in native languages**
- **Limited media representation**
- **Urbanization and migration leading to language shift**

To counter these challenges, various organizations and activists promote regional language preservation through literature, radio programs, and digital media. Encouraging bilingual education models that incorporate mother tongues alongside Urdu and English is also gaining support.

The Role of Language in Pakistani Literature and Media

Pakistan's linguistic diversity enriches its literary traditions. Urdu poetry by luminaries like Allama Iqbal and Faiz Ahmed Faiz resonates nationally and internationally. Punjabi and Sindhi literature showcase folk tales and regional history, while Pashto and Balochi oral poetry keep tribal narratives alive.

In media, there is a growing trend of producing content in regional languages, from television dramas to music videos, which helps keep these languages vibrant among younger generations.

Tips for Learning About Pakistan's Languages

If you're interested in exploring the languages spoken in Pakistan, here are some helpful ways to deepen your understanding:

- **Listen to Pakistani music:** Traditional and contemporary songs in Urdu, Punjabi, Pashto, and Sindhi reveal linguistic nuances and cultural themes.
- **Watch films and dramas:** Pakistani cinema and television often feature dialogue in multiple languages, reflecting real-life multilingualism.
- **Engage with language apps:** Apps like Duolingo or Memrise may offer introductory courses or vocabulary for Urdu and other regional languages.
- **Read bilingual books:** Books that present stories in Urdu alongside regional languages provide insights into linguistic similarities and differences.
- **Connect with native speakers:** Language exchange through social media or community groups can provide practical learning experiences.

Understanding what language do Pakistan speak opens a window into the country's soul. The coexistence of Urdu, English, and numerous regional languages illustrates a vibrant, multilingual society where language is more than just communication—it is a repository of history, culture, and identity. Whether you're planning to visit, do business, or simply learn about Pakistan, appreciating its linguistic diversity enriches your perspective and fosters deeper connections.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the official language of Pakistan?

The official language of Pakistan is Urdu.

Do people in Pakistan speak English?

Yes, English is widely used in Pakistan, especially in government, business, and education.

What are the major regional languages spoken in Pakistan?

Major regional languages in Pakistan include Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, and Saraiki.

Is Urdu spoken by everyone in Pakistan?

Urdu is the national language and widely understood, but it is not the mother tongue of most Pakistanis.

Which language is most commonly spoken in Punjab, Pakistan?

Punjabi is the most commonly spoken language in the Punjab province.

What language do people speak in Karachi, Pakistan?

In Karachi, a diverse city, people commonly speak Urdu, Sindhi, Punjabi, Pashto, and English.

Is Pashto a widely spoken language in Pakistan?

Yes, Pashto is widely spoken in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and by the Pashtun community.

How does Pakistan's language diversity affect communication?

Pakistan's linguistic diversity means many people are multilingual, often using regional languages at home and Urdu or English for wider communication.

Additional Resources

What Language Do Pakistan Speak: A Comprehensive Exploration of Linguistic Diversity in Pakistan

what language do pakistan speak is a question that opens a window into the rich and complex linguistic landscape of one of South Asia's most diverse countries. Pakistan is not a monolingual nation; it is home to a multitude of languages that coexist, reflecting its ethnic, cultural, and historical variety. Understanding the languages spoken in Pakistan reveals much about its social fabric, regional identities, and even political dynamics.

Overview of Pakistan's Linguistic Landscape

Pakistan's linguistic scenario is shaped by its geographical position, historical developments, and ethnic diversity. The country is home to over 70 languages and dialects, spoken by various ethnic groups spread across its four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, as well as the federal territories and autonomous regions. This diversity makes the question "what language do pakistan speak" far from straightforward.

The state recognizes two official languages: Urdu and English. Urdu serves as the national language and lingua franca, while English is used extensively in government, legal affairs, and education. However, these official languages do not necessarily correspond to the mother tongues of the majority of Pakistanis.

Urdu: The National Language and Lingua Franca

Urdu holds a unique position in Pakistan. Although it is the national language, it is the mother tongue of only a small fraction of the population, primarily the Muhajir community—descendants of Muslim migrants from India during the Partition in 1947. Despite this, Urdu has been promoted as a unifying language across the country.

Urdu's role as a lingua franca allows communication across diverse ethnic groups. It is taught in schools nationwide and used in media, literature, and official communication. Its Persian-Arabic script and vocabulary link it culturally to broader South Asian Muslim identity and Islamic heritage.

However, the promotion of Urdu has been a double-edged sword. While it fosters national unity, it sometimes sidelines regional languages, fueling debates about cultural preservation and linguistic rights.

