

Travelogues of Pakistan in Urdu Language: Trends and Tradition

Muhammad Afzal Javeed^{1,a}, Qamar Abbas², Nazar Abbas³, Dua Qamar⁴, Farooq Ahmad⁵

^{1,a} Department of Urdu, Govt. K.A. Islamia Degree College, Jamia Muhammadi Sharif, Chiniot, Pakistan,

^{2,4} Department of Urdu, Govt. Postgraduate College, Bhakkar, Pakistan,

³ Department of Urdu, Govt. College, Bhalwal, Sargodha, Pakistan.

⁵ Punjab Higher Education Department, GICCL, Lahore, Pakistan,

Received: August 1, 2016

Accepted: September 25, 2016

ABSTRACT

The writers of Urdu language have written travelogues of their own country in a beautiful literary style. Some visitors from India also came to their native area of Pakistan and have written very emotional travelogues. Most of the travelogues have adventurous nature and comprise visit stories of northern areas of Pakistan. The writers included information of cultural, social, political, geographical, educational and economic kinds in these travelogues. Some of these travelogues have a fictional touch and catch reader's attention like a novel or short story. Literary style of language also increases their importance.

KEYWORDS: Urdu Literature, Urdu Travelogue, Urdu Travelogues of Pakistan, Urdu Travelogue trends,

1. INTRODUCTION

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan. This language has a strong cultural and political background. Arabic, Persian and Hindi languages have a great influence on this language. The writers of Urdu language have written travelogues of many countries of the world as well as of their own country. These travelogues have full glimpses of the cultural, social, literary and other kinds of information in them.

2. URDU TRAVELOGUES OF PAKISTAN

Urdu travelogues of Pakistan have literary touch and a beauty of language. Most of the travelogues are about the visits of northern areas of Pakistan. The travelers described the beautiful natural scenery of their own country in a fantastic style. Important Urdu travelogues of Pakistan are as under:

2.1. WADI E SOON SAKESAR BY AHMED GHAZALI

Soon Sakesar is a beautiful place of district Khushab located in province of Punjab, Pakistan. It is a high point of Kohistan e Namak and has a very pleasant weather all over the year. Ahmed Ghazali visited this area of Pakistan and narrated a heart touching description of its beauty. He also described its cultural and social background, its local tales and cultural heritage in an informative style (Ghazali, 1993).

2.2. KIRAN, TITLI AUR BAGOLAY BY PERVEN ATIF

Perven Atif traveled Pakistan and other countries with her son and cousin. In Pakistan she visited areas of Sawat, Kelash and Kaghan, while other visited countries of this travelogue are Thai Land, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe and Japan. During her visit she seems frightened from dangers of the way. She has also a fear of shortness of money. She was scared because she was a woman and could not face difficulties of such a tour (Atif, 1980).

1.1. DOSTI KI SHAHRAH PAR BY SYED JAVED AKHTAR

This is a travelogue of writer's journey to Abatabad, Gilgit, Hunza and Khunjab. He visited these areas of Pakistan in July 1991 with his wife and children. These are the mountainous areas of Pakistan located in Northern parts. In these mountains the most beautiful valleys and highest peaks are located. Qarakoram highway connects Pakistan and China by Khunjab pass. Syed Javed Akhtar narrated his beautiful story of visit in a beautiful style. We find impressions and emotions of children which add to the beauty of this travelogue (Akhtar S. J., 1995).

^a**Corresponding Author:** Muhammad Afzal Javeed, Department of Urdu, Govt. K.A. Islamia Degree College, Jamia Muhammadi Sharif, Chiniot, Pakistan, +923458353786, Email: afzaljappa144@gmail.com.

1.2. PAKISTAN KA SAFARNAMA BY KHAWJA HASSAN NIZAMI

It is the travel story of different visits to Lahore and Karachi cities of Pakistan. His wife and children were also with him during these visits. He described his meetings with religious and political personalities. He also described the invitations arranged by his followers and their warm welcome to him in these cities. This is a travelogue of simple narrative kind (Nizami, 1952).

