Bollywood: History, Language and Gender

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Relevant Languages

- Urdu (most formal)/Hindi (normal)
- Punjabi (“more informal”)
- English (“cool”)
- Bombay Hindi, Dialects (regional color)

History: Urdu/Hindi

The name Urdu or Oordoo originally meant “camp”, short for zaban-i-urdu "language of the camp".

The word Urdu comes from Turkish ordu, which is related to Horde.

Oxford English Dictionary

Reminds one of the Mongols...

History of the Moghuls

Timurid Dynasty (= Mongols) 1556-1857

Genghis Khan
Timurlane

Founder of Moghul Dynasty: Babur

Religion: Islam.
Religions already present in India: Hindus, Muslims (Schia and Sunni), Jews (since Antiquity), Parsis (Zarathustra, since 8th cent.), Buddhists (since antiquity) a.o.
BABUR (1526-30) — took North India from Afghanistan (Kabul). Was crowned in Agra, which became a capital city of the Moghul Empire.

From the Autobiography *Babur Nama*

HUMAYUN (1530-1556) consolidated the empire, quelled the rebelling Afghans, but then slipped, fell and died in his library.

AKBAR (1556-1605) — known for integration of religions: Hindu, Muslim und Sikh.

JAHANGIR (1605-27) — married to Nur Jahan, one of the most powerful women of the time. Buried in Lahore.
SHAH JAHAN (1628-58) — Height of Empire. Modern Ergative case was found first in this time.

AURANGZEB (1658-1707) — fanatical Muslim. Literature and Art were curtailed, but Empire had its greatest area. No great emperors came after him.

Urdu/Hindi

Dialects of the same language

Urdu (vocabulary) is the declared/historic language of poetry/love, hence important for Bollywood.

1872 Beames Comp. Gram. Aryan Lang. I. 39:
 "By a curious caprice, Hindi, when it uses Arabic words, is assumed to become a new language, and is called by a new name Urdu."
“You prepared the kheer (rice pudding) with much hard work and lit up the lamp. The dog came and ate it all, nothing for you now than to sit and play the drum.”
### Language and Gender

- Gender Related Differences?
  1. Supposedly more use of *hum* ‘we’
  2. Less rapid topic changes
  3. Interruptions?
  4. Exclamations of Despair (*ye nahiiN ho sakta*)?
  5. Tag Questions (*hai na*?)?
  6. Adjectives? Diminutives?
  7. Swear Words or Words of Violence?

### Code-Switching

- A lot of code-switching goes on all the time
  1. Between dialects/languages
  2. Main one that is easy to notice is English/Hindi

- Question: who does it and why? Gender differences?

- For general linguistic background on Code-switching, see Susanne Romaine’s book *Bilingualism*.

### Movie Clips

- *K3G*: 2nd Scene, Codeswichting
- *K3G*: Rich boy meets poor girl (use of Punjabi)
- *Kahoo Na Pyaar Hai*: Urdu Sickness
- *Kahoo Na Pyaar Hai*: Hindi dialect