English: The Language of Administration and Education

English occupies an important but somewhat elite status in Pakistan. As a remnant of British colonial rule, English remains the primary language of government, judiciary, higher education, business, and diplomacy. It serves as a bridge between Pakistan and the global community, particularly in legal and professional domains.

English proficiency is often associated with socioeconomic status and urbanization. Schools offering English-medium education are widespread in urban centers, contributing to the perception of English as a language of opportunity. However, reliance on English in official matters can create barriers for those less proficient, especially in rural areas.

Regional Languages: The Heartbeat of Pakistan's Ethnic Groups

Most Pakistanis speak regional languages as their mother tongues. These languages carry the cultural heritage, oral traditions, and identities of their respective communities. The most widely spoken regional languages include Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, and Balochi, each with distinct linguistic features and historical significance.

Punjabi: The Largest Linguistic Group

Punjabi is the most widely spoken language in Pakistan, with approximately 45-48% of the population using it as their first language. Predominantly spoken in the Punjab province, it boasts a rich literary tradition and vibrant folk culture. The language is written mainly in Shahmukhi script, a variant of the Persian-Arabic script.

Despite its prevalence, Punjabi has a paradoxical status. It is seldom used as a medium of instruction in schools and lacks official recognition at the federal level. This has led to concerns among Punjabi speakers about the erosion of their linguistic heritage in favor of Urdu.

Sindhi: Language of Southern Pakistan

Sindhi is spoken by roughly 14-15% of Pakistan's population, primarily in Sindh province. It is an ancient language with roots tracing back to the Indus Valley Civilization. Sindhi enjoys official status in Sindh and is used in education and media within the province.

The language uses a modified Arabic script and has a rich literary and poetic tradition. Sindhi nationalism and cultural pride often emphasize the importance of preserving the language amid the dominance of Urdu and English.

Pashto and Balochi: Languages of the Western Regions

Pashto and Balochi are significant to the western provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, respectively. Pashto is spoken by about 15-18% of the population, and it carries considerable cultural weight among the Pashtun ethnic group. It features a distinct script and a strong oral tradition of poetry and storytelling.

Balochi, spoken by approximately 3-4% of Pakistanis, is the language of Balochistan's indigenous people. It has several dialects and a rich folklore heritage. Both Pashto and Balochi have faced challenges in gaining extensive official support but remain vital to their communities' identity.

Other Regional Languages

Beyond these major languages, Pakistan hosts numerous others, including:

- **Saraiki:** Spoken in southern Punjab, Saraiki is sometimes considered a dialect of Punjabi but has distinct linguistic features and a growing cultural movement advocating for its recognition.
- **Brahui:** A Dravidian language spoken in parts of Balochistan, notable for being geographically isolated from other Dravidian languages.
- **Shina, Kashmiri, and Gilgiti:** Languages of the northern areas, reflecting the ethnic mosaic of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir.

These languages contribute to Pakistan's linguistic richness but often lack institutional support.

The Role of Language in Pakistan's Identity and Politics

Language in Pakistan is not merely a tool for communication; it is deeply intertwined with identity, politics, and power. The question of "what language do Pakistan speak" cannot be separated from issues such as ethnic nationalism, cultural rights, and state policy.

The imposition of Urdu as the national language was intended to unify a diverse population but also sparked resistance, particularly from Bengali speakers in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), contributing to the country's eventual fragmentation in 1971.

Similarly, regional language movements continue to press for greater recognition and rights. Language preservation efforts are increasingly important as globalization and urbanization promote dominant languages at the expense of smaller ones.

Educational and Media Influence

Education policy in Pakistan heavily influences language use. Urdu and English dominate formal education, while regional languages often have limited roles in schools. This affects literacy rates and cultural transmission.

Media, including television, radio, and digital platforms, has become a battleground and opportunity for linguistic expression. Regional language channels and programs promote cultural pride and provide platforms for minority languages.

Challenges and Opportunities

Pakistan faces several challenges regarding its linguistic diversity:

1. **Language Preservation:** Many regional languages are at risk of decline due to lack of institutional support and urban migration.
2. **Education Access:** Language barriers can limit access to quality education, especially where instruction is not in the mother tongue.
3. **National Unity vs. Cultural Rights:** Balancing a unifying national language with respect for regional languages remains a sensitive issue.

Conversely, technological advances and increased awareness offer opportunities for digital preservation, multilingual education, and cultural exchange.

