

Pashtu

پښتو

Spoken in: Afghanistan, Pakistan

Region: Afghanistan: south, east and a few provinces in the north; Pakistan: western provinces

Total speakers: 38 million

Genetic Classification: Indo-European Indo-Iranian Iranian South eastern Pashtu

Official language of: Afghanistan

The language is believed to have originated in the Kandahar/Helmand areas of Afghanistan. Dari often dominates over Afghan/Pashtu in Afghanistan in everyday government use since the capital was moved to Kabul from Kandahar in the 18th century. Pashtu is spoken by 44% of Afghanistan's population as mother tongue and by 80% in all Afghanistan.

From the time of Islam's rise in Central Asia, Pashtu has used a modified version of Perso-Arabic script. In recent years, however, because of the Internet, it has become increasingly popular to write Pashtu in the Latin script. Pashtu has the extra letters that Persian has added to the Arabic alphabet.

Pashto first appeared in writing during the 16th century. It is written with a version of the Arabic script.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 Pashtu sessional interpreter.

Arabic script for Pashtu

خ	ح	چ	ج	ث	ټ	ت	پ	ب	ا
خیم	حې	چې	جیم	ثې	ټې	تې	پې	بې	الف
ce	je	če	jim	se	te	te	pe	be	alef
c	j	č	j	θ	ʈ	t	p	b	[ʔ, Ø, a, a(:), i, u]
[ts]	[dz]	[tʃ]	[dʒ]	[s]	[t]	[t]	[p]	[b]	
ږ	ژ	ز	ړ	ر	ذ	ډ	د	خ	ح
ږې	ژې	زې	ړې	رې	ذال	ډال	دال	خې	حې
ze	že	ze	re	re	zāl	dāl	dāl	xe	he
z	ž	z	r	r	d	d	d	x	h
[z]	[ʒ]	[z]	[r]	[r]	[z]	[d]	[d]	[x]	[h, Ø]
ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ښ	ش	س
ف	غین	عین	ظوې	طوې	ضاد	صاد	ښین	شین	سین
fe	ğain	ain	zwā	twā	dwāt	ṣwat	šin	šin	sin
f	ğ	ʿ	z	t	z	s	ʃ	š	s
[f]	[ɣ]	[ʔ, Ø, a]	[z]	[t]	[z]	[s]	[ʃ]	[ʃ]	[s]
ی	و	ه	ڼ	ن	م	ل	گ	ك	ق
یې	واو	هې	نونې	نون	میم	لام	گاف	کاف	قاف
ye	wāw	he	nun	nun	mim	lam	gaf	kaf	qāf
y, i, e	w	h	ɳ	n	m	l	g	k	q
[j, e, aj, i(:)]	[w, o, u(:)]	[h, a, ə, Ø]	[ɳ]	[n]	[m]	[l]	[g]	[k]	[q]