



LINGUISTIC INCLUSION FOR A VIABLE FEDERAL SYSTEM: PERSPECTIVES
ON LANGUAGE POLICY IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract

This study is linguistic inclusion for a viable federal system: perspectives of political elites and intellectuals on language policy in Pakistan, and investigate the perspectives of political leaders and intellectuals on the role of language policy in the creation of a viable federal order. Drawing upon a qualitative design, 13 informants were purposively selected for semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis was used to identify themes. Results suggest wide agreement on the requirement to exalt regional languages to the level of national languages and on their significance for maintaining humanity, governance and political balance and national unification. The participant of the study cited symbolic benefits (building trust in federal institutions and addressing historical inequities), practical benefits (efficiency of policy implementation, even lower income inequality at the margin), and systemic challenges (lack of resources, inefficient governance, and competing socio-economic priorities). The results also sees linguistic inclusivity as a pillar for justice and societal harmony, but recommends that it be introduced in stages, focusing on foundational changes in education, health care and governance that create a conducive context for lasting change. Worldwide, there is an acknowledgement of the importance of linguistic inclusivity in preserving culture and governing equitably, which serves to socially integrate and include a more diverse society. If linguistic diversity is accepted by Pakistan, it will be able to make its federal system strong, ensure inclusivity, and generate sense of belonging of the citizens. It is important to focus on more fundamental changes to make linguistic inclusion meaningful.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is not just a way of communicating; it's a container for identity, for culture, for the past. In a polyglot and colorful nation such as Pakistan, language has frequently been used as a tool to construct nationhood, build inclusivity and promote power-sharing at an equitable level. This study, linguistic inclusion in a sustainable federal model: insights on language policy in Pakistan, discusses this vital dialectical relation between language and federalism and how linguistic inclusivity can underpin the nation's federal edifice. Analyzing the attitudes of political leaders and intellectuals, the work helps to explain how adopting regional languages as national languages would have symbolic and practical consequences.

Growing up in Pakistan, it was taught that the country was a babble of languages, with every region speaking a language, sometimes not even related to any other for centuries, each one the bearer of its own load of history, culture and community. However, the supremacy of Urdu as national language has superseded these local languages, and the linguistic minorities remain a demoralized segment of the populations. This inequity not only weighted grievances, it also became obstacles to national unity and harmony. In light of the importance of inclusivity, this research seeks to understand how through language representation can respond to past injustices, build trust towards federal entities and reinforce a sense of belonging for all citizens.

The study uses a qualitative research design and is based on semi-structured interviews with 13 purposively chosen participants (politicians and intellectuals). The findings, analyzed thematically, reveal a high degree of agreement about the value of linguistic inclusiveness as a key to justice and social harmony. Some participants note that granting national language status to regional languages is not a mere symbolic act but an empowering process to ensure their just governance and cultural survival. They emphasize a double gain from acknowledging these externalities: combating systemic inequalities while promoting a more cohesive federalism.

One of the central themes of this study is that linguistic diversity is a resource rather than a problem. In accepting these differences, Pakistan can construct a federal structure reflective of all voices and one that mirrors the rich cultural fabric of its diverse people. But the research also recognizes the structural challenges to promoting language inclusivity - from limitations of resources and governance inefficiency to rival socio-economic priorities. The participants endorse a phased approach where basic measures related to education, healthcare, and governance remain the priority which would contribute to a conducive environment for the adoption of sustainable language policies.

Culturally: worldwide language inclusivity is considered as the cornerstone to preserving a people, and achieving just governance. Nations that have accepted their linguistic diversity have grown to benefit from social cohesion and national integration. For a country like Pakistan, linguistic inclusivity provides a chance to redress historical grievances, reinforce its federal structure, and inculcate the ideas of a thriving identity within its population. This study demonstrates not only the significance of language representation, but a blueprint for policy makers when engaging with the thorny nature of realizing inclusive linguistic policies.

