Hindi

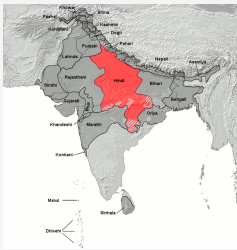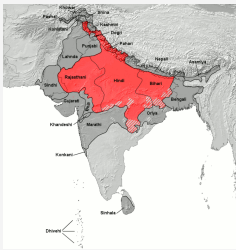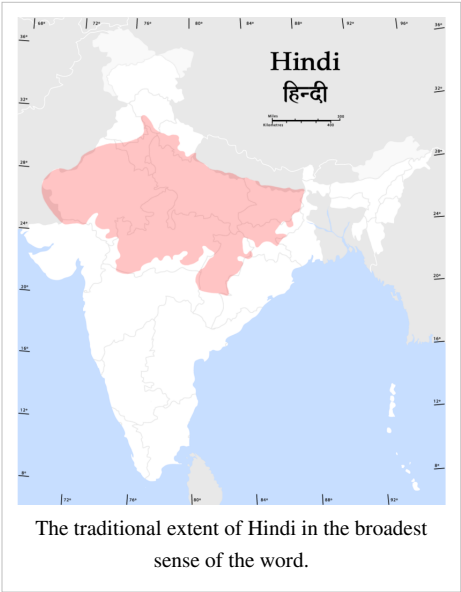**Hindi** (Devanāgarī: हिन्दी or हिंदी, IAST: *Hindī*, IPA: [ˈɦɪndiː] (🔊 listen)) is the name given to various Indo-Aryan languages, dialects, and language registers spoken in northern and central India (the Hindi belt),[1] Pakistan, Fiji, Mauritius, and Suriname. Prototypically, Hindi is one of these varieties, called Hindustani or Hindi-Urdu, as spoken by Hindus. Standard Hindi, a standardized register of Hindustani, is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India, one of the official languages of the Indian Union Government and of many states in India.

The traditional extent of Hindi in the broadest sense of the word.

Conceptions of Hindi

Hindi languages	
Geographic distribution:	South Asia
Genetic classification:	Indo-European Indo-Iranian Indo-Aryan **Hindi languages**
Subdivisions:	Western Hindi Eastern Hindi Bihari Pahari Rajasthani
The Hindi belt (left) and Eastern + Western Hindi (right)	

In the broadest sense of the word, "Hindi" refers to the Hindi languages, a culturally defined part of a dialect continuum that covers the "Hindi belt" of northern India. It includes Bhojpuri, an important language not only of India but, due to 19th and 20th century migrations, of Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Mauritius, where it is called Hindi or Hindustani; and Awadhi, a medieval literary standard in India and the Hindi of Fiji.

Rajasthani has been seen variously as a dialect of Hindi and as a separate language, though the lack of a dominant Rajasthani dialect as the basis for standardization has impeded its recognition as a language. Two other traditional varieties of Hindi, Chhattisgarhi and Dogri (a variety of Pahari), have recently been accorded status as official languages of their respective states, and so at times considered languages separate from Hindi.

Despite the fact that it is in many ways indistinguishable from local Hindi, Urdu, as the principal language of India's large Muslim population and an official language of Pakistan, is often excluded from the purview of the label "Hindi" in India and Pakistan, though the language of Muslims may be included as Hindi or Hindustani in other countries where the language is spoken. As the official language of a separate country, Nepali has always been excluded from this conception of Hindi, despite the fact that it is one of the Pahari languages which are otherwise included.

A narrower conception of Hindi, excluding all of specific varieties mentioned above, may be specified as Western Hindi. This includes Braj Bhasha, a medieval Hindu literary standard language. The current prestige dialect of Western Hindi, Khariboli, had been a language of the Moghul court, of the British administration, and is the basis of the modern national standards of South Asia, Standard Hindi and Urdu.

