

**Language attitude of adolescent shina  
Speakers towards shina, urdu and english**



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## ABSTRACT

*We are not a sitar with a single string, and our music take more than one chord to make. We are convergences of languages and cultures, all of which are simply too lustrous to be overshadowed by a single one (Anonymous).*

Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the most culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse areas of Pakistan. Unfortunately, almost all the languages used in Gilgit-Baltistan exist only in spoken form and lack proper orthography. Furthermore, the lack of patronage from government and educational sectors has directly affected the significance and value of these languages. The only institutionalized languages in this area are Urdu and English like the rest of the country. Keeping in view the present scenario, this study was an attempt to explore the language attitudes of a group of fifty native adolescents of Shina speech community living in Gilgit. Matched guised technique was used to elicit the unconscious responses of the respondents toward the different languages under investigation (English, Urdu and Shina languages). A brief language attitude questionnaire was also used to enhance the authenticity of the research. The collected data was statistically analyzed by using the SPSS software. The result clearly showed that the respondents were instrumentally inclined to learn English and Urdu as these languages offer more privileges and benefits as compared to Shina language. Different reasons related to the low evaluation and ratings of Shina were discussed along with the consequences. It was concluded that the vitality of Shina language may be threaten if such negative attitudes persist. Finally, some recommendations were given to uplift and safeguard the status of Shina language.

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this thesis is submitted to the department of English Language and Literature, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, in the partial fulfillment for the degree of M.Phil in Applied Linguistics. It is further declared that this thesis is my own composition and it contains no material submitted previously, if found, I shall be held guilty.

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## **DEDICATION**

To my late father,

Who has always been a source of inspiration for me.

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## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

#### **1.1 Overview**

This chapter deals with the background of the present research. It unfolds the hierarchy of languages in Pakistan. It also highlights the consequences of privileging the dominant languages by the states over the indigenous and minority languages. The second section of this chapter is about the purpose of the study and then its objectives are explained. The last part discusses the significance of the present research.

#### **1.2 Introduction**

A language is not only a tool to serve the purpose of communication but also a means to perform different functions in a society. A language that falls short to fulfill these functions is likely to be in danger of extinction. What constitutes 'minority languages' is somehow a bit controversial in itself to explain because there is not an agreed upon definition of minority languages. Different linguists have defined it from different perspective according to their own convenience that suited the given context, for example, in a report on minority languages in Europe (2004), the term 'minority languages' is explained as languages that are traditionally used by the nationals of a state within the given territory of that state who form a group numerically smaller than the rest of the state's population and which is different from the official languages of that state (Thornberry et al., p.141). However, we will go with the definition given by the Pandaripandae (2002) which states that, "Minority languages are those which carry relatively less functional load and functional transparency.