

SHORT NOTE**DEVELOPMENT OF SCRIPT OF PUNJABI AND SANSKRIT**

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Very extensive research work on the origin and development of Punjabi script has been done by G B Singh [1]. Principal Satbir Singh had also reported his work in his book [2]. However, the work of G B Singh [1] in the development of *Punjabi* Script is worth commending. He has collected various scripts found in the Punjab and throughout India and has traced out their origin and development. If *Punjabi (Gurmukhi Lipi)* letters are compared with that of *Takri* he stated that:

- Sixteen (16) letters of *Punjabi* are very similar to that of *Takri*,
- Five (5) are almost similar,
- Six (6) are somewhat similar, and
- Eight (8) do not resemble at all.

On the other hand when the *Punjabi* letters were compared with that of *Sarda* then:

- Seven (7) letters were similar to that of *Sarda*, and
- Twelve (12) were close to similar.

examination of the structure of letters of all these languages indicates the development of the letters from *Landay* to *Takri* and then to *Punjabi* remained simple and easy to write. But on the other hand development from *Landay* to *Sarda* and then to *Sanskrit* became more and more complex and difficult to write.

G B Singh [1] has also mentioned that it was *Takri* script, which was more commonly used for writing than *Sarda*. He has also mentioned that development of *Punjabi* started a lot earlier than the time of Guru Nanak when he started to write his Bani in this script. It clearly indicates that by the time of Guru Nanak *Punjabi* script was already very popular for writing purpose than *Sarda* and *Sanskrit*. Most probably this was the reason that Bhagats of India and Guru Nanak preferred to use the Punjabi script for writing their Bani. It is said that further improvement was done by Guru Angad and he named it as *Gurmukhi lipi* (Script spoken by and used by *Gurmukhs* or some say the language spoken by the

Gurmukhi Lipi	ੳ	ਊ	ੳ	ਅ	ਕ	ਖ	ਗ	ਪ	ਮ	ਰ	ਲ	
Takri	ੳ	ਊ	ੳ	ਟ	ਠ	ਡ	ਘ	ਗ	ਪ	ਮ	ਰ	ਲ
Landay	ਓ	-	-	ਯ	ਭ	ਘ	ਗ	ਪ	ਮ	ਰ	ਲ	
Sarda	ਊ	ਊ	ਊ	ਮ	ਕ	ਖ	ਗ	ਪ	ਮ	ਰ	ਲ	
Sanskrit	उ	ऊ	ओ	अ	क	ख	ग	प	म	र	ल	

However, when the *Punjabi* letters were compared with that of *Sanskrit* there was very little resemblance. I have picked 11 letters of *Punjabi (Gurmukhi Lipi)* and their relationship with *Takri*, *Landay*, *Sarda*, and *Sanskrit* is shown in the following table.

If we compare the structure of letters it appears that *Landay* scripts are the base for the development of *Takri* and then *Punjabi* on one side and development of *Sarda* and then *Sanskrit* on other side. Another careful

mouth of the Guru). There is one more point to be noted that Guru Nanak has coined ੴ a new and unique logo keeping in view the different structures of 'Oora' found in *Landay*, *Takri* and *old Punjabi*. He extended the open end of 'Oora' to indicate infinity.

1. Singh, G. B. 1981 (3rd Ed.). *Gurmukhi Lipi da Janam tay Vikaas*. Punjab University Publication Bureau, Chandigarh.
2. Singh, Principle Satbir. 1995. *Punjabi Boli da Itihaas*. Kalam Mandir, Lower Maal, Patiala.