

Shaping the Future of Punjabi Language

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THE MOTHER TONGUE IS A TREASURE that a child starts accumulating from his very early childhood and with the help of this wealth he makes his place in this world. Every word of the mother tongue makes an indelible mark on the personality of a child. It is a wealth that deserves the most attention and earns merit for a child in this world. Even in childhood a child carves his place in society with the help of this treasure of the mother tongue. The facial appearance is the reflection of the body and his language is the image of his soul.

Bonding:

Shaping the future of the Punjabi language is in the hands of the parents. If they realise this most important duty, and sow the seeds of the mother tongue in the childhood years, the future of the Punjabi language looks promising. We parents must realise that the future of our children has a strong bondage with their mother tongue. This language plays a very important role in shaping their life. Parents must be convinced of this reality by making them aware of the novel research that tells us the impact of the mother tongue on the personality of a child. The mother tongue plays a key role in shaping the personality of a child. Thus, we must do our best to make the parents aware of this fact. Then only the parents will take steps to sow the seeds of the mother tongue in the formative years of their children. This was and still is the duty of our Gurdwara authorities who have unfortunately failed miserably in executing this responsibility so far.

As far as the Khalsa Schools are concerned we have produced a book of simple Punjabi Grammar and a book on Punjabi Composition for Secondary Schools. Both the books are based on local environment. We are now in the process of producing workbooks for all grades. This project will take time, but we have already set the ball rolling. These workbooks will have lessons with various approaches that will create an interest in learning at the same time. It is important to create interest in learning the language.

Power of Language:

Our mother tongue is the language which we learn from our mothers in childhood. This language becomes a support of a child to stand on his feet and face the sympathetic and indifferent winds in life. The language of a child and an adult shapes the picture of his culture and exposes the depth of his wisdom in the society. It is an indispensable tool with which a person moulds his place in society. It is the language of a person that relates what he has accepted and what he has and what he has rejected in life. A person peeps into this world, plays with his friends, mixes in the society and makes a bond with the power of this treasure which he has accumulated, knowingly or unknowingly, from childhood.

Elegance of Expression:

The mother tongue is not only a key to success, but also a treasure of elegance and comeliness that beautifies the garden of life. It is the most valuable possession in life. A child is more the baby of his mother tongue than even his own mother. At

times he is separated from his mother, but never from his mother tongue, with the support of which he moves in the world. His life becomes more synonymous with his language than anyone else in his life. Language psychologists reveal to us the greatest secret of the power of the mother tongue that is the only force to bring out the virtuous qualities of life with which a person is endowed by God. Millions of people spend their lives without making use of the virtues in them because their tool of the mother tongue is not strong enough to bring them out.

Love of Gurbani:

A strong treasure of the mