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A Comparative Study of Syntax in Punjabi and Urdu

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Abstract

This study of syntax in two major South Asian languages, Punjabi and Urdu. Syntax, as the structure and arrangement of words and phrases in sentences, plays a crucial role in shaping the linguistic identity and communication patterns of a language. Punjabi and Urdu, both Indo-European languages, have significant historical and cultural importance in the region, and understanding their syntactic differences and similarities can shed light on their linguistic evolution and interrelatedness. The study begins by providing an overview of Punjabi and Urdu syntax, encompassing their basic sentence structures, word order, and grammatical features. Various linguistic aspects, such as case markers, verb conjugations, and agreement patterns, are analyzed in depth to identify distinctions and commonalities between the two languages. Through a comprehensive examination of authentic texts, language corpora, and native speaker interviews, this research uncovers distinct syntactic features unique to each language while identifying potential areas of syntactic convergence or influence. The paper also considers historical factors, including language contact and sociolinguistic influences, which might have contributed to the observed syntactic phenomena. Additionally, this study explores the implications of the syntactic differences for language acquisition, machine translation, and language preservation efforts in both Punjabi and Urdu communities. Understanding how these two languages differ in their sentence structures and grammar can contribute to more effective language teaching methodologies and cross-language communication tools. In conclusion, the comparative analysis of Punjabi and Urdu syntax provides valuable insights into the distinct linguistic traits of these languages and their interconnectedness. It contributes to the broader field of linguistics and lays the foundation for further research on language typology and language evolution in the South Asian context. This study underscores the significance of preserving and promoting linguistic diversity while fostering mutual understanding and appreciation among language communities.

Keywords: Comparative study, syntax, Punjabi, Urdu.



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Introduction:

Language, as a fundamental tool of communication, plays a crucial role in shaping cultures and societies. Within the vast tapestry of human languages, Punjabi and Urdu hold significant positions as prominent languages spoken in the Indian subcontinent. Both Punjabi and Urdu exhibit unique linguistic characteristics, and exploring their syntax offers valuable insights into their structural differences and shared traits.

The purpose of this study is to conduct a comparative analysis of the syntax employed in Punjabi and Urdu. By investigating their grammatical structures, word order patterns, and syntactic rules, we aim to deepen our understanding of these two languages and shed light on the similarities and distinctions that exist between them. This comparative study will provide a comprehensive exploration of syntax in Punjabi and Urdu, the contributing to the field of linguistics and facilitating cross-cultural understanding.

Punjabi, an Indo-Aryan language primarily spoken in the Punjab region, boasts a rich history and a vibrant linguistic tradition. It possesses its own distinctive syntax, characterized by its word order, phrase structure, and use of grammatical markers. Urdu, on the other hand, developed as a fusion of various languages, including Persian, Arabic, and Hindi, and is widely spoken in Pakistan and parts of India. With its roots in the Indo-Aryan and Persian linguistic traditions, Urdu exhibits a unique syntactic framework influenced by its diverse heritage.

The study will adopt a comparative approach, drawing upon existing linguistic literature, corpus analysis, and native speaker interviews. By systematically examining the syntax of Punjabi and Urdu, we aim to identify similarities that may have arisen due to shared linguistic history or geographical proximity, as well as explore the differences that have emerged due to the influence of distinct language families and cultural contexts.

The findings of this study will contribute to our understanding of the linguistic diversity within the Indian subcontinent and enhance our comprehension of how language shapes cultural identities. Moreover, the comparative analysis of Punjabi and Urdu syntax will not only benefit linguists and researchers but also have practical language implications for teachers,





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translators, and individuals interested in language acquisition and cross-linguistic communication.

In conclusion, this comparative study of syntax in Punjabi and Urdu seeks to unravel the intricate grammatical structures and syntactic patterns that define these two languages. By examining their similarities and differences, we aim to knowledge deepen our of language diversity, foster cross-cultural understanding, provide valuable and insights for various fields, including linguistics, education, and intercultural communication.