1.3. 'SOEY SIACHIN' AND 'KACHORA JHEEL' BY KHADIM HUSSAIN TARAR

These are two travelogues of Northern areas of Pakistan. In his travelogue 'Soey Siachin' he visited Gilgit, Hunza, Sakardu, Shagar, Khiplo and Siachin areas, while in his second travelogue 'Kachora Jheel' he visited Gilgit, Hunza, Sakardu, Shagrila, Shagar and Khiplo. In his travelogues he described events of his tour. He told the history and traditions of the people of these areas. He also provided important information about the travelers for the visit of these areas. In his first travelogue, he also included complete instructions for the travelers of Hajj (Tarar K. H., 1995).

1.4. SAFAR HAMSAFAR BY RAGHIB SHAKAIB

Raghib Shakaib traveled from Sargodha to Karachi. On way to his destination he crossed many cities. During crossing these cities he remembered important literary personalities and described his imaginative meetings with these personalities and introduced them to his readers. He met different writers in Karachi and included interviews and introduction of these writers in the travelogue. Light humour is also present in his writing (Shakaib, 1988).

1.5. ZARD PATON KI BAHAR BY RAM LAL

During 7 February to 5 March 1980 Ram Lal visited Lahore, Karachi and Mianwali cities of Pakistan. He came from India to his native area. He met there with his childhood friends. There are many emotional scenes in this travelogue at many occasions of visit. Reports of literary functions are also included. His expressions about Pakistani literature are also a part of this travelogue (Lal).

1.6. 'JARNELI SARAQ' AND 'SHER DARYA' BY RAZA ALI ABDI

It is a travelogue of Pakistan and India. In Pakistan he traveled through Pishawar, Rawalpindi, Jehlum, Gujrat, Gujranwala and Lahore. He traveled in summer season of 1985. Purpose of his visit was recording of a program for BBC London. He especially focused on the history of visited areas. He also included in his travelogue the social and cultural information. Interviews from different people are also a part of his description. In his travelogue 'Sher Darya' he described his visit to Layyah, Sakardu, Kala Bagh, Daod Khel, Mianwali, Dera Ismail Khan, Bhakkar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sakhar, Larkana, Moenjo Daro, Haiderabad and Thatha. The main part of this travelogue comprises his dialogues with people and question answer sessions with them (Abidi, 1994).

1.7. YADON KAY CHAND TARY BY RIFAT SAROSH

He traveled in Lahore and Karachi during 1986 with his wife. Purpose of this visit was to meet with their relatives in these cities. So the main focus of this travelogue is on stay with their relatives and parties arranged by them. He also participated in literary functions and their reports included in the travelogue. He described his meetings with different writers and introduced them (Sarosh, 1990).

1.8. OPERATION SIACHEN BY RAFIQUE DOGAR

Rafique Dogar traveled Glacier Siachen in 1985. He was accompanied with a group of journalists visiting this highest glacier of the world. He included the conversation with the military persons, deputed at that glacier. The observed military activities there and provided information about military exercise 'Zarb e Momin'. He also described history of Baltistan and its part in freedom movement. There is also a report of a study tour of Kashmir and colourful pictures of this valley (Degar, 1992).

1.9. 'MERA GILGIT O HUNZA' AND 'YEH MERA BALTISTAN' BY SALMA AWAN

As it is obvious from its name, it is the travelogue of Gilgit and Hunza valleys of Pakistan which are located in Qarakoram Mountain rang (Awan, Mera Gilgit o Hunza, 1995). The writer expressed her affiliation of love with

these areas. She highlighted the beautiful scenery in a very beautiful writing style. Her talks with the local people are very interesting. Historical background of visited areas is also highlighted. Her second travelogue 'Yeh Mera Bultistan' is about the visit of Sakardu, Shagar and Khiplo (Awan, Yeh Mera Balatistan, 1988). It is novel like travelogue and comprises a story of woman character.

1.10. AJNABI APNAY DES MAIN BY SHOUKAT ALI SHAH

The visited area of this travelogue is Baluchistan. Writing style of this travelogue is very light. He stayed with different people and narrated the story of the stay in his travelogue. He described his official activities there. He described, in detail, the tribal system of that area and their administrative distribution (Ali Shah, 1996).