Exploring the question "what language do Pakistan speak" reveals a nation where language is a mirror of its diversity and complexity. Urdu and English function as official and unifying tongues, but the heartbeat of Pakistan lies in its regional languages, each a vital thread in the country's cultural tapestry. As Pakistan continues to evolve, its linguistic diversity will remain both a challenge and a source of strength.

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what language do pakistan speak: Pakistan - The Culture Carolyn Black, 2003 Readers will enjoy discovering Pakistan's many and varied cultural practices and festivals. The Islamic observances of Ramadan and Eid ul-Azha are featured along with unique celebrations, such as the Basant kite festival, and arts and crafts including calligraphy, carpet making, sufi poetry, and Qawwali singing.

what language do pakistan speak: Multilingualism in Italian Migrant Settings Luca Iezzi, 2024-09-26 Multilingualism in Italian Migrant Settings investigates the plural linguistic practices of the migrants in a particular refugee centre in Italy, the CAS (centri di accoglienza straordinaria; "extraordinary refugee centre"). This book offers a practical and rigorous study of contact situations surrounding migrants from areas with complex repertoires. Language is inherently connected to migration, especially through its role as a principal tool for communication. This volume places multilingualism in migratory contexts to comprehend how plurilingual migrants move freely between languages, and to evaluate their role in the linguistic landscape of the host country. This monograph will appeal to scholars specialising in sociolinguistics and contact linguistics. The volume will also be informative for postgraduate students in the field of sociolinguistics, with a focus on migration and language use.

what language do pakistan speak: Transnational Pakistani Connections Katharine Charsley, 2013-11-12 Since restrictions on commonwealth labour immigration to Britain in the 1960s, marriage has been the dominant form of migration between Pakistan and the UK. Most transnational Pakistani marriages are between cousins or other more distant relatives, lending a particular texture to this transnational social field. Based on research in Britain and Pakistan, this book provides a rounded portrayal incorporating the emotional motivations for, and content of, these transnational unions. The book explores the experiences of families and individuals involved, including the

neglected experiences of migrant husbands, and charts the management of the risks of contracting transnational marriages, as well as examining the consequences in cases when marriages run into conflict. Equally, however, the book explores the attractions of marrying 'back home', and the role of transnational marriage in maintaining bonds between people and places. Marriage emerges as a crucial, but dynamic and contested, element of Pakistani transnational connections. This book is of interest to students and scholars in the fields of migration studies, kinship/the family and South Asian studies, as well as social work, family law and immigration.

what language do pakistan speak: *The Future of Pakistan* Stephen P. Cohen, 2011-10-01 With each passing day, Pakistan becomes an even more crucial player in world affairs. Home of the world's second-largest Muslim population, epicenter of the global jihad, location of perhaps the planet's most dangerous borderlands, and armed with nuclear weapons, this South Asian nation will go a long way toward determining what the world looks like ten years from now. The Future of Pakistan presents and evaluates several scenarios for how the country will develop, evolve, and act in the near future, as well as the geopolitical implications of each. Led by renowned South Asia expert Stephen P. Cohen, a team of authoritative contributors looks at several pieces of the Pakistan puzzle. The book begins with Cohen's broad yet detailed overview of Pakistan, placing it within the context of current-day geopolitics and international economics. Cohen's piece is then followed by a number of shorter, more tightly focused essays addressing more specific issues of concern. Cohen's fellow contributors hail from America, Europe, India, and Pakistan itself, giving the book a uniquely international and comparative perspective. They address critical factors such as the role and impact of radical groups and militants, developments in specific key regions such as Punjab and the rugged frontier with Afghanistan, and the influence of and interactions with India, Pakistan's archrival since birth. The book also breaks down relations with other international powers such as China and the United States. The all-important military and internal security apparatus come under scrutiny, as do rapidly morphing social and gender issues. Political and party developments are examined along with the often amorphous division of power between Islamabad and the nation's regions and local powers. Uncertainty about Pakistan's trajectory persists. The Future of Pakistan helps us understand the current circumstances, the relevant actors and their motivation, the critical issues at hand, the different outcomes they might produce, and what it all means for Pakistanis, Indians, the United States, and the entire world. Praise for the work of Stephen P. Cohen The Idea of Pakistan: The intellectual power and rare insight with which Cohen breaks through the complexity of the subject rivals that of classics that have explained other societies posing a comparable challenge to understanding. Middle East Journal India: Emerging Power: In light of the events of September 11, 2001, Cohen's perceptive, insightful, and balanced account of emergent India will be essential reading for U.S. foreign policymakers, scholars, and informed citizens. Choice

what language do pakistan speak: *Health Outcomes and the Pakistani Population* Ikhtlaq Din, 2014-11-19 This book examines dietary habits and physical activity among older people in Mirpur, Pakistan, through an exploration of changes in diet over time, and investigates the cultural enablers and barriers to the participation of older people in physical activity.