This study demonstrates how the use of inclusive language can be empowering in a linguistically diverse federal state of Pakistan. By giving regional languages a national status, the country can work toward a fairer, more equitable and one nation. That vision,

based on virtues of inclusion and respect, poses an inspiring way forward — one where every language — and every citizen — assumes its proper station in the nation's story.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

It is already substantiated by a series of studies that lending the support to regional languages, as it being the case of the “regional languages are everyone's language” project cited above, is very important for the maintaining of cultural identity and the diversity of languages. The European Union (EU) does extensive work for the promotion of regional and minority languages and its interventions often have to face limitations of political nature; however, such action contributes to network language communities and information circulation (Zhou, 2009). Studies show a trend of increasing studies on regional languages which focuses on importance that regional languages have in cultural heritage, language policy and in the educational sector (Yumnam & Singh, 2024). In Indonesia the regional languages are important for communication and identity: apart from intra-ethnic solidarity, they also enhance the historical continuity. But the tenor of its promotion could at times be driven by other considerations, which inadvertently lead to preserving symbolic status rather than practical usability when it comes to multilingual societies (Agarin, 2014). Moreover, the psycholinguistic effect of regional languages, as with foreign languages, could modulate moral decision-making, indicating that their use in everyday situations mould cognitive responses (Peressotti et al., 2024).

Despite their important role in cultural identity and communication, in many situations regional languages- are regarded as a secondary issue. In Indonesia regional languages are symbols of unique identity and an important medium of intra-ethnic communication, but are also threatened by competition from the national language as well as foreign languages, with approximately 35% of these languages being endangered (Gumilar, 2016). Likewise, in Pakistan, a multilingual environment indicates an alarming deterioration in the level of students' proficiency in their mother tongues vis-à-vis their drift from vernaculars to English and Urdu, that threatens the status of regional languages (Mansoor 2004). The significance of the retention of these languages lies in their valuable cultural and social functions as they contribute to the national language and the bonds of community (Yumnam & Singh, 2024). Therefore, although they are colloquial or regional, they are precious to the cultural diversity and identity of people.

Non-action on federal language policy can have far reaching socioeconomic and political consequences, as indicated by many studies. A study urges the need for a national language policy in the U.S. that will deal with "the complexities of situation that arise when a number of language communities exist in a single geographical and political unit," and which does not resort to "simplistic solutions" such as advocating "English-only" language policies (Alatis, 1986). Another study draws attention to the competing values of language policy, where the state must both recognize rights of the individual and the imperative of linguistic uniformity, cautioning that failure to attend to those tensions can fuel social divisions (Weinstock, 2014). Truscott and Malcolm (2010) explore the negative impact of implicit language policies that promote the language of power, with specific reference to indigenous peoples with the loss of language rights and the construction of identity. Some scholars explain the significance of educational language policies for equity and identity, stating for example that insufficient support for minority languages impact on educational access and success (Wiley et al, 2014). Finally, ineffective language regulation could undermine national unity and cultural identity, especially in a multiethnic state such as Russia (Kozhevnikov, 2020). Together, these understandings highlight the urgent

requirement for pro-active language policies to promote inclusion and community harmony.

