

Urdu & Our Kids

The Why and How to help kids learn to love Urdu



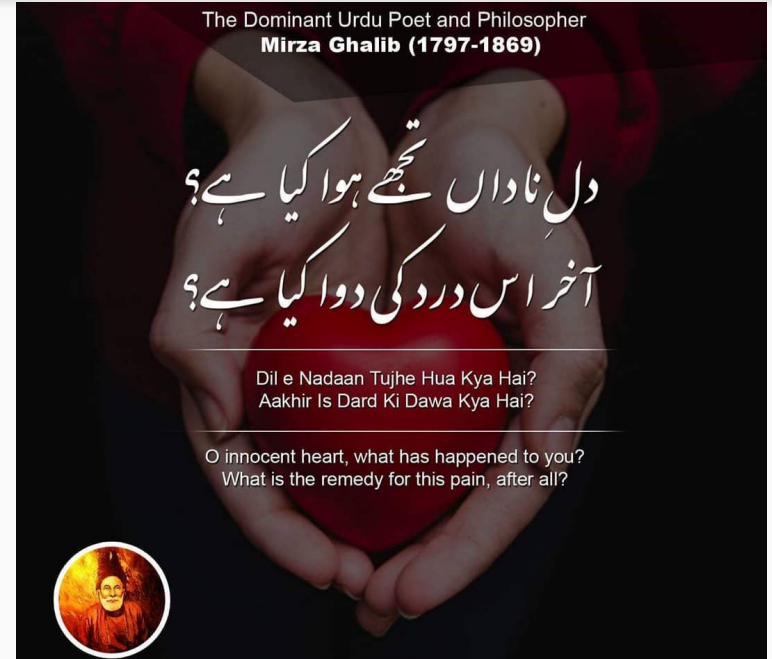
A Little about Me

- My dad is originally from Moradabad in UP, India.
- My mum is third generation Malaysian, with roots from Punjab, India.
- I was born in Karachi, left when I was almost 2 years old, moved to Brunei for 5 years and finally my parents settled in Australia.

اُردو

“Urdu May Baat Karo”

- I grew up in a multilingual home.
- My mum only learned Urdu after she married my dad.
- They were both wholly committed to “Urdu may baat karo.”
- There was NO COMPROMISE on this.
- Mushairay, Ghazal Nights with Mirza Ghalib were a monthly occurrence in our home.



“A language is not just words. It's a culture, a tradition, a unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is. It's all embodied in a language.”

Noam Chomsky

The Struggle, Kyun?

- “Because I said so” or “You’ll thank me later” are not enough
- What are MY REASON(s) for me to say “Kyun humay Urdu main baat karnee chahiye”
- Strong sense of IDENTITY and RESPONSIBILITY
- Strong sense of understanding your child’s innate nature.
- Use your knowledge of your child to figure out which reason will resonate with them.

شناخت

AMONG HIS SIGNS
IS THE
CREATION
OF THE HEAVENS
AND THE EARTH,
AND THE
VARIATIONS
IN YOUR LANGUAGES
AND YOUR COLORS

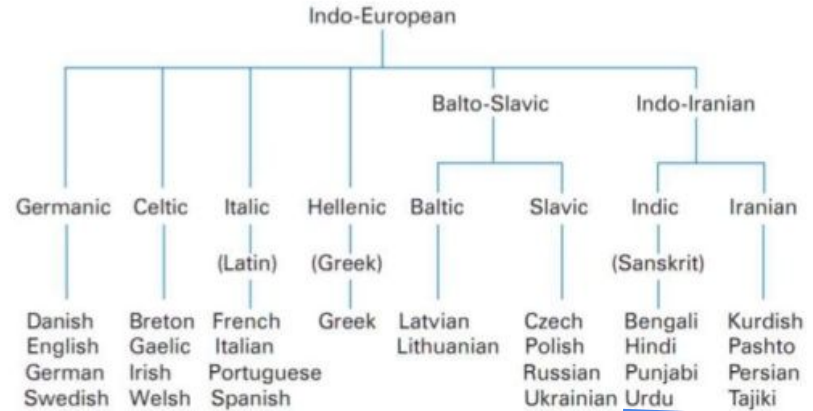
QUR'AN 30:22

ذمہ داری

Consequences?

- Each generation has a **responsibility** to teach the next.
- At minimum we need to focus on conversational Urdu.
- IF we don't put in the work when they are young, the language will be lost for all the generations to come.
 - *The Study of Language 4th Edn*
Chapter 17, George Yule and Carlos Lara, Published June 2015

Language history and change

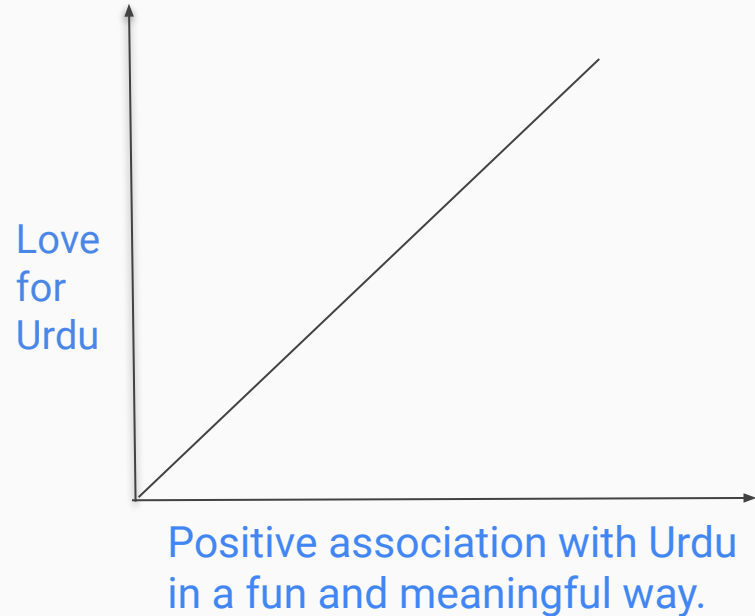


- Many of these languages are in danger of extinction while a few are expanding. In terms of number of speakers, Chinese has the most native speakers (about 1 billion), while English (about 350 million) is more widely used in different parts of the world.

The How? Kaisay?

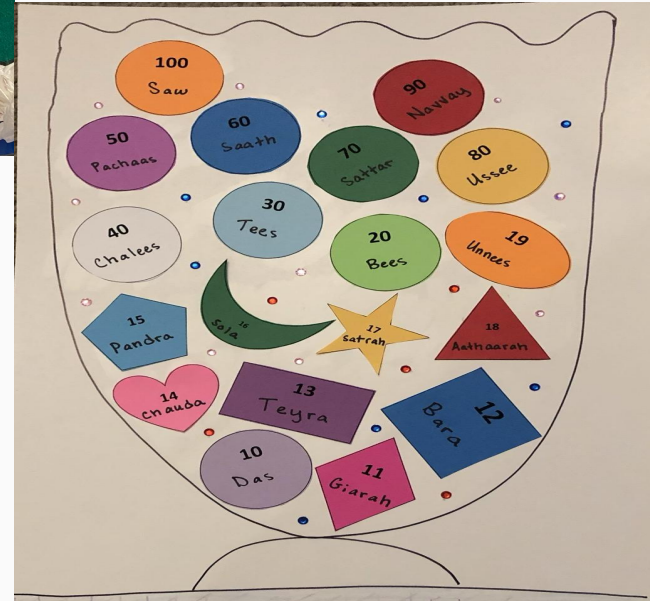
“Pyar se, sabr se, sakoon se”

- Understand your Kyun to address the Kaisay?
 - My Kyun is tied to identity and sense of responsibility.
- Before I can successfully try, I need to also understand my strengths, my weaknesses and those of my children.
 - Underestimating the value of this will hinder growth and positive association.
- Create your own “mantra” and “repeat”
- Find your “village” of like minded parents.
- Drown out the “noise”



Urdu Playgroup

- Born in 2015 with a small group of kids.
- Currently almost 40 kids.
- Main goal is “peak their curiosity”.
- “Teaching” should include
 - engaging and interactive activities
 - songs with movements.
 - end with a simple craft and story time
- Modify for “family only”.





Pyar se, Sabr se
Sakoon se, Dua se.

پیار سے، صبر سے
سکون سے، دعا سے