

The status of Urdu as an official language has a history that goes back to the first quarter of 19th century. At that time Urdu enjoyed the status of official language in some parts of the sub-continent. The court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was linked with Urdu in quite a few ways. The Maharaja and his ancestors patronized the Urdu writers and poets as their courtiers. Even if the official language of the Maharaja's court was Persian the ruler himself employed Panjabi for daily administrative matters. But he used Urdu language while conversing with the visitors, the tourists, the diplomats from friendly countries and also with the British officers. From this it is easy to surmise that even if Urdu was not the official languages of his court it was still the language of everyday use for courtly and informal occasions.

In the thesis under review an attempt has been made to study Urdu in the ways it has been used as an official language, in various times and eras. When the Quaid-e Azam declared Urdu as an official language of Pakistan such a study becomes imperative. There is a need to study Urdu as an official language in its various styles and this thesis makes a humble attempt to fulfill the need.

The aim is to analyse Urdu as official language, particularly in view of the Quaid's declaration, and to study its significance as such. During the writing of the thesis the research matter has been analysed in a historical context. Every effort has been made to ensure the authenticity of the sources and these encompass the unpublished as well as the published material from antiquity to the modern times. In this way a period of two centuries have been covered to reflect to real purpose of the thesis.