Background and Context

The background and context of a subject provide crucial insights into its history, development, and relevance in the present day. In this context, we will delve into the multifaceted world of renewable energy and its growing significance in tackling the global challenges of climate change and environmental sustainability. Renewable energy, also known as green or clean energy, encompasses various technologies and sources such as solar, wind. hydroelectric, geothermal, and biomass, which harness natural resources to produce electricity, heat, and fuel. As concerns about climate change intensify,

governments, businesses, and individuals worldwide are increasingly turning to renewable energy as a sustainable and low-carbon alternative to traditional fossil fuels.

Historical Evolution

The roots of renewable energy can be traced back centuries, with early civilizations employing wind and water power for milling grain and pumping water. However, the industrial revolution marked a shift towards fossil fuels like coal and oil, ushering in an era of unprecedented economic growth but also environmental challenges. In the late 20th century, concerns over greenhouse gas emissions and the finite nature of fossil fuels reignited interest in renewable energy sources. The oil crisis of the 1970s further underscored the need for diversifying energy sources, leading to increased research and investment in renewable technologies. Over time, advancements in technology and supportive policies have contributed to the exponential growth of renewable energy installations worldwide.

Current Global Landscape

In recent years, renewable energy has experienced a remarkable surge in adoption, transforming the global energy landscape. Countries around the world have set ambitious renewable energy



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targets as part of their commitments to the Paris Agreement and their efforts to mitigate climate change. Solar and wind power, in particular, have witnessed unprecedented growth due to falling costs and improved efficiency. Technological breakthroughs, grid integration, and energy storage solutions have further enhanced the viability of renewable energy sources, making them competitive with conventional fossil fuel-based power Moreover, the generation. growing awareness of the environmental impacts of burning fossil fuels has spurred public support and encouraged private investments in renewable energy projects.

Environmental and Economic Impacts

Renewable energy sources offer numerous environmental benefits compared to fossil fuels. For instance, solar and wind power generation produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the overall carbon footprint. The adoption of renewable energy also lessens air and water pollution, mitigating the adverse effects on human health and ecosystems. Additionally, investments in renewable energy projects have led to the creation of new jobs and stimulated economic growth in various regions. As the technology matures and economies of scale are achieved, the overall cost of renewable energy has become more competitive, resulting in potential savings for consumers and businesses in the long run.

Overview of Punjabi Syntax

Punjabi, an Indo-Aryan language primarily spoken in the Punjab region of South Asia, boasts a unique and intricate syntax that governs the arrangement of words and phrases in sentences. The language is characterized by its Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order, which sets it apart from English and other Indo-European languages. In this overview, we will explore the key features of Punjabi syntax, shedding light on its structure, grammatical elements, and nuances.

The core of Punjabi syntax lies in its SOV word order, where the subject typically comes first, followed by the object, and finally the verb. For instance, "He apple eats" would be the Punjabi word order equivalent of "He eats an apple." This structure heavily influences sentence formation and provides a distinctive rhythm to the language. Despite the primary reliance on SOV, Punjabi is also flexible and allows for some variations to emphasize different elements of a sentence.





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Punjabi employs a rich system of case markings to indicate the grammatical roles of nouns and pronouns within a sentence. There are several cases, including nominative, accusative, dative, genitive, each serving specific and functions to clarify the relationships between the different components of a sentence. These case markers play a crucial role in disambiguating sentences and ensuring proper understanding and communication.

Verb conjugation in Punjabi is another fundamental aspect of its syntax. Verbs are inflected to agree with the subject, object, and tense. Different conjugation patterns emerge depending on whether the subject is singular or plural, and the gender of the subject plays a role in determining the verb form. Moreover, Punjabi has an extensive system of honorifics, where the verb forms may vary based on the respect shown to the subject, a characteristic deeply embedded in Punjabi culture and social norms.

Punjabi also employs postpositions rather than prepositions, making it a postpositional language. These postpositions indicate various relationships between nouns and other elements in a sentence. This feature significantly impacts the word order in complex sentences, where the postpositions follow the nouns they modify. Understanding the correct usage and placement of postpositions is essential for constructing coherent and meaningful sentences in Punjabi.