Indeed, *Khari boli* is sometimes used as an alternate term for Hindi. Again, Urdu is sometimes excluded from consideration, despite being one of the Western Hindi languages, though in Malaysia, Pakistani immigrants are said to speak "Hindi". The colonial term Hindustani, though somewhat dated, is still used to specifically include Urdu alongside Hindi as spoken by Hindus.

In its narrowest conception, "Hindi" means Standard Hindi, a Sanskritised form of Khariboli purged of some of the Persian influence it picked up during Moghul rule, vocabulary which is replaced with loans from Sanskrit. The Constitution of India accords Hindi in the Devanagari script status as the official language of India,[2] with Urdu, retaining the Perso-Arabic script, and the three other varieties of broad Hindi mentioned above among the 22 scheduled languages of India.[3]

Standard Hindi, along with English, is used for the administration of the central government, and Standard Hindi is used, often alongside scheduled languages, for the administration of ten Indian states.[4] [5] However, despite divergence of vocabulary in the academic registers of Standard Hindi and Urdu and the use of distinct scripts, common speech remains Persianised and is largely indistinguishable whether it is called "Hindi" or "Urdu". Much of Hindi cinema, for example, might be described as Urdu, and is extremely popular in Urdu-speaking Pakistan despite language politics.

Thus the conception of Hindi is informed not just by external criteria of mutual intelligibility, but by ethnicity, history, literacy, nationalism, and religion. These issues are especially acute when differentiating Hindi from Urdu, which are generally considered independent languages by their speakers but different formal registers of a single dialect by linguists. However, such issues also arise in debates over whether Rajasthani, and other members of the continuum are "languages" in their own right, or "dialects" of Hindi.

History

Hindi evolved from the Sauraseni Prakrit.[6] Though there is no consensus for a specific time, Hindi originated as local dialects such as Braj, Awadhi, and finally Khari Boli after the turn of tenth century (these local dialects are still spoken, each by large populations).[7] During the reigns of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire, which used Persian as their official language, Khari Boli adopted many Persian and Arabic words. As for the ultimately Arabic words, since almost every one of them came via Persian, their form in Hindi-Urdu does not preserve the original phonology of Arabic. Brief History of Hindi:

Hindi started to emerge as Apabhramsha in the 7th cent. and by the 10 cent. became stable. Several dialects of Hindi have been used in literature. Braj was the popular literary dialect until it was replaced by khari boli in the 19th century.

Background: The period of Prakrits and Classical Sanskrit (dates are approximate):

750 BCE: Gradual emergence of post-vedic Sanskrit

500 BCE: Prakrit texts of Buddhists and Jains originate (Eastern India)

400 BCE: Panini composes his Sanskrit grammar (Western India), reflecting transition from Vedic to Paninian Sanskrit

322 BCE: Brahmi script inscriptions by Mauryas in Prakrit (Pali)

250 BCE: Classical Sanskrit emerges. [Vidhyanath Rao] 100 BCE-100 CE: Sanskrit gradually replaces Prakrit in inscriptions

320: The Gupta or Siddha-matrika script emerges.

Apabhranshas and emergence of old Hindi:

400: Apabhransha in Kalidas's Vikramorvashiyam

550: Dharasena of Valabhi's inscription mentions Apabhramsha literature

779: Regional languages mentioned by Udyotan Suri in "Kuvalayamala"

769: Siddha Sarahpad composes Dohakosh, considered the first Hindi poet

800: Bulk of the Sanskrit literature after this time is commentaries. [Vidhyanath Rao]

933: Shravakachar of Devasena, considered the first Hindi book

1100: Modern Devanagari script emerges

1145-1229: Hemachadra writes on Apabhransha grammar

Decline of Apabhransha and emergence of modern Hindi:

1283: Khusro's pahelis and mukaris. Uses term "Hindavi"

1398-1518: Kabir's works mark origin of "Nirguna-Bhaki" period

1370-: Love-story period originated by "Hansavali" of Asahat

1400-1479: Raighu: last of the great Apabhramsha poets

1450: "Saguna Bhakti" period starts with Ramananda

1580: Early Dakkhini work "Kalmitul-hakayat" of Burhanuddin Janam

1585: "Bhaktamal" of Nabhadas: an account of Hindi Bhakta-poets

1601: "Ardha-Kathanak" by Banarasidas, first autobiography in Hindi

1604: "Adi-Granth" a compilation of works of many poets by Guru Arjan Dev.