1.11. MERA SAFARNAMA BY TALA KHAN SADOZAI

He visited Jehlum, Pishawar, Lahore, Dehli, Ali Garh, Agra, Kolkata and Lakhnao on bicycle. Purpose of his visit was for compiling the history of these areas. He described the history starting from Arias and passing through different rulers of subcontinent. He has also given details of the visited places (Khan Sadozai).

1.12. TERI WADI WADI GHOMON BY ZAHEER QURASHI

Zaheer Qurashi visited Northern areas of Pakistan Gilgit, Hunza, Sakardu, Sawat, Deer and Chitral. He was exposed in his travelogue as a patriot and his love for the areas of Pakistan is immense and obvious. We found a kind of suspense and passion in this travelogue (Qurashi, 1983).

1.13. MUBARAK SAFAR BY ABDUL MAJID DARYA ABADI

He visited Karachi and Lahore in 1955. This travelogue is a story of that visit. It was an official tour. He described his meetings with different officials and his friends. Description of different invitations and functions is also present in the travelogue. Visit of important places is also included (Darya Abadi, 1981).

1.14. GHUBAR E RAH BY MUHAMMAD AKRAM AWAN

Akram Awan started his journey in 1988 to different countries of the world including northern areas of Pakistan. He visited Saudi Arabia, England, America, Canada and Bangladesh. In Pakistan he went to Chitral area. His purpose of journey was to preach people. He narrated history of Islam and its moral values. He described the beauty of nature exposed in the Chitral valley, meetings with local people and included colourful pictures of the visit (Akram Awan, 1991).

1.15. 'DO SAFAR' and 'Yatra' BY KHALID AKHTAR

Like most of the travelogue writers of Pakistan, Khalid Akhtar also visited beautiful northern areas of Kalam, Kaghan, Behrin and Sawat (Akhtar M. K., Do Safar, 1984). Two friends Dipal and Epicouras were with him in this journey. He started his journey from Bahawalpur and introduced all the cities which he crossed during his journey. He has drawn sketches of the persons and places in the style of his writing. In his second travelogue 'Yatra' he visited Rawalpindi in Pakistan and Islam Kot in India (Akhtar M. K., Yaatra, 1991). This journey was during the year 1979. This travelogue has a fictional touch. He described Hindu culture and civilization in this travelogue.

1.16. AIK MUSAFIR CHAR MULK BY HAKEEM MUHAMMAD SAEED

Hakeem Saeed has written a large number of travelogues in Urdu. His travelogue 'Aik Musafir Char Mulk' is about the visit of Pakistan, Australia, Switzerland, France, England, Hong Kong and Singapore. Traveling years are 1979 and 1980. His scholarly articles and dialogues with famous personalities are included in the travelogue. This travelogue has been written in the style of diary (Saeed H. M., 1981).

1.17. DAIKHA PAKISTAN BY MEHMOOD ALI

Mehmood Ali visited different areas of Pakistan with American embassadors during his 24 years job in American Consulate. In this travelogue 'Daikha Pakistan' he described the visit story of Bhakkar, Multan, Faisalabad, Mianwali, Dera Ghazi Khan, Kot Addu, Layyah, Sargodha, Bahawalnagar, Rahim Yaar Khan, Fort Minro, Loralai, Ziyarat, Pishawar and Lahore. He included his observations and experiences and introduced American Consulate in this travelogue. He also described hospitality of Pakistanis (Ali, 1993).

1.18. PAKISTANI TRAVELOGUES OF MUSTANSAR HUSSAIN TARAR

Mustansar Hussain Tarar has written a large number of travelogues containing visits stories of Pakistan. Most of these travelogues have descriptions of his visits to northern areas. His style of writing is very beautiful and has a fictional touch in it. He creates an adventurous atmosphere in his travelogues. Beauty of nature is exposed in these travelogues in its full extent. These travelogues are 'Chitral Dastan' (Tarar M. H., Chitral Dastan, 2016), 'Devsai' (Tarar M. H., Devsai, 2015), 'Hunza Dastan' (Tarar M. H., Hunza Dastan, 2015), 'K2 Kahani' (Tarar M. H., K2 Kahani, 2016), 'Kalash' (Tarar M. H., Kalash, 2015), 'Nanga Parbat' (Tarar M. H., Nanga Parbat, 2015), 'Shamshal Bemisal' (Tarar M. H., Shamshal Bemisal, 2007) and 'Yolk Sarae' (Tarar M. H., Yolk Sarae, 2014). Other Urdu travelogues of Pakistan are: 'Sina e Sang Par Resham Ka Rasta' by Masood Sultan Lakhser (Lakhser, 1981), 'Dili Ka Phera' by Mula Wahidi Dehlvi (Dehlvi), 'Kelash' by Malik Ishfaq (Ishfaq, 1994) and 'Sere Saadat' by Hatif Saeed (Saeed H. , 1994).