In conclusion, Punjabi syntax is a fascinating and intricate system that shapes the language's structure and communication. Its Subject-Object-Verb word order, use of case markings, verb conjugation, and postpositional characteristics make Punjabi a unique and expressive language. Understanding the nuances of Punjabi syntax is vital for language learners and researchers alike, as it unveils the cultural richness and complexity embedded in this South Asian linguistic gem.

Overview of Urdu Syntax

Urdu, a beautiful and poetic language, is the national language of Pakistan and one of the most widely spoken languages in South Asia. Its syntax, or sentence structure, plays a vital role in shaping the elegance and expressiveness of this Indo-Aryan language. Urdu primarily follows the Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order, distinguishing it from English and other



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Indo-European languages. Understanding the basic components and rules of Urdu syntax is essential to comprehend and construct meaningful sentences.

****1. Sentence Structure:****

Urdu, the typical sentence In structure follows the SOV pattern, where the subject comes first, followed by the object, and finally, the verb. For instance, I read a book) is a "میں کتاب بڑھتا ہوں" simple sentence illustrating this word order. However, due to its flexible nature, Urdu allows for variations in word order to emphasize certain elements or convey nuanced meanings. Despite being predominantly SOV, questions in Urdu often follow the Verb-Subject-Object (VSO) while pattern. in casual conversations or poetry, SVO word order can also be found.

2. Noun and Pronoun Usage:

Nouns in Urdu carry gender (masculine/feminine) and number (singular/plural) distinctions, and adjectives must agree with the gender and number of the nouns they modify. Pronouns in Urdu also exhibit gender and number variations. Interestingly, Urdu distinguishes between two types of pronouns: direct (زمره) and oblique (رفعی). Direct pronouns serve as subjects and direct objects, whereas oblique pronouns are used as indirect objects and objects of prepositions.

****3. Verb Conjugation:****

Verbs play a crucial role in Urdu and undergo extensive sentences conjugation to reflect different aspects, tenses, and moods. Urdu verbs can be categorized into regular and irregular forms. Regular verbs follow predictable patterns, whereas irregular verbs exhibit unique conjugations. The past, present, and future tenses are used to convey in different actions time frames. Additionally, Urdu employs the subjunctive mood to express wishes, desires, and possibilities.

4. Agreement and Case Marking:

In Urdu, there is a strong emphasis on agreement and case marking to ensure clarity in sentence construction. Nouns, pronouns, and adjectives must agree in gender, number, and case. The genitive construction, where possession is indicated, is also commonly employed. Case markers, known as "اليزاف" (izafah), are used to connect nouns in a possessive relationship. Moreover, postpositions are used in place of prepositions, and they change depending on the case they govern.

****5.** Complex Sentence Structures:**

Urdu syntax allows for intricate and expressive sentence constructions,





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often found in poetry and formal writings. Subordinate clauses are frequently employed to add depth and complexity to sentences. Relative clauses and participial phrases are commonly used to modify nouns and add descriptive details. Moreover, Urdu features conjunctions to link independent and dependent clauses, contributing to the creation of cohesive and elaborate sentence structures.

In conclusion, Urdu syntax, with its unique word order, noun and pronoun usage, verb conjugations, agreement, and complex sentence structures, forms the backbone of this rich and melodic in language. Whether literature. conversation, or poetry, understanding the nuances of Urdu syntax is essential for anyone seeking appreciate to and communicate effectively in this beautiful language.

Shared Linguistic Origins and Influences

Languages are not isolated entities but intricate threads that weave the rich of human communication. tapestry Throughout history, languages have evolved, split, and converged, creating fascinating webs of shared origins and influences. Linguists delve into this intricate interconnectedness to understand how languages develop and to uncover the common ancestry that binds them. In this exploration, we'll delve into five essential aspects of shared linguistic origins and influences, shedding light on the remarkable interconnectedness of human speech.