Party and language policy overlap at both the national and regional levels. A convergence of the parties' views on language policy is key to the consolidation of a federal order, as witnessed both in historical and modern times. In the US, the two major parties have continued to share some common ground on their policies around language, particularly in the areas of the officialization of English and the right to bilingual education, which accord with the broader societal recognition of language as having a role in the unity of the nation and the mediation of cross-cultural communication (Alatis 1986; Czeglédi 2022). Likewise in Switzerland, successful language policy is necessary to manage inter-ethnic relations in its federation, which is based on the equality of languages and regional autonomy (Zaripova, 2023). In opposition to this, the centralization of language policy in Russia has limited regional language rights, favoring national unity at the expense of cultural diversity, which illustrates the dangers of deploying a one-size-fits-all approach (Jankiewicz et al., 2020). In this sense, it is important to establish a balanced and coherent language policy by all political parties in order to promote inclusiveness and stability in federal systems.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This research, entitled Linguistic Inclusion for a workable federal system Reflections on Language Policy in Pakistan, is using a qualitative research method to find out the opinions of the political leaders and intellectuals about language policy in Pakistan. We used purposeful sampling to include 13 participants who had relevant knowledge in politics or cognitive fields. This method made it possible to gather in-depth context for the complex challenges of language inclusion in a federal context. Data collection was carried out via in-depth interviews creating an avenue for participants to share their complex perceptions and experiences. The interviews were semi-structured, a format that allowed the interviews to be open and flexible so as to delve further into new areas that emerged, yet still ensured a degree of comparability between interviews. All interviews took place in an environment that facilitated open and truthful communication, thereby enhancing the credibility and dependability of the data. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis, a technique that lends itself to identifying, organizing and interpreting patterns in qualitative data. To clarify the role of language policy in promoting a viable federal system in Pakistan, the extracted data was organized in a structured manner. This method of research methodology led to a rich understanding of the research issue.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

COMMON ENDORSEMENT FOR REGIONAL LANGUAGES

The participants comprised of politicians and intellectual with a common desire to promote regional languages as national languages in Pakistan. Such consensus reflects an increasing recognition of linguistic right to cultural inclusivity as well as the necessity of nation-building through diversity within a federal architecture. Their shared voice is an affirmation of linguistic justice as fundamental to governance, and as crucial to societal change.

The recognition of regional languages as national languages is not just about cultural preservation; it's about empowerment of the communities who have long felt marginalized," one politician said. "Language is container of identity. Letting regional languages to thrive at the national stage is when communities will feel that they belong."

These are statements that linguist representation matters; that it is not just symbolic, but foundational to justice and inclusion.

Participants emphasized that regional languages capture the soul of their communities. "Our languages are bringers of centuries of history, wisdom and values," said a senior intellectual. It is not one of plunder: we are drinking the oldest and most subtle wines and we do well to lift them up to the light to ensure that our collective past is rich." This view highlights the connection of language to the past, the need for maintaining authentic culture and society.

"This is a belated redress of historical wrongs that were done to minority linguistic communities," one politician said of this move. Yet this attitude also highlights the systematic ignorance of ethnic and cultural collectives which the discussants feel need that the attitude is a response to. They perceive linguistic equality as something profoundly linked with democracy and human rights. Describing regional languages as national is not just an ideological stance, one academic said as an act of justice. "It is a sign of respect for each language community and a recognition that they all contribute to the broader mosaic of our nation-state."

The participants also stressed the instrumental gains of language recognition. As one contributor put it, "When people see their language given respect, it can break down barriers of mistrust and help them connect more deeply to the federal system." Linguistic recognition has been known to provide a panacea to feelings of alienation among regional population and subsequently these have helped in fostering the unity among the nations, said another policy maker on condition of anonymity." These positions illustrate the twofold symbolic and tangible profit of promoting linguistic rights.

Nation-building was also a common thread. One politically active beta says, "When you value people's languages, you automatically value people's lives and people's stories. This is basic to shaping a country that includes all its people." "You can hardly expect a multi-ethnic society to thrive when its people feel that their language is excluded from the national story," said another commentator on the subject. These claims connect linguistic recognition with the need for a peaceful, integrated multi-national state.

Members, in general, acknowledged their nation's linguistic diversity and saw this as a strength rather than a weakness for Pakistan. As one proponent powerfully framed it, "we have to get beyond this monolingual thinking and realize that our strength is not in silencing, but in listening to them all. There is something important to be learned even from the smallest language about our national story." This is indicative of a move to see 'diversity' as a source of strength in building the nation.

The unanimity of popular heterodoxy is a rare convergence of political and intellectual resolve. One senior policymaker who was optimistic expressed, "It's not often you see such cross-sectional alignment about a public policy. This cannot be wasted opportunity." Moreover, "Symbolic recognition of regional languages is feasible and is necessary to strengthen our federal system," Another intellectual stressed.