1532-1623: Tulsidas, author of "Ramacharita Manasa".

1623: "Gora-badal ki katha" of Jatmal, first book in Khari Boli dialect (now the standard dialect)

1643: "Reeti" poetry tradition commences according to Ramchandra Shukla

1645: Shahjehan builds Delhi fort, language in the locality starts to be termed Urdu.

1667-1707: Vali's compositions become popular, Urdu starts replacing Farsi among Delhi nobility.

It is often called "Hindi" by Sauda, Meer etc.

1600-1825: Poets (Bihari to Padmakar) supported by rulers of Orchha and other domains.

Modern Hindi literature emerges:

1796: Earliest type-based Devanagari printing (John Gilchrist, Grammar of the Hindoostanee Language, Calcutta) [Dick Plukker]

1805: Lalloo Lal's Premsagar published for Fort William College, Calcutta [Daisy Rockwell]

1813-46: Maharaja Swati Tirunal Rama Varma(Travancore) composed verses in Hindi along with South Indian languages.

1826: "Udanta Martanda" Hindi weekly from Calcutta

1837: Phullori, author of "Om Jai Jagdish Hare" born

1839,1847: "History of Hindi Literature" by Garcin de Tassy in French [Daisy Rockwell]

1833-86: Gujarati Poet Narmad proposed Hindi as India's national language

1850: The term "Hindi" no longer used for what is now called "Urdu".

1854: "Samachar Sudhavarshan" Hindi daily from Calcutta

1873: Mahendra Bhattachary's "Padarth-vigyan" (Chemistry) in Hindi

1877: Novel "Bhagyavati" by Shraddharam Phullori

1886: "Bharatendu period" of modern Hindi literature starts

1893 Founding of the Nagari Pracharni Sabha in Benares [Daisy Rockwell] 1900: "Dvivedi period" starts. Nationalist writings

1900: "Indumati" story by Kishorilal Goswami in "Sarasvati"

1913: "Raja Harishchandra", first Hindi movie by Dadasaheb Phalke

1918-1938: "Chhayavad period"

1918: "Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachara Sabha" founded by Gandhi.

1929: "History of Hindi Literature" by Ramchandra Shukla

1931: "Alam Ara" first Hindi talking movie

1930's: Hindi typewriters ("Nagari lekhan Yantra")[Shailendra Mehta]

Our age

1949: Official Language Act makes the use of Hindi in Central Government Offices mandatory

1949-50: Hindi accepted as the "official language of the Union" in the constitution. Debates a, b, c.

1952: The Basic Principles Committee of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan recommends that Urdu be the state language.

1965: Opposition to "Hindi-imposition" in Tamilnadu brings DMK to power.

1975: English medium private schools start asserting themselves socially, politically, financially [Peter Hook].

1985-6: Devanagari word processor, Devyani DTP software, both from Dataflow (?).

1987-88: Frans Velthuis creates Devanagari metafont. [Shailendra Mehta]

1990: According to World Almanac and Book of Facts Hindi-Urdu has passed English (and Spanish) to become the second most widely

spoken language in the world [Peter Hook].

1991: ITRANS encoding scheme developed by Avinash Chopde allows Hindi documents in Roman and Devanagari on the Internet.