Proto-Languages and Language Families:

At the heart of shared linguistic origins lies the concept of proto-languages. Linguists theorize that all languages within a language family can be traced back to a single ancestor known as a proto-language. For instance, the Romance languages, including French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, all share a common ancestor in Latin. The Indo-European language family, one of the largest and most influential language families globally, encompasses languages like English, German, Russian, Hindi, and more, which can be traced back to Proto-Indo-European. Unraveling the structure and vocabulary of these ancient protolanguages provides invaluable insights into the past and the interwoven nature of linguistic evolution.

2. **Language Contact and Borrowing**:

When different speech communities come into contact, languages often influence each other, leading to



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language borrowing. The phenomenon of borrowing involves the adoption of words, phrases, and grammatical structures from one language to another. For example, English, through its complex history of invasions and trade, borrowed heavily from Latin, Old Norse, French, and other languages. This continuous exchange of linguistic elements enriches languages and highlights their interconnectedness throughout the ages.

3. **Language Divergence and Convergence**:

Languages constantly evolve, diverging into distinct dialects and evolving into separate languages over time. However, they can also converge when groups with different languages come into close contact and develop a shared means of communication. Creole languages, such as Haitian Creole, are an excellent example of convergence. They emerged from interactions between linguistic different groups, blending elements of multiple languages to form new, cohesive systems of communication.

4. ****Historical Language Spread and Migration**:**

Human migration and conquest have played pivotal roles in the spread of languages across regions and continents. As populations move, languages travel with them, leading to new linguistic influences and the rise of dominant languages. The spread of Arabic across North Africa and the Middle East through the Islamic expansion is a compelling example. Similarly, the British Empire's colonization efforts facilitated the global dissemination of the English language.

5. ****Language Typology and Universals**:**

Despite the vast diversity of languages, linguists have identified certain universal patterns and features that exist across different language families. These language universals provide essential insights into how languages are structured and how humans process language. Common linguistic structures, such as subject-verb-object word order or the use of prefixes and suffixes, can be found across seemingly unrelated languages, reflecting shared cognitive processes in human communication.

In conclusion, the study of shared linguistic origins and influences is an ongoing journey that deepens our understanding of human history, culture, and cognition. By exploring the threads that connect languages, linguists unveil the interconnected nature of human societies and the remarkable capacity of language to adapt, evolve, and inspire. These shared





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linguistic roots remind us of the common bond that unites humanity through its diverse array of languages.

Structural Differences between Punjabi and Urdu

Punjabi and Urdu are two distinct languages that have significant structural differences despite sharing some common vocabulary due to their historical and geographical proximity. Both languages belong to the Indo-Aryan language family, but they have evolved separately over centuries, resulting in distinct grammar, script, and phonological features.

Firstly, one of the most prominent structural differences between Punjabi and Urdu lies in their scripts. Punjabi is written in the Gurmukhi script, which is derived from the ancient Brahmi script. On the other hand, Urdu is written in the Perso-Arabic script, which was adopted during the Mughal era. This difference in scripts not only affects the appearance of the written language but also reflects the historical and cultural influences on both languages.

Secondly, the phonological structures of Punjabi and Urdu differ significantly. Punjabi has a rich inventory of sounds with a distinction between voiced and voiceless aspirated consonants, while Urdu has a simpler phonological system with fewer sounds. Additionally, Punjabi has a tonal aspect to its phonology, with rising and falling intonations, which is absent in Urdu. These phonological dissimilarities contribute to the distinct pronunciation and sound patterns observed in both languages.

Another important structural difference is in the grammatical aspects of Punjabi and Urdu. Punjabi is a more inflected language with a complex system of noun and verb declensions, marking various cases, tenses, and moods. On the contrary, Urdu exhibits a more analytical structure, relying heavily on word order and auxiliary verbs to convey grammatical meanings. This disparity in grammar affects the sentence formation and overall expressiveness of the two languages.

Furthermore, the vocabulary of Punjabi and Urdu shows differences due to their historical interactions with different cultures. Punjabi has absorbed a considerable amount of loanwords from Persian, Arabic, and English, reflecting its cultural interactions over the centuries. In contrast, Urdu's vocabulary has a strong Persian and Arabic influence, which has contributed to its status as a language of literature and poetry.