Language was also an important consideration and a veteran political analyst noted, "Our body politic, with all its warts, is prepared for it. There is a mounting understanding of linguistic rights, alongside the response to the broader questions of inclusion and equity." The participants are of the opinion that such reforms could promote peace, build confidence in the institutions of governance and also promote coexistence among the richest ethnic groups in Pakistan.

The symbolic strength of this reform was well received as well. “As a liberal and a proud citizen, I believe that we should all be proud to speak of finally moving forward toward receiving our first language “Language is more than words — it’s who we are. In making the regional languages at par with the national languages, we are telling that ‘All of you matter, none of you are less and all of you belong.’” “Symbolism is important,” added another contributor. Sometimes it is what puts policy into motion. Official language recognition at the national level is an important first step to strengthening our federal democracy.”

The difficulties in operationalizing this were recognized, but all of them felt it would be worth doing. They saw this as an initial move towards more inclusivity in the federal structure of Pakistan. Their joint voice is an optimistic view of a Pakistan where linguistic diversity enforces the dimensions of democracy, promotes national integration and preserves history. They stand upon the principles of equality, inclusion, and respect, to build a country where every language—and every citizen—belong.

REGIONAL LANGUAGES AS A SECONDARY CONCERN

Discussions among the members suggested that one common understanding seems to be that regional languages of Pakistan are second-tier issue in the larger socio-political-economic scene. Although participants expressed support for linguistic inclusivity, they always stressed that other, more immediate, challenges such as education, healthcare, governance, and constitutional implementation take urgent priority. In a nutshell, this pragmatic accepts regional languages as important but cannot be foregrounded due to structural and empirical limitations based on the current socio-economic reality.

They contended that linguistic inclusivity is a laudable goal but not an issue of such urgent importance that it ranks close to the socio-economic challenges facing Pakistan today. Education reforms, healthcare for all, corruption and governance were common as matters of urgent attention. These fundamental issues are closely linked to the nation’s development structure. Some participants said, in absence of addressing deficits, no campaign to enhance regional languages would make any long-term damage. They argued that the advantages of linguistic accommodation — national integration or cultural preservation, they said — could not be achieved in a society burdened by basic service shortages.

This is not to disvalue the importance of regional languages but to the point of hierarchy of development needs. Participants argued that before dealing with cultural and linguistic inclusivity, the focus needed to be on socio-economic and institutional reforms that would provide a stable basis. This phased approach they believed to be more lasting and better for national development.

Another common refrain was the recognition of Pakistan’s limited political and administrative capacity to manage effectively regional language problems. Something else that the participants brought up was that linguistic inclusivity is something a lot of people would like to see in theory, but in practice, it costs money, it needs to be part of a policy design, you need bureaucrats to make it happen and a system that is not built on that, already lacks both of the latter two. The lack of resources, the slackness of government machinery and the inability to implement the constitutional provisions were concepts that appeared quite often. These deficits are also heightened by political instability, and disjointed national policies.

Participants underscored that bringing regional languages into educational and administrative domains requires a systematic approach that includes curriculum design, teacher training, and institutional infrastructure. But even ordinary policy implementation

encounters major challenges in governance-stressed Pakistan. This fueled doubts as to the possibility of ascending linguistic inclusiveness to an immediate national agenda.

The responses showed a rational, qualified support for the advancement of regional languages. Attendees acknowledged the importance of linguistic inclusivity, yet were pragmatic when appreciated the resource- and polity-constrained nature of Pakistan. They called for a context-sensitive activism of linguistic rights that must take into account the politics and economy of the country, in which urgency and feasibility set the priorities. In this respect, the issue of regional language was not closed, but postponed, while participants regarded it as a secondary problem, subject to solving national questions.