Current use

Standard Hindi is the official language of India and is the most widely spoken of India's scheduled languages. It is spoken mainly in northern states of Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar. It is the second major language in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and it is also spoken alongside regional languages like Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi or Bengali throughout north and central India. Standard Hindi is also understood in a few other parts of India as well as in the neighbouring countries of Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Hindustani is spoken by all persons of Indian descent in Fiji. In Western Viti Levu and Northern Vanua Levu, it is a common spoken language and a link language spoken between Fijians of Indian descent and native Fijians. The latter are also the only ethnic group in the world of non Indian descent that includes majority Hindi speakers. Native speakers of Hindi dialects account for 48% of the Fiji population. This includes all people of Indian ancestry including those whose forefathers emigrated from regions in India where Hindi was not generally spoken. As defined in the Constitution of Fiji (Constitution Amendment Act 1997 (Act No. 13 of 1997), Section 4(1), Hindi is one of the three official languages of communication (English and Fijian being the others). Section 4(4)(a)(b)(c)(d) also states that 4) Every person who transacts business with: (a) a department; (b) an office in a state service; or (c) a local authority; has the right to do so in English, Fijian, or Hindustani, either directly or through a competent interpreter.

Hindi Diwas [8] : Hindi was declared official language unanimously by the Constitutional Assembly on 14th September, 1949. Since then, every year, 14th September is celebrated as Hindi Day in all Central Government Offices situated in India and abroad.

Standard Hindi and Urdu

Standard Hindi		
मानक हिन्दी *Mānak Hindī*		
Spoken in	India	
Total speakers	—	

Language family	Indo-European
	• Indo-Iranian
	  • Indo-Aryan
	    • Central zone
	      • Western Hindi
	        • Khariboli
	          • Hindustani
	            • Standard Hindi	

Writing system	Devanagari	
Official status		
Official language in	India	
Regulated by	Central Hindi Directorate (India),[9]	
Language codes		
ISO 639-1	`hi`	
ISO 639-2	`hin`	
ISO 639-3	`hin` [10]	
Linguasphere		

Standard Hindi and Urdu are understood from a linguistic perspective to indicate two or more specific dialects in a continuum of dialects that makeup the Hindustani language (also known as "Hindi-Urdu"). The terms "Hindi" and "Urdu" themselves can be used with multiple meanings, but when referring to standardized dialects of Hindustani, they are the two points in a pluricentric language.

The term Urdu arose as far back as the 12th century and gradually merged together with kharhiboli (the spoken dialect). The term Hindawi was used in a general sense for the dialects of central and northern India. Urdu is the national and official language of Pakistan and is also an official language in some parts of India.

Linguistically, there is no dispute that Hindi and Urdu are dialects of a single language, Hindustani/Hindi-Urdu. However, from a political perspective, there are pressures to classify them as separate languages. Those advocating this view point to the main differences between standard Urdu and standard Hindi:

• the source of borrowed vocabulary;
• the script used to write them (for Urdu, an adaptation of the Perso-Arabic script written in Nasta'liq style; for Hindi, an adaptation of the Devanagari script);
• Urdu's use of five consonants borrowed from Persian script.

Such distinctions, however, are insufficient to classify Hindi and Urdu as separate languages from a linguistic perspective. For the most part, Hindi and Urdu have a common vocabulary, and this common vocabulary is heavily Persianised. Beyond this, Urdu contains even more Persian loanwords while Hindi resorts to borrowing from Sanskrit. (It is mostly the learned vocabulary that shows this visible distinction.)

Some nationalists, both Hindu and Muslim, claim that Hindi and Urdu have always been separate languages. The tensions reached a peak in the Hindi–Urdu controversy in 1867 in the then United Provinces during the British Raj.

With regard to regional vernaculars spoken in north India, the distinction between Urdu and Hindi is insignificant, especially when little learned vocabulary is being used. Outside the Delhi dialect area, the term "Hindi" is used in reference to the local dialect, which may be different from both standard Hindi and standard Urdu. With regard to the comparison of standard Hindi and standard Urdu, the grammar (word structure and sentence structure) is identical.

