

Synopsis for Postdoc Project

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A study on Persian manuscripts on the life of Holy Prophet PBUH in the subcontinent

Introduction: According to the historical resources, the religion Islam and Persian language entered Sindh through Muhammad Bin Qasim who had conquered the region in 7th century. (Ali,2022) Since soldiers of Muhammad bin Qasim spoke were Iranians and also spoke Persian, and there was no religion in Sindh, it is believed that Persian language and Islam share a common background in the subcontinent.

After conquering this land, a huge number of Iranian soldier stayed and settled here. This led to dissemination and propagation of Islam, Persian language, and culture through the warriors. Regarding, the propagation of Islam, several books were necessary to be written to spread information for mass audience about the life of the Holy Prophet PBUH. These books or manuscripts written by different people in different era in Persian are significant in cultivating Islamic values in people of the subcontinent. These books helped people learn about the Islamic doctrines and values; therefore, their study will provide insightful

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information about the role of Persian in propagating Islam. In this research, we will try to locate those Persian manuscripts by consulting different catalogues and visiting different libraries. The Persian manuscripts containing complete picture of the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) life are mostly hidden or unpublished from general public. Bringing such valuable manuscripts to light will provide fundamental and significant information for the current era.

Problem Statement:

Despite the abundance of Persian manuscripts on the life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the subcontinent, a comprehensive and systematic study of these texts is scarce. The reason behind the lack of such research is that a large number of Persian manuscripts regarding the life of Holy Prophet (PBUH) are still unexplored, uncatalogued, unedited, and unanalyzed by the people, so these need to be identified for upcoming research projects,

Research Question:

1. How many Persian manuscripts have been written on the life of Holy Prophet PBUH in the subcontinent since seventh century?
2. How many Persian manuscripts are unexplored or inaccessible to people?

3. To what extent Persian language has played role in disseminating Prophetic teachings through emphasizing different aspects of prophet's PBUH life.

Objectives

1. To identify, locate, and catalog Persian manuscripts on the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in various collections across the subcontinent
2. To identify the role of Persian language in spreading Islam through Prophet's (PBUH)life

Research Background

Undoubtedly, there is a rich collection of Persian manuscripts containing life of Holy Prophet (PBUH), but due to lack of enough information about them unfortunately we have less number of published books on life of Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Significance of the Study:

- Persian manuscripts on the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are primary sources that preserve early Islamic historical narratives and religious teachings as understood and propagated in the Subcontinent. Studying these manuscripts helps safeguard the cultural and spiritual heritage transmitted through generations.

- These manuscripts reflect the intellectual and theological traditions of Muslim scholars in the Subcontinent. They reveal how the life and message of the Prophet were interpreted, taught, and integrated into the socio-religious context.
- Persian was the literary and administrative language in much of medieval South Asia. Manuscripts in Persian on the Prophet's life illustrate how Islamic ideas and the Prophet's biography were disseminated, helping trace the historical spread and influence of Islam in the region.
- Persian manuscripts often include rich calligraphy, illumination, and poetic elements. Studying them helps appreciate the artistic heritage and the cultural aesthetics of the era, enriching our understanding of manuscript culture in South Asia.
- Examining how the Prophet's life was portrayed in Persian manuscripts of the Subcontinent and highlighting religious narratives.
- A detailed study of Persian manuscripts aids academics, students, and researchers by cataloging, translating, and analyzing these manuscripts, making this knowledge accessible for contemporary religious studies, history, and literary disciplines.

Research Methodology: This study will be done sampling in which **Metadata** about the collection (creator, date, extent, subjects, etc.) will be given by consulting different catalogues, visiting libraries, archives, and private collections in the different places of Pakistan to identify and access Persian manuscripts on the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive catalogue of Persian manuscripts on the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the subcontinent.
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at academic conferences.
- A potential book-length monograph based on the research findings.
- Contribution to the preservation and accessibility of these valuable historical sources.

Timeline:

For this research I need 9 to 10 months

References:

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