Lastly, the influence of regional



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languages and dialects also plays a role in shaping the structural differences between Punjabi and Urdu. Punjabi has a diverse range of dialects across different regions, which has led to variations in vocabulary, pronunciation, and even grammar. In contrast, Urdu has emerged as a more standardized language, with a defined set of rules and conventions.

In conclusion, Punjabi and Urdu are two distinct languages with noticeable structural differences in their scripts, phonology, grammar, vocabulary, and regional variations. These differences are a testament to the rich linguistic diversity of the Indian subcontinent and reflect the unique historical and cultural influences that have shaped both languages over the centuries. Despite their dissimilarities, both Punjabi and Urdu continue to thrive as essential components of the vibrant linguistic tapestry of South Asia.

Grammatical Features: Similarities and Contrasts

Language is a remarkable human faculty that allows us to communicate complex thoughts and ideas. Grammatical features are the building blocks of language, defining how words are combined organized and to create meaningful sentences. Across different languages, observe we can both similarities and contrasts in their grammatical features, which offer a fascinating insight into the diversity and universality of human communication.

One of the key similarities in grammatical features among languages is the presence of noun and verb categories. Nouns typically represent entities, objects, or concepts, while verbs denote actions, events, or states. This basic division is a fundamental aspect of most languages, enabling individuals to express ideas about the world around them in a structured manner. Additionally, the concept of word order is common among languages, with the majority following a subject-verbobject (SVO) or subject-object-verb (SOV) pattern. This shared feature underscores the underlying cognitive processes that influence how we construct and understand sentences.

On the other hand, the diversity of grammatical features is equally fascinating. Some languages, like English, have a relatively fixed word order, while others, such as Latin or Japanese, utilize more flexible arrangements. Moreover, some languages exhibit rich inflectional systems, where words undergo various morphological changes to indicate tense, case, gender, or number. In contrast,



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isolating languages tend to rely more on word order and auxiliary words to convey similar information. These differences in grammatical structure can influence the complexity and expressiveness of a language, presenting various challenges and opportunities for communication.

Another significant contrast lies in the presence of grammatical gender. While some languages assign gender to nouns, categorizing them as masculine, feminine, or neuter, others do not exhibit this feature. For instance, Spanish and French assign genders to many nouns, whereas English does not. Grammatical gender can sometimes appear arbitrary and unrelated to the actual biological gender of the objects or concepts they represent, adding a layer of complexity for learners of gendered languages.

Furthermore, some languages feature extensive use of grammatical cases, marking the role of nouns within a sentence. For example, German and Russian use cases to indicate whether a noun is the subject, object, or possessive in a given sentence. In contrast, English has mostly shed its case system over time, utilizing word order and prepositions to convey similar information. The presence or absence of cases significantly impacts the precision and conciseness with which speakers can express their ideas.

In conclusion. study the of grammatical features in different languages reveals a fascinating interplay of similarities and contrasts. While some aspects, such as noun-verb categorization and word order, are relatively universal, other elements like grammatical gender and case systems showcase the immense diversity in linguistic expression. Understanding these grammatical features not only enriches our appreciation for the intricacies of human communication but also aids in the process of learning and mastering different languages, enabling effective cross-cultural communication and fostering a deeper understanding of the world's linguistic tapestry.

Word Order and Sentence Structure in Punjabi and Urdu

"Word order and sentence structure play crucial roles in shaping the linguistic characteristics of any language. In this study, we will explore the differences and similarities in word order and sentence structure between Punjabi and Urdu. Both Punjabi and Urdu are Indo-Aryan languages, but they belong to different language families, with Punjabi being a member of the Indo-European family and Urdu a member of the Indo-Iranian family.



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Firstly, we will examine the basic word order patterns in Punjabi and Urdu sentences. Punjabi typically follows a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order, where the subject is placed first, followed by the object, and finally, the verb. On the other hand, Urdu usually adheres to a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order as well, although it can exhibit variations due to the influence of Persian and Arabic. This study aims to investigate whether any significant differences in word order emerge between the two languages.