The word *Hindi* has many different uses; confusion of these is one of the primary causes of debate about the identity of Urdu. These uses include:

1. standardised Hindi as taught in schools in North India
2. formal or official Hindi advocated by Purushottam Das Tandon and as instituted by the post-independence Indian government, heavily influenced by Sanskrit,
3. the vernacular nonstandard dialects of Hindustani/Hindi-Urdu as spoken throughout much of India and Pakistan, as discussed above,
4. the neutralised form of the language used in popular television and films, or
5. the more formal neutralized form of the language used in broadcast and print news reports.

The rubric "Hindi" is often used as a catch-all for those idioms in the North Indian dialect continuum that are not recognised as languages separate from the language of the Delhi region. Bihari and Chhattisgarhi for example, while sometimes recognised as being distinct languages, are often considered dialects of Hindi. Many other local idioms, such as the Bhili languages, which do not have a distinct identity defined by an established literary tradition, are almost always considered dialects of Hindi. In other words, the boundaries of "Hindi" have little to do with mutual intelligibility, and instead depend on social perceptions of what constitutes a language.

The other use of the word "Hindi" is in reference to Standard Hindi, the *Khari Boli* register of the Delhi dialect of Hindi (generally called Hindustani) with its direct loanwords from Sanskrit. Standard Urdu is also a standardized form of Hindustani. Such a state of affairs, with two standardized forms of what is essentially one language, is known as a pluricentric language.

The term "Urdu" (which is cognate with the English word "horde") descends from the phrase *Zabān-e-Urdū-e-Muʿallah* (زبان اردو معلّ‌ا, जबान-ए उर्दू-ए मुअल्लह), lit., the "Exalted Language of the [military] Camp". The terms "Hindi" and "Urdu" were used interchangeably even by Urdu poets like Mir and Mirza Ghalib of the early 19th century (more often, however, the terms Hindvi/Hindi were used); while British officials usually understood the term "Urdu" to refer solely to the writing system and not to a language at all. By 1850, there was growing use of the terms "Hindi" and "Urdu" to differentiate among different dialects of the Hindustani language. However, linguists such as Sir G. A. Grierson [11] (1903) continued to recognize the close relationship between the emerging standard Urdu and the Western Hindi dialects of Hindustani. Before the Partition of India, Delhi, Lucknow, Aligarh and Hyderabad used to be the four literary centers of Urdu.

The colloquial language spoken by the people of Delhi is indistinguishable by ear, whether it is called Hindi or Urdu by its speakers. The only important distinction at this level is in the script: if written in the Perso-Arabic script, the language is generally considered to be Urdu, and if written in Devanagari it is generally considered to be Hindi. However, since independence the formal registers used in education and the media have become increasingly divergent in their vocabulary. Where there is no colloquial word for a concept, Standard Urdu uses Perso-Arabic vocabulary, while Standard Hindi uses Sanskrit vocabulary. This results in the official languages being heavily Sanskritized or Persianized, and nearly unintelligible to speakers educated in the other standard (as far as the formal vocabulary is concerned).

Writing system

Hindi is written in the Devanagari script. To represent sounds that are foreign to Indic phonology, additional letters have been coined by choosing an existing Devanagari letter representing a similar sound and adding a dot (called a 'nukta') beneath it. For example, the sound [z], which was borrowed from Persian, is represented by ज़ , which is a modification of the letter which represents the sound [dʒ] (j). The nukta is also used to represent native sounds, such as ड़ and ढ़, modifications of the characters ड and ढ respectively. These modify the voiced retroflex plosive characters ड and ढ to retroflex flap sounds.

