

(THE ORIGIN OF PASHTO LANGUAGE)

د پښتو ژبې اصل

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Abstract:

Pashto, language of the Pashtun, is an old language spanning over thousands years. This research paper named د پښتو ژبې اصل (The origin of Pashto language) spotlights three popular views about the origin of this language. The most famous, old, and deeply rooted in the minds of common folks is that Pashto belongs to the family of sematic languages. According to the opinion of these scholars the ethnicity of these people is also attached with the races that adhere to sematic branch of languages. On the other hand, a bulk of scholars and linguists claim that it belongs to the eastern branch of Indo-Iranian languages borrowed many linguistic peculiarities from Indo-Aryan languages in the contact situation. Owing to a long and consistent contact situation with these languages, some scholars consider Pashto to be a variety descended from Indo-Aryan stock. Nineteenth and twentieth centuries witnessed another however, less distinct, view stating that Pashto is a separate and independent language having nothing to do with either sematic or Aryan languages. Dravidians are the oldest languages of the subcontinent. An attempt has been made to link Pashto with the Dravidian branch of languages. This paper presents all these views in great detail.

Key words: Pashto, language, Origin, Indo-Iranian languages.