SUMMARY

Travelogue writing is the most famous form of literature in Urdu. With the travelogues of other countries, there are many travelogues of Pakistan, written in the national language of this country. Visitors visited Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad and other main cities as well as small villages of Pakistan and described their beauty in their own words. Urdu travelogues of northern areas of Pakistan have their own charming environment and have an adventurous touch. These travelogues of Pakistan are a beautiful addition to Urdu literature.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abidi, R. A. (1994). *Gerneli Sarak*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.
- Akhtar, M. K. (1984). *Do Safar*. Lahore: Matboat.
- Akhtar, M. K. (1991). *Yaatra*. Lahore: Qosain.
- Akhtar, S. J. (1995). *Dostin Ki Shahrah Par*. Lahore: Classic.
- Akram Awan, M. M. (1991). *Ghubar e Rah*. Rawalpindi: Alfalah Publishers.
- Ali Shah, S. (1996). *Ajnabi Apnay Des Main*. Lahore: Gora Publishers.
- Ali, M. (1993). *Daikha Pakistan*. Lahore: Nigarshat.
- Atif, P. (1980). *Kiran Titli Aur Bagolay*. Lahore: Jang Publishers.
- Awan, S. (1995). *Mera Gilgit o Hunza*. Lahore: Maqbool Academy.
- Awan, S. (1988). *Yeh Mera Balatistan*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.
- Darya Abadi, M. A. (1981). *Mubarak Safar*. Lakhnao: Moulana Abdul Majid Darya Abadi Academy.
- Degar, R. (1992). *Operation Siachen*. Lahore: Jang Publications.
- Dehlvi, M. W. *Delhi Ka Phera*. Karachi: Gild Anjman Kitab Ghar.
- Ghazali, A. (1993). *Wadi e Soon Sakaisar*. Lahore: Firoz Sons.
- Ishfaq, M. (1994). *Kalash*. Lahore: Fiction House.
- Khan Sadozai, T. A. *Mera Safarnama*. Pishawar: Manzoor e Aam Press.
- Lakhser, M. S. (1981). *Seena e Sang Par Resham Ka Rasta*. Lahore: Jodat Publications.
- Lal, R. *Zard Paton Ki Bahar*. Lahore: Soraj Publishing Beaurio.
- Nizami, K. H. (1952). *Pakistan Ka Safarnam*. Delhi: Delhi Printing Press Works.
- Qurashi, Z. (1983). *Teri Wadi Wadi Ghomon*. Faisalabad: Qartas.
- Saeed, H. M. (1981). *Aik Musafir Char Mulk*. Karachi: Hamdard Academy.
- Saeed, H. (1994). *Sere Saadat*. Karachi: Dastar Publications.
- Sarosh, R. (1990). *Yaadon Kay Chand Tary*. UP: Bab ul Ilm Publications.
- Shakaib, R. (1988). *Safar Hamsafar*. Karachi: Maktaba e Hamzaban.
- Tarar, K. H. (1995). *Soey Siachin*. Multan: Tarar Publications.
- Tarar, M. H. (2016). *Chitral Dastan*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.
- Tarar, M. H. (2015). *Devsai*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.
- Tarar, M. H. (2015). *Hunza Dastan*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.
- Tarar, M. H. (2016). *K2 Kahani*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.
- Tarar, M. H. (2015). *Kalash*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.
- Tarar, M. H. (2015). *Nanga Parbat*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.
- Tarar, M. H. (2007). *Samshal Bemisal*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.
- Tarar, M. H. (2014). *Yolk Sarae*. Lahore: Sange Meel Publications.