One way of representing the word "Hindi" in Devanagari
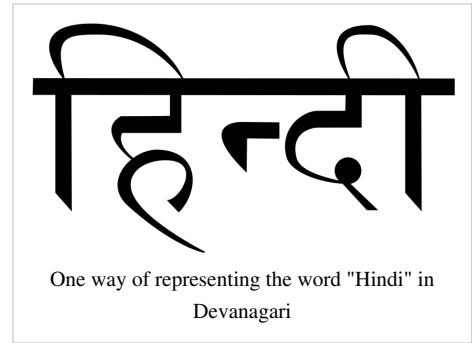
Hindi phonology differs from exactly following Devanagari in some respects, the most important of which is the phenomenon called *schwa syncope* or *schwa deletion*.[12] The schwa ([ə], sometimes transcribed 'a') implicit in each consonant of the script is "obligatorily deleted" at the end of words and in certain other contexts.[13] For instance, राम is *Rām* (incorrect: *Rāma*), रचना is *Rachnā* (incorrect: *Rachanā*), वेद is *Véd* (incorrect: *Véda*) and नमकीन is *Namkeen* (incorrect *Namakeen*).[14] [15]

Literature

The Hindi literature, is broadly divided into four prominent forms or styles, being *Bhakti* (devotional - Kabir, Raskhan); *Shringar* (beauty - Keshav, Bihari); *Veer-Gatha* (extolling brave warriors); and *Adhunik* (modern).

The medieval Hindi literature is marked by the influence of Bhakti movement and composition of long, epic poems, and written in Avadhi and Brij Bhasha dialects. During the British Raj, Khadiboli became the prestige dialect of Hindi. Khadiboli with heavily Sanskritized vocabulary or *Sahityik* Hindi (Literary Hindi) was popularized by the writings of Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Bhartendu Harishchandra and others. The rising numbers of newspapers and magazines made Khadiboli popular among the educated people. Chandrakanta, written by Devaki Nandan Khatri, is considered the first authentic work of prose in modern Hindi. The person who brought realism in the Hindi prose literature was Munshi Premchand, who is considered as the most revered figure in the world of Hindi fiction and progressive movement.

The *Dwivedi Yug* ("Age of Dwivedi") in Hindi literature lasted from 1900 to 1918. It is named after Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi, who played a major role in establishing modern Hindi language in poetry and broadening the acceptable subjects of Hindi poetry from the traditional ones of religion and romantic love.

In the 20th century, Hindi literature saw a romantic upsurge. This is known as *Chhayavaad* (*shadowism*) and the literary figures belonging to this school are known as *Chhayavaadi*. Jaishankar Prasad, Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala', Mahadevi Varma and Sumitranandan Pant, are the four major *Chhayavaadi* poets.

Uttar Adhunik is the post-modernist period of Hindi literature, marked by a questioning of early trends that copied the West as well as the excessive ornamentation of the Chhayavaadi movement, and by a return to simple language and natural themes.

Popular media

Hindi films play an important role in popular culture. The dialogues and songs of Hindi films use *Khari Boli* and Hindi-Urdu in general, but the intermittent use of various dialects such as Awadhi, Rajasthani, Bhojpuri, and quite often Bambaiya Hindi, as also of many English words, is common.

Alam Ara (1931), which ushered in the era of "talkie" films in India, was a Hindi film. This film had seven songs in it. Music soon became an integral part of Hindi cinema. It is a very important part of popular culture and now comprises an entire *genre* of popular music. Film music is so popular that songs filmed even 50–60 years ago are a staple of radio/TV and are generally very familiar to an Indian.

Hindi movies and songs are popular in many parts of Northern India, such as Punjab, Gujarat and Maharashtra, that do not speak Hindi as a native language. Indeed, the Hindi film industry is largely based at Mumbai, in the Marathi-speaking state of Maharashtra. Hindi films are also popular abroad, especially in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Iran and the UK. These days Hindi movies are released worldwide and have good viewership in the Americas, Europe and Middle Eastern countries.

The role of radio and television in propagating Hindi beyond its native audience cannot be overstated. Television in India was introduced and controlled by the central government until the proliferation of satellite TV made regulation unenforceable. During the era of control, Hindi predominated on both radio and TV, enjoying maximum air-time than any other Indian language. After the advent of satellite TV, several private channels emerged to compete with the government's official TV channel. Today, a large number of satellite channels provide viewers with much variety in entertainment. These include soap operas, detective serials, horror shows, dramas, cartoons, comedies, Hindu mythology and documentaries.

