



### 8.3.5 Kashmiri Design Guide

#### General Information

#### Introduction

This document provides general information about the Kashmiri language and some conventions of its usage in India.

The information presented in this document is intended to assist in understanding the nature and problems of Kashmiri implementation in digital medium. It contains the generic description of Kashmiri.

#### Language Description

Kashmiri language, mainly spoken in the Kashmir valley of Jammu and Kashmir state in Northern India, belongs to the Dardic branch of languages in Indo-Aryan family; other closely related languages are Shina, Kohistani, and Khowar group of languages. For historical reasons, Kashmiri is considerably influenced by Sanskrit and Persian.

Kashmiri is one of the eighteen languages specified in the Eighth Schedule of Indian Constitution. It is called *Ka'shoor* by native speakers. Significant variation is noticed in the speech of (a) Southern and Southeastern, (b) Northern and Northwestern region, and (c) Srinagar and surroundings. The Srinagar variety of Kashmiri is accepted as standard in literature and school education.

The literary tradition of Kashmiri language goes back to twelfth century A.D., with the musical compositions of Lal Ded and Sufi poetry of Shah Nuruddin in fourteenth century. The old writing system of Kashmiri was in Sharda script. It is closely related to Devanagari system of writing; now its use is restricted to religious and ritual writings. The Perso-Arabic writing is more popular among contemporary Kashmiris, with suitable modifications with the alphabet according to Kashmiri phonetics.

#### Population using the Kashmiri Language

4,391,000 in India including 4,370,000 Kashmiri, 21,000 Kishtwari (1997 IMA). 52.29% of the population of Jammu and Kashmir.

105,000 in Pakistan (1993).

Population total all countries 4,511,000.

#### Technical Characteristics

#### Alphabet Chart (Group-wise)

1. آ ا آ ا ا ا
2. ر ز ژ ژ
3. د ڈ
4. ب پ ت ٹ
5. ش س
6. او او آ او و و
7. ئے سے
8. ج ج
9. ک گ
10. ل ل
11. ھ پھ چھ ٹھ ڈھ
12. م ہ
13. ای ی
14. ئن ن
15. ش ط ظ ح خ غ ف ق ع غ ص ض ذ

#### Alphabet Chart (Traditional)

اب پ بھ ت ٹ ٹھ ش ج جھ چھ  
 ح خ د ڈ ذ ر ز ژ ژھ س شھ ص ض  
 ط ظ ع غ ف ق ک گ ل م ن و ہ سے



## Phonology

Kashmiri comprises 45 sound-units: 25 consonants, 3 semivowels and 17 vowels. Similar to Indo-Aryan group of languages, Kashmiri shows five-fold contrast in place of articulation: labial, dental, retroflex, palatal and velar. Fourteen stops show the contrast between voicing, unvoicing and aspiration (only in case of voiceless stops). Indo Aryan voiced aspirates are de-aspirated in Kashmiri.

Five palatal affricates are striking characteristics of Kashmiri phonology: three palatal affricates as in the stop series, and two additional dento-palatal affricates shown as : *ts* (ٽ) and *tsh* (ٽھ).

The semi-vowels *vao*, *ye*, *he* unction similar to consonants in initial and certain medial positions. In final position and medially when preceding or following a vowel, they form diphthongs.

Kashmiri has the fullest vowel system: 8 short and 8 long vowels, showing three-fold contrast in tongue position: front, central and back: 8 are short vowels and 8 long vowels. It is distinguished by centralized vowels showing contrast between front-high *i*(<sub>i</sub>) and centralized front-high *ī* (<sub>i</sub>); back-mid *o*(<sub>o</sub>) and back-mid-open *o*(<sub>o</sub>), and centre-mid vowel *e* (<sub>e</sub>) and raised center-mid vowel *e* (<sub>e</sub>).

## Writing System

The Kashmiri language is spoken in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as immediately nearby areas in both India and Pakistan. Kashmiri language is spoken by both Hindus and Muslims, and each group would write the language with a different script. The use of the Kashmiri script to write the Kashmiri language is mostly confined to Hindus, while Muslims would write the Kashmiri language with an Arabic-derived alphabet (such as the one for Urdu).

## Kashmiri-Arabic Script

The Kashmiri-Arabic script is adapted from the Persian system of writing, which itself is an adaptation of the Arabic system. Arabic characters

are written from right to left. Some of the characteristics of the script are:

- i. Twenty-nine characters of the Arabic script
- ii. Three modified characters adopted from the Per- sian script: p (پ), c (چ), g (گ)
- iii. two modified characters (phonetically different) adopted from the Urdu script

*ts* (ٽ), and *tsh* (ٽھ)

- iv. Some diacritic marks and symbols like circle <sub>e</sub>, <sub>e</sub>, below *ye*, etc. are also used.

Script Nastaliq as well as Naskh are used for writing Kashmiri, but the Nastaliq is widely used.

## Character Set Considerations

### Characteristics

The alphabet of Kashmiri is a super set of Arabic, Persian and Urdu languages, and contains 34 letters. Additionally there are a few distinct diacritic marks to represent centralized vowels: <sub>e</sub>, <sub>e</sub>, etc.

### Numerals

Kashmiri numerals are similar to Urdu. Numerals are written left to right. The decimal separator in Urdu numerals is called “ASHARYA” (U+066B) and is similar to “HAMZA” in shape.

٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩

01234565789

Kashmiri Numerals

### Composing

Unlike English script, the characters in Kashmiri have different shapes depending on their position in the constituent word i.e. starting, medial, and final. The fourth being standalone or isolated. The writing system is same as that of Urdu.

کاشیر

A sample Kashmiri word



### Formats of Units and Localization

#### Week

Kashmiri weekday names are: *tsandarwaar* (Monday), *bamwaar* (Tuesday), *badhwaar* (Wednesday), *bhraswaar* (Thursday), *Juma or Shukrawaar* (Friday), *batwaar* (Saturday), and *athwaar* (Sunday)

#### Time

There is no abbreviation (like AM or PM in English) used for time in Kashmiri. The English style may also be used. Number Numerals in Kashmiri are written left to right just like they are written in English. Kashmiri however has its own shapes for numerals (same as that of Urdu language):

۱۰,۰۰۰	۲۰۰	۱۳۶۵۰
10,000	200	450

#### Sample Numbers in Kashmiri

### 8.3.6 Typical Colloquial Sentences in Kashmiri

#### GREETING

- ▶ Hello!  
آداب  
आदाब।  
Aadaab
- ▶ How are you?  
واریہ چھو؟  
वारे छिव?  
Vaare' chhiva?
- ▶ I am fine, thank you  
بہ چھس ٹھیک، شکر یہ۔  
ब छुस ठेक, शुक्रिया।  
Ba chhus Thek, shukria.
- ▶ Sorry  
ماف کریو۔  
माफ करिव।  
Maaf Kariv!
- ▶ Thanks  
شکر یہ  
शुक्रिया।  
Shukria.

#### WEATHER

- ▶ It is cold  
یہ چھ ٹرن۔  
ये छु तुरुन।  
ye chhu toron.
- ▶ It is cool outside  
نبرہ چھ تیر  
निब्र छे तेर।  
Nibra chhe' te'r.
- ▶ It is hot  
یہ چھ گرم۔  
ये छु गर्म।  
Ye' chhu garm.