what language do pakistan speak: Bilingualism Bee Chin Ng, Gillian Wigglesworth, 2007 Written by an experienced team of teachers and researchers, this comprehensive introduction to the key issues and debates in bilingualism presents articles from leading figures, including Genesee, Peal, MacNamara, Baker, Saer and Swain.

what language do pakistan speak: *Pakistan's Nuclear Exclusion* Sana Rahim, 2024-01-07 Developed over six chapters, Pakistan's Nuclear Exclusion provides an account of how orientalism is a lived experience of post-colonial racism, injustice, and inequality amongst members of the nuclear community in Pakistan. The account is produced through interviews with members of the community consisting of students, academics, and physicists in Pakistan. Rahim offers unique insights into how Pakistan's nuclear community is not only perceived and represented but also how it seeks to operate in a wider nuclear community dominated by Western nuclear powers. The provision of such highly contextualised insights is enabled by the book setting out to both (a) provide analytical space for and

(b) 'give voice' to how orientalism is experienced in the everyday of their lives. Consequently, the work provides (1) an analysis of how 'dominant discourses' of nuclear management and their 'pictures of reason' are exclusionary, (2) an analysis of the core features of orientalism as they pertain to Pakistan's nuclear community; and (3) empirical findings which produce categories of the experience of orientalism into areas of the everyday – exclusion, making a career, Islamophobia, technology denial and self-reliance. Pakistan's Nuclear Exclusion is enormously valuable to the research community as well as extremely well-conceived and researched. In addition, much of the methodology chapter offers a level of sophistication and self-reflection that translates well in the interview material and its subsequent analysis.

what language do pakistan speak: Reducing nuclear and biological threats at the source : hearing ,

what language do pakistan speak: Political Independence with Linguistic Servitude
Samuel Gyasi Obeng, Beverly Hartford, 2002 This book addresses important issues to the democratisation and development initiatives of developing countries. In many former colonies, the government remains centralised, and many in the population are unable to fully participate in its functioning. A critical difference between being a subject and a citizen is the ability to partake in governance. Such involvement requires knowledge, literacy, and the availability of literature in local and national languages. This book challenges policy makers and scholars to find creative ways of fostering political empowerment through developing language programmes.

what language do pakistan speak: The Contractor Raymond Davis, Storms Reback, 2017-06-27 A lot has been written about the time contractor Raymond Davis spent in a Pakistani jail in 2011. Unfortunately, much of it is misleading—or downright false—information. Now, the man at the center of the controversy tells his side of the story for the very first time. In *The Contractor: How I Landed in a Pakistani Prison and Ignited a Diplomatic Crisis*, Davis offers an up-close and personal look at the 2011 incident in Lahore, Pakistan, that led to his imprisonment and the events that took place as diplomats on both sides of the bargaining table scrambled to get him out. How did a routine drive turn into front-page news? Davis dissects the incident before taking readers on the same journey he endured while trapped in the Kafkaesque Pakistani legal system. As a veteran security contractor, Davis had come to terms with the prospect of dying long before the January 27, 2011 shooting, but nothing could prepare him for being a political pawn in a game with the highest stakes imaginable. An eye-opening memoir, *The Contractor* takes the veil off Raymond Davis's story and offers a sober reflection on the true cost of the War on Terror.

what language do pakistan speak: Posh Talk S. Preece, 2009-08-28 An in-depth study of a group of multilingual students from widening participation backgrounds on a first-year undergraduate academic writing programme. The book explores ways in which identity positions emerge in the spoken interaction, with a particular focus on gender.

what language do pakistan speak: Satya Siddharth S Sinha, 2015-07-07 In Lahore, for over twelve years Rukhsar Ahmeds search for her missing father, a major in Pakistan army had been stone-walled. An anonymous call from India sets her and her beau Aman Khan Bux on an emotional journey of tragic discoveries of how her family and ancestry was directly affected by the historical events; uncovering of lies her countrys military and civilian rulers told to their people about the numerous wars fought between Pakistan and India which was creating hatred. Her journey also uncovers a sinister plot by few Generals in Pak army which could plunge the Indian sub-continent into a catastrophic nuclear war. While learning the truth about the history of four major wars and numerous small skirmishes and wars between India and Pakistan, she and her beau must help Prakash Rohatgi, her new found Indian friend stop the over-zealous Generals lest her beloved country is blown into extinction and millions are killed on either side of Indo-Pak border. This is story of Rukhsars journey of overcoming misconceptions about her countrys arch enemy India and her love for it; about fear psychosis replaced by hope, and enmity replaced with partnership. This is the story of Humans!