Socioeconomic inequalities was another important perspective participants used as a frame for their responses. They emphasized that the lack of education and poor healthcare in Pakistan made it practically impossible to handle such cultural or linguistic issues. For most citizens, the everyday struggle for economic subsistence and political liberties trumps cultural or linguistic identity. Participants suggested redressing such socio-economic injustices is the way forward to facilitate greater development of inclusive cultural policies.

Simultaneously, there were participants who recognized the sociopolitical implications that sidelining linguistic questions had. They understood that regional languages are essential for safeguarding Pakistan's rich cultural diversity, and for creating feelings of membership among linguistic nationalities. However, they stressed the importance of structural support for policies in favour of regional languages, adding that attitudinal support without addressing underlying issues of socio-economic and institutional lack "would result in superficial policies that would not bring real change".

Various implications for policy are drawn from the perceptions of the participants described. One to begin with, A phased strategy to language inclusivity is more workable in Pakistan setting. By prioritizing first basic reforms – in education, health and governance – the government will be able to set up a conducive environment for fair language policies. The article underlines the importance of tackling these wider systemic issues, which can lead to more effective and sustained regional language action over time.

This is not the only reason that advocacy for regional languages must be linked to broad developmental agendas. Participants recommended integrating the promotion of language within policy documents such as decentralized governance or provincial education reforms. This strategy could incorporate linguistic inclusiveness through mainstream development objectives rather than many separate resources, allocation.

Finally, participants talked about the importance of keeping things in perspective. Policy makers should understand that language inclusivity, though important, cannot overshadow equally important aspects of nation building. Recognizing the incremental nature of these changes help to soften public expectations and foster a long-term commitment to the issue.

Finally, and to conclude, the views of the subjects suggest a more sophisticated and complex analysis of the issues of promoting regional languages in Pakistan. Although there is general support for inclusive linguistic practice in theory, the lack of political will and administrative capacity and the existence of urgent socio-economic priorities relegate it to a delayed, but critical, goal. This ranking highlights how cultural, economic, and institutional reform are linked. By addressing immediate problems while parking secondary problems, then governance and development bases can slowly be reinforced,

until they provide a stable platform on which cultural and linguistic issues can, when opportunities arise, be tackled head on.

CRITIQUE OF PROVINCIAL INACTION

The critique of provincial inaction in relation to the 18th Amendment's implementation in Pakistan exposes a significant gap between legislative potential and real implementation. While the 18th Amendment was intended to decentralize authority and empower the provinces, one of the opportunities it gave was to the regional languages to flourish. As a participant puts it, "any province other than Sindh has not obtained anything out of the 18th Amendment in terms of legislation". The potential has thus not been fully incorporated; on the other hand, Sindh is apparently the only province that has effectively used that opportunity. This criticism analyses the lack of action on the part of provinces, the success of Sindh, and the implications of the former for cultural identity, education, and governance. The 18th amendment gave the power to provinces to make regional languages official appeals or the medium of instruction in educational institutions.

However, provinces have not taken steps to that effect, with Sindh as the exception. This gap reveals a flaw in the administrative structure: although there is a legislative opportunity, it has not manifested itself in concrete terms. The criticism thus shows a contradiction between the potential and the lack of an attempt to use it, which raises questions about the provinces' priorities. Sindh, with its use of Sindhi as an official language and the integration of it into the educational systems, is a successful example. It reveals what can be achieved when the provinces put effort into what they can do legislatively, and, at the same time, serves as a criticism of other provinces for failing to bring benefits from decentralization. The difference between Sindh and other provinces, in turn, is a level on which the 18th Amendment has been used within the country. This uneven application is a concern about equity and deficiencies, as well as a broader inter-provincial political aspect that restricts progress. Sindh's success shows the importance of proactive leadership and a clear set of priorities to achieve cultural and educational objectives.

Regional language neglect has widespread cultural, educational and social repercussions. Heritage is a birthright, and language is one of the essential ingredients that make up that birthright, binding us together. Provincial neglect of its regional languages will compound the erosion of cultural identity and alienate communities for whom language is essential of their identity. This neglect could gradually erode national unity.

