

Development of Perso-Arabic vocabulary in Sant Literature

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This paper explores the shifting relationship between Perso-Arabic and Indic vocabularies in three Sant author's works. First, in a comprehensive vocabulary of Raidās's works from before CE 1700 (See: *The Life and Works of Raidas*, Winand Callaewaert and Peter Friedlander, 1992). Second, in one hundred verses by Kabīr from the Belvedere Press's *Kabīr Śāhab kī Śabdāvalī bhāg 1-4* (See: *A Fountain in Mid-air*, Primus, Delhi, forthcoming). Third, a study of the works of the Sufi Sant Yārī in the *Yārī Sāhib kī Ratnāvalī* (1910) and the *Mahatmāō kī Bāñī* (1933). The comparison of the three vocabularies provides an insight into how Perso-Arabic vocabulary became embedded in Sant literature between the seventeenth and the twentieth centuries. The paper argues that the contribution of this fusion of Indic and Perso-Arabic vocabulary registers formed an important building block in the development of modern standard Hindi vocabulary.

Context: 'comparative studies that properly investigate different Hindi registers and those based on comprehensive analysis of Hindi vocabulary (i.e. tatsam, tadbhav, etc).'