See also

- Anti-Hindi agitations of Tamil Nadu
- Complex text layout
- Hindi-Urdu grammar
- Hindi-Urdu phonology
- Hindi in Bihar
- Hindi Heartland
- Hindi languages
- Hindi literature
- Hinglish
- History of Hindustani
- List of magazines in Hindi
- Languages of India and Languages with official status in India
- List of languages by number of native speakers in India

References

Notes

[1] Shapiro (2003), p. 251 (http://books.google.com/books?id=jPR2OlbTbdkC&pg=PA251&vq="not+insignificant+numbers+of+speakers"&dq=hindi+uttar+pradesh&as_brr=3&sig=u5CAclp7Je0ntylfM04B2YgYboc)

[2] Saeed Khan (2010-01-25). "There's no national language in India: Gujarat High Court - India - The Times of India" (http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Theres-no-national-language-in-India-Gujarat-High-Court/articleshow/5496231.cms). Timesofindia.indiatimes.com. . Retrieved 2010-05-02.

[3] Constitution of India, Part XVII, Article 343.

[4] "The Union: Official Languages" (http://india.gov.in/knowindia/official_language.php). India.gov.in. . Retrieved 2010-05-02.

[5] PDF from india.gov.in containing Articles 343 which states so (http://india.gov.in/govt/documents/english/Art243-395_89-184pp_.pdf)

[6] Sir Henry Yule, A. C. Burnell, William Crooke (2006), *A glossary of colloquial Anglo-Indian words and phrases*, Asian Educational Services, p. 344, ISBN 0700703217

[7] Shapiro, M: *Hindi*.

[8] http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=65732

[9] Central Hindi Directorate regulates the use of Devanagari script and Hindi spelling in India. Source: Central Hindi Directorate: Introduction (http://hindinideshalaya.nic.in/hindi/introduction.html)

[10] http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=hin

[11] http://www.nagpuronline.com/people/language.html

[12] Tej K. Bhatia (1987), *A history of the Hindi grammatical tradition: Hindi-Hindustani grammar, grammarians, history and problems* (http://books.google.com/?id=jJOXzRXsSK0C), BRILL, ISBN 9004079246, , "*... Hindi literature fails as a reliable indicator of the actual pronunciation because it is written in the Devanagari script ... the schwa syncope rule which operates in Hindi ...*"

[13] Larry M. Hyman, Victoria Fromkin, Charles N. Li (1988 (Volume 1988, Part 2)), *Language, speech, and mind* (http://books.google.com/?id=R6IOAAAAQAAJ), Taylor & Francis, ISBN 0415003113, , "*... The implicit /a/ is not read when the symbol appears in word-final position or in certain other contexts where it is obligatorily deleted (via the so-called schwa-deletion rule which plays a crucial role in Hindi word phonology ...*"

[14] Monojit Choudhury, Anupam Basu and Sudeshna Sarkar (July 2004), "A Diachronic Approach for Schwa Deletion in Indo Aryan Languages" (http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W/W04/W04-0103.pdf), *Proceedings of the Workshop of the ACL Special Interest Group on Computational Phonology (SIGPHON)* (Association for Computations Linguistics), , "*... schwa deletion is an important issue for grapheme-to-phoneme conversion of IAL, which in turn is required for a good Text-to-Speech synthesizer ...*"

[15] Naim R. Tyson, Ila Nagar (2009 (12:15−25)), "Prosodic rules for schwa-deletion in hindi text-to-speech synthesis" (http://www.springerlink.com/content/131xm66677g74418/fulltext.pdf), *International Journal of Speech Technology*, , "*... Without the appropriate deletion of schwas, any speech output would sound unnatural. Since the orthographical representation of Devanagari gives little indication of deletion sites, modern TTS systems for Hindi implemented schwa deletion rules based on the segmental context where schwa appears ...*"

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