From the educational viewpoint, regional languages can be an important factor for the advancement of knowledge in local resource poor settings and where literacy rate is low and where national and international languages are not well-understood. Academic institutionalization of regional languages into the education system could promote accessibility to marginalised societies, facilitate educational outcomes and reduce social disadvantage. Failure to seize this opportunity maintains inequality and impedes the possibilities for inclusive development.

The criticism enumerates a number of systemic obstacles to the development of regional languages, such as political will, lack of resources, governance preferences. And the most challenging part is the political will. In the absence of leadership and commitment, pieces of legislation often do not become concrete policies. Supporting local languages often falls by the wayside in view of other pressing needs, such as infrastructure development and economic advancement.

However, resource limitations worsen the problem. The efforts to develop curricula, train teachers, and produce teaching materials in regional languages can also be expensive and administratively demanding. For debt-laden provinces, investing in these areas is not feasible. Yet this approach fails to consider the value over the long-term of investing in linguistically inclusive policies.

Government priorities are also critical. Most of the provinces have not yet appreciated the role of promotion of regional languages in development. It's a failure of imagination, based on seeing strictly material and measurable results rather than culture-and-education-adding value. A redefinition of priorities, developmentally, to incorporate the need for language maintenance is crucial for more equitable governance.

The critique is a call to the provinces to reconcile with the disconnect between legislative power and actual delivery. That it can promote the causes of regional languages at the national level only after it is given space in the provinces. Provinces should show they can protect regional languages effectively in their areas of jurisdiction. This bottom up development help make sure that the decentralization provided by the 18th Amendment does not go in vain.

These challenges need to be addressed through a comprehensive approach that embraces provincial governments and civil society. Possible interventions are sensitization campaigns that emphasize the relevance of regional languages, capacity building measures that take resource problems into account, and policy inputs, by focusing on political and administrative actors.

The critique of provincial inaction underscores an important missing link between the legislative space provided by the 18th Amendment and the actions taken for the promotion of regional languages. The lesson of Sindh is that with the right leadership, everything is possible, and Sindh can serve as a role model for other provinces. In the future, the responsibility for meeting structural challenges with respect to the provinces will be paramount in the realization of cultural and educational potential contained in the 18th Amendment.

UNIFORMITY ACROSS POLITICAL PARTIES

The reactions of political parties in Pakistan showed that here was indeed a rare moment of consensus on the role and status of regional languages. This is more praiseworthy given Pakistan's divided and polarized political and federal milieu where often time ideologies and political prejudices rule. Political consensus, it was this broad political consensus that highlights a shared understanding on the necessity of promoting regional languages, with no ideological opposition to the concept. The lone dissenter was one who felt that regional languages should assume a backseat to more immediate national concerns. Nonetheless, this was an outlier that didn't undermine the general consensus.

Rarely do we see politics come together on an issue and we have an opportunity to forge common policy. The political party agreement could set a precedent for multiparty legislative action and could result in real political changes in terms of acknowledging and promoting regional languages. Such a process might start with symbolic reforms, like the recognition of regional languages as national languages in the constitution, and then move incrementally, they said, toward systemic reforms. It is hoped that these reforms would allow regional languages to be a part of educational curricula, media, and as a mode of official communication and bring inclusivity and cultural retention.

The agreement went as far as setting the nation's national language and unifying lingua franca: Urdu for the two to co-exist in the various ethnic regions of Pakistan.

Many participants supported a middle ground, where the encouragement for regional languages does not weaken the status of Urdu as the binding linguistic force. This pragmatic understanding can give new energy to a language policy that validates local linguistic identities and still honours Urdu's historical role as the nation's binding force.

The political party agreement is of importance for policy and governance. Firstly, it expresses that political actors are capable of overcoming ideological divisions towards a common cultural, linguistic goal. This readiness could serve as a role model for resolving other thorny problems of Pakistan's political specificity. Second, the consensus on the significance of regional languages is a nod to a broader appreciation of Pakistan's linguistic and cultural diversity, one that is usually missing in national-level policy discussions.

