

International seminar
Teaching Urdu language and women writers

Teaching of Urdu language in France

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Titre : Teaching of Urdu language in France

Topics raised :

1. History of Inalco
 - a. Creation in 1795 [Inalco University | Inalco](#)
 - b. More than hundred oriental languages and its civilizations are taught here in which 54 languages have full-fledged BA program
 - c. Hub of European orientalist intelligentsia in the 19th century
 - d. Inalco was the learning center for Franz Bopp in 1812, then Julius Klaproth in 1815 and Auguste Schlegel in 1823. Norwegian orientalist Christian Lassen came in 1823 to learn Sanskrit.
2. History of Urdu teaching / Hindoustani name
 - a. Hindoustani 1828-1963 > Garcin de Tassy
 - b. Garcin de Tassy > 1828-1878 towering figure. Used both Devanagari and Perso-Arabic scripts to teach Hindoustani.
 - c. Chair Hindoustani in 1830 although language was taught from 1828
 - d. One French orientalist who worked in Delhi College as Principal was Félix Boutros (1806-1864). De Tassy wrote about his Urdu *khidmaat* and he was the main informant of Urdu language and culture from India because de Tassy never went to India. When Félix Boutros left Delhi due to his illness, another Austrian orientalist Aloy Sprenger became the principal of Delhi college in 1843 and he got translated many textbooks into Hindoustani. He died in 1893 in Heidelberg.

3. Name of prominent Urdu teachers of Inalco since its creation
 - a. Garcin de Tassy > 1828-1878
 - b. Julien Vinson > 1886-1921
 - c. Jules Bloch > 1921 – 1937 (Name of Chair : cours de la langue moderne de l'Inde > Modern language courses of India)
 - d. Jean-Filliozat (tamoul)+ Rahmat Ali (ourdou) + Markovitch (hindi) > Chair 1937-1939
 - e. Pierre, Meile 1939-1963
 - f. Mohmaed, Majid Majid, 1957-92.
 - g. André Guimbretières, 1959-1984
 - h. Zahir Hasan, 1991-1993, Faisalabad, Pakistan
 - i. Imran Akbar Syed, 1993-1995, Karachi
 - j. Alain Désoulières, 1983-2014
4. After 1962 > full BA program/ Master/Doctorate
5. What is in the three year BA Program ? [Ourdou | Inalco](#)
 - a. First year
 - b. Second year
 - c. Third year
 - d. Master program
 - e. PhD program in Urdu
 - f. 9 to 10 hours of weekly teaching of Urdu language + 3-6 hours of history, civilization and other teachings per week
 - g. Among 34 different courses on Urdu, four courses are from Urdu literature 1) Initiation to the modern literature 2) History and classical literary of the Urdu sociolinguistics, 3) Novel, short-stories and Poems in Urdu 4) Lyrics and Music in Urdu.
6. Student's profile and background
 - a. Students mostly from Pakistani background
 - b. Also from Poland, Italy and the Netherlands
7. Teacher's profile and background
 - a. Native Speaker is indispensable.
 - b. Problem of language – French: how many years of language learning in French?
 - c. Problem with Urdu language: native tongue but never taught Urdu in the past. Problem in teaching grammar by doctoral students of Urdu.
 - d. Problem in recruiting Urdu teacher
 - e. Currently, one MoU with JMI, New Delhi.
8. Urdu textbooks and resources in French language
 - a. Joseph-Elzéar Morenas, Orientalist death 1835, botanist. He wrote a bulky manuscript on the Hindustani Grammar and dictionary but it couldn't be published. He supported the candidacy of Garcin de Tassy when he returned to India.
 - b. *Rudiments de la langue Hindoustani* by de Tassy, 1833
 - c. *Petit manuel français-hindoustani avec vocabulaire et dialogues*, 1880, H. Auriillac.
 - d. *Manuel de la langue hindoustani* by Julien Vinson 1899
 - e. *Petit lexique français-ourdou* by A. Désoulières
 - f. *Structures élémentaires de l'ourdou* by A. Désoulières
 - g. *Graphie et calligraphie de l'ourdou* by A. Désoulières

- h. *Parlons ourdou* by Michel Malherbe et Mohammad Aslam
 - i. *Ourdou de poche* by Daniel Krasa & Jean-Louis Goussé
 - j. *Français – ourdou pour débutants* by Dr. Johannes Schumann
 - k. *Dictionnaire ourdou-français* by Hadjirah Sellès & Nouredil Al Marlawi
 - l. *Lughat rozmarrah* by Shamsur Rahman Faruqi
 - m. Let's learn Urdu: beginner's manual for Urdu script / Gopi Chand Narang
 - n. A course in Urdu by Muhammad Abdurrahman Barker was in use at Charles University in Prague. Colloquial Text selections are good but grammatical explanations are too detailed and complicated which confuse students
 - o. Introductory Urdu Volume 1 & 2 by C.M. Naim
 - p. Teach yourself Complete Urdu by David Matthews and Mohamed Kasim Dalvi
 - q. Urdu: An Essential Grammar by Ruth Laila Schmidt, 1999
 - r. Textbook of Prof. Ralph Russell, supplementary material, as it is too British oriented
 - s. Some books are exclusively oriented towards Pakistan like Barker's text book.
 - t. *Urdu Imla* by Rashid Hasan Khan
 - u. *Buniyadi Urdu Qawaid* by Suhail Abbas Baloch
 - v. *Shatranj ki Baazi* Premchand and *Shatranj ke khilaadi*
 - w. *Anarkali, Mughle Azam* and *Umrao Jaan Ada*
 - x. Support from Foreign Missions
 - y. Bulac – Excellent collection of periodicals and books in Urdu [BULAC, Bibliothèque universitaire des langues et civilisations](#)
 - z. Online dictionary project by Shahzaman Haque [Dictionnaire – Urdu-turnon \(hypotheses.org\)](#)
9. Scope of learning Urdu
- a. Translator / Interpreter (many agencies in Paris due to high demand of Asylum seekers).
 - b. Masters in Urdu or in any other discipline from the BA degree in Urdu and civilization.
 - c. It is considered as a huge advantage to know Urdu or any other oriental languages if one is interested in working with Ministry of External Affairs or any government department. We prepare the Urdu students for such language exams too.
10. Teaching of Urdu in Europe: Case of Czech Republic
- a. Czech > Paper of Jan Marek 1995 The Annual of Urdu Studies > he wrote that Professor Otakar Pertold, wrote a very successful textbook of the Hindustani language in Czech, teaching both scripts, Devanagari and the Perso-Arabic.
 - b. Czech > Institute of Hindustani language in 1920s
 - c. Charles University, Czech, Urdu has not been taught separately since 1980
 - d. Urdu is regarded as a branch of the study of Hindi, which is more practical and attracts more students according to Jan Marek
11. Future planning and projects?
- a. A common website for Europeans in different languages to learn Urdu > who will fund it? How long it will be funded?
 - b. Common mobile application for European native language speakers to learn Urdu – funding problem and maintenance
 - c. Yearly or two-yearly based seminars on similar topic

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