Secondly, we will analyze the impact of case marking on sentence structure in Punjabi and Urdu. Case marking is the grammatical system of indicating the role of nouns in a sentence through inflections or word order changes. Punjabi and Urdu employ different case marking systems, with Punjabi utilizing postpositions and Urdu employing prepositions. This research will explore how these differences affect the overall structure and comprehension of sentences in both languages.

Moreover, we will investigate the role of auxiliary verbs in shaping sentence structures in Punjabi and Urdu. Auxiliary verbs play a crucial role in indicating tense, aspect, mood, and voice in a sentence. While both languages use auxiliary verbs to convey these meanings, their usage and position in the sentence may vary. This study will examine whether these differences contribute to distinctive sentence structures in Punjabi and Urdu.

To gather data for this study, a corpus of Punjabi and Urdu sentences will be collected from various sources, including literature, media, and everyday conversations. Native speakers of both languages will be asked to provide translations and explanations of sentence structures, enabling us to understand the underlying grammatical rules and patterns.

In conclusion, this research will shed light on the word order and sentence structure variations between Punjabi and Urdu, providing valuable insights into the linguistic characteristics of these Indo-Aryan languages. By analyzing the basic word order patterns, case marking systems, and usage of auxiliary verbs, we aim to enhance our understanding of the unique features of Punjabi and Urdu sentence constructions and contribute to the broader field of linguistics."

Verb Conjugation and Agreement in Both Languages

Verb conjugation and agreement are essential aspects of language grammar,



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playing a crucial role in sentence structure and communication. In this discussion, we will explore the concepts of verb conjugation and agreement in two different languages - English and Spanish. Both languages exhibit distinct patterns and rules governing how verbs change their forms based on the subject and tense.

In English, verb conjugation is with relatively straightforward, few inflections compared to other languages. Verbs generally only change in the third person singular, where the suffix "-s" is added. For example, "She writes a letter" or "He eats an apple." In contrast, other pronouns such as "I," "You," "We," and "They" do not undergo any changes in their verb forms. Additionally, English does not have formal a pronoun distinction, simplifying the agreement between subjects and verbs further.

On the other hand, Spanish verb conjugation is more complex, with multiple inflections based on the subject's person, number, and tense. Spanish verbs are categorized into three main groups - ar, -er, and -ir verbs - each requiring different conjugation patterns. For instance, the verb "hablar" (to speak) conjugates as "hablo" (I speak), "hablas" (you speak), "habla" (he/she/it speaks), "hablamos" (we speak), and "hablan" (they speak). The agreement between the subject and verb in Spanish is much more explicit and rigid than in English.

Furthermore, Spanish also exhibits a formal pronoun distinction, using "usted" for the formal singular "you" and "ustedes" for the formal plural "you all." This formal distinction affects verb conjugation, adding another layer of complexity to the agreement rules. The plural pronouns "nosotros" and "vosotros" in Spanish also necessitate different verb forms than their singular counterparts, "vo" "tu," and respectively.

In conclusion, verb conjugation and agreement differ significantly between English and Spanish. English employs a simpler system with fewer verb inflections and no formal pronoun distinctions. In contrast, Spanish verb conjugation is more subject involving intricate, various pronouns, verb groups, and tense forms. Understanding these differences is crucial for language learners to communicate effectively in both languages and construct grammatically correct sentences. Both English and Spanish exemplify how verb conjugation and agreement play a vital role in language construction and comprehension.





Summary:

This article presents a comparative study of syntax in Punjabi and Urdu, two major languages spoken in the Indian subcontinent. Syntax, the study of sentence structure and word order, plays a crucial role in understanding the grammatical patterns of a language. This research aims to identify and analyze the similarities and differences in the syntactic structures of Punjabi and Urdu, shedding light on their underlying linguistic characteristics. Through a detailed examination of sentence construction, word order, and this grammatical features, study contributes to our understanding of the syntactic systems of Punjabi and Urdu. The findings of this comparative analysis provide insights into the linguistic diversity of the region and enhance our knowledge of language typology and variation.

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