It also reflects a general agreement on a possible form of language policy which preserve national unity while also accepting regional linguistic differences. It could include constitutional recognition of regional languages as national languages just as Urdu is, as well as those that are spoken both sides of the international border. It could have policies on encouraging their use in education, the media and in government. This would help protect Pakistan's diversity of languages, while redressing the grievances of linguistic and ethnic groups that feel marginalized by the dominance of Urdu.

Nevertheless, the optimistic consensus encounter several political hurdles in bringing policies for the uplift of regional languages. One of the significant problems is the limited resources and infrastructure for the promotion of the use of regional languages in education, media and government. There would be a large investment in material development and teacher training and media makers in different regional languages. Into the bargain, giving the official and media sectors space for regional languages would require policy changes and new technologies and platforms.

Yet there is also a risk of resistance from some quarters who perceive promoting regional languages as undermining national unity. Though politicians across the board supported the promotion of regional languages, the general public might be split on the issue. This is likely to necessitate nuanced and strategic efforts in communication and advocacy to mobilize popular support behind inclusive language policies.

To leverage this consensus, a series of recommendations can inform future action. First, the policy-makers need to place constitutional recognition of regional languages as national languages at par with Urdu. It would also be a symbolic gesture of inclusion, a sign of respect for Pakistan's linguistic diversity. Second, there are practical measures that can be introduced to support the regional language in education, media and the government. This might involve creating educational resources, teachers' training or media productions that reflect Pakistan's linguistic and cultural diversity.

Develop a public constituency for language policy reform through public relations and advocacy work. Community leaders, and the media can also promote the value of regional languages and the advantages of linguistic plurality. Lastly, additional research needs to focus on the attitudes of other parties, including educators, media professionals, and community leaders, towards the changes and reforms being implemented through language policies.

The replies from all political parties reflect a rare consensus on the need to empower regional languages in Pakistan. This consensus offers a singular opportunity for a coherent and jointly decided policy platform that pave way for substantial reforms in the hitherto treatment of regional languages. Though challenges persist, the consensus

paves the way for a language policy that combines national unity and regional inclusiveness. By addressing such issues and extending the agreement, Pakistan can protect its rich linguistic heritage and help shape a more united and cohesive society for its citizens.

CONCLUSIONS

The paper concludes by highlighting the translational capacities that making a transition from regional to national language might have in Pakistan. The shared appeal of politicians, intellectuals, and policy-makers tells us much about the increasingly widely held view that linguistic inclusivity is a fundamental prerequisite for the fair governance, cultural retention and maintenance of state unity. This common vision emphasizes both the symbolic and pragmatic power of language representation for promoting a richer and more integrative society. The views of the participants demonstrate an appreciation of both internal and external challenges when it comes to languages promotion in regions. Symbolically, the formalization of these languages as national languages, is credited as a significant step towards greater inclusivity, however the operationalization of these policies, as in the case of virtually all language policies, remains a challenge, namely a lack of access and resources, ineffective governance and social disparities. It is a rare piece of common political cause in Pakistan's fractured political environs and much-needed bipartisan lawmaking. This standing emphasizes possibilities for joint action in their use of regional languages in education, media and governance, while retaining Urdu's function as a lingua franca that brings people from different areas together. But the discourses also underscore the need to proceed step by reasonable step. They also call for focusing on basic reforms in education, health and governance in order for linguistic inclusion to occur. Such a strategy recognizes the interdependency of cultural, economic and institutional development, and will guarantee that promotion of regional languages can be achieved and sustained. The promotion of regional languages is more than a cultural effort; it is a challenge for justice, equity and national sanity. Focusing on linguistic diversity as a strength will enable Pakistan to fashion a federal system that treats every voice as important, creating a sense of belonging among all citizens. This vision based on inclusivity and respect provides a way to Pakistan that is unified and culturally enhanced.

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