

## Evolution and Development of Urdu Poetry in Pakistani Southern Punjab (Beginning to 2000)

Indus valley civilization was one of the most ancient civilization in the world and present Southern Punjab was its cradle. Multan and Uch were eminent cultural, commercial and political centers of this civilization in pre-Arian and post-Arian period Rig Ved, the oldest Hindu scripture was written in this area. The advent of Muslims in Subcontinent further enhanced its socio-political importance. During the period of Sultanate of Dehli Sufis from Arab, Iran and Central Asia arrived and settled in Multan and Uch. They established educational institution and spread their humanitarian philosophy all over the Subcontinent. The focus of their philosophy was peace, fraternity and equality amongst the people of India. At that time a new linguafranca evolved out of the amalgamation of Arabic, Persian and Turkish with local languages.

This linguafranca was initially called Hindvi and finally Urdu. The linguistic medium of preaching of the Sufis was this newly evolved linguafranca. Afterwards this new language reached Dehli and Deccan with Muslim soldiers and Sufis. In this context the literary works of Baba Fareed and Ameer Khusro possess a prominent place in the history of Urdu language and poetry. Having acquired the status of the Capital of India in Sultanate of Dehli and subsequent Muslim history, Dehli became culturally and intellectually powerful enough to influence the literary genius of the Subcontinent. Quite obviously these literary trends approached Southern Punjab and affected poetic sensibility of the area. In colonial period the Southern Punjab was very well linked with other literary centers of India like Dehli, Lucknow and Hyderabad. The literary works of the poets of Southern Punjab were appreciated to a great extent in these literary centers.

After the creation of Pakistan till 2000, all the literary movements and trends influenced the whole country, as well as the Southern Punjab. During this period the Southern Punjab remained prominent. This thesis not only encompasses cultural, political, economic and educational history but also covers all the literary services, the Southern Punjab has rendered to the national and international planes.