what language do pakistan speak: Understanding Pakistani Culture Naeem Harry,

2012-11-08 There are millions of Pakistanis living throughout the world, and from time to time they will need medical, spiritual, and psychological care. This can only be successfully given if their culture is understood. My thought is that I begin my book, *Understanding Pakistani Culture*, with an explanation that I am from Pakistan and I now live in the United States. I am a spiritual counselor who visits patients in hospitals to help them, and sometimes I encounter patients born in Pakistan. Because their customs are often so different from US customs, those wishing to help do not understand their needs. My thought has been to write a book about Pakistani customs to bring forward the understanding.

what language do pakistan speak: MALABAR MANUAL by William Logan , Commentary William Logan's Malabar is popularly known as 'Malabar Manual'. It is a huge book of more than 500,000 words. It might not be possible for a casual reader to imbibe all the minute bits of information from this book. However, in this commentary of mine, I have tried to insert a lot of such bits and pieces of information, by directly quoting the lines from 'Malabar'. On these quoted lines, I have built up a lot of arguments, and also added a lot of explanations and interpretations. I do think that it is much easy to go through my Commentary than to read the whole of William Logan's book 'Malabar'. However, the book, Malabar, contains much more items, than what this Commentary can aspire to contain. This book, Malabar, will give very detailed information on how a small group of native-Englishmen built up a great nation, by joining up extremely minute bits of barbarian and semi-barbarian geopolitical areas in the South Asian Subcontinent.

what language do pakistan speak: Teaching Writing to Second Language Learners Riaz Hassan, Professor of Sociology Riaz Hassan, Dr, 2009-06 A treatise on factors that need to be identified and addressed in helping adult South-Asian students to enhance their confidence and improve their performance in writing. This is an area of increasing importance as higher education in these countries becomes more and more research oriented. Weaknesses in language exist and persist--the unhappy legacy of poor educational policies, miniscule budgets and half-hearted implementation over the years. Remediation is said to be the most difficult and least successful undertaking in language teaching, but it might be possible to improve approaches and results by looking at some of the facts and factors of the situation

what language do pakistan speak: *Afghanistan and Pakistan* United States. Congress. House. Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 2011 Consists mainly of text from the book, *Reconciling with the Taliban?*

what language do pakistan speak: Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore and Folklife Jonathan H. X. Lee, Kathleen Nadeau, 2010-12-21 This comprehensive compilation of entries documents the origins, transmissions, and transformations of Asian American folklore and folklife. Equally instructive and intriguing, the *Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore and Folklife* provides an illuminating overview of Asian American folklore as a way of life. Surveying the histories, peoples, and cultures of numerous Asian American ethnic and cultural groups, the work covers everything from ancient Asian folklore, folktales, and folk practices that have been transmitted and transformed in America to new expressions of Asian American folklore and folktales unique to the Asian American historical and contemporary experiences. The encyclopedia's three comprehensive volumes cover an extraordinarily wide range of Asian American cultural and ethnic groups, as well as mixed-race and mixed-heritage Asian Americans. Each group section is introduced by a historical overview essay followed by short entries on topics such as ghosts and spirits, clothes and jewelry, arts and crafts, home decorations, family and community, religious practices, rituals, holidays, music, foodways, literature, traditional healing and medicine, and much, much more. Topics and theories are examined from crosscultural and interdisciplinary perspectives to add to the value of the work.

what language do pakistan speak: Language and State Xing Yu, 2017-05-19 This book argues that a tribe of the primitive society is formed because of kinship, while a state of the civilized society is formed because of language. When humans communicate using language, they extend the distance and the reaches of communication. They expand their communities. States replace tribes.

Language underlies the formation of the state. Then, accordingly, language also underlies the organization of the state as men create language solutions in the organization of the state such as constitution, election and representation. The extension of linguistic communication distance also underlies the formation of three juxtaposing branches of government ? administrative, legislative and judicial body. It also enables men to create various forms of civilization such as history, philosophy, literature, art, religion and law which play a role in the construction of men's spirit that guides the operation of the state. Language presets the whole process of the progress of civilization.

what language do pakistan speak: Congressional Record United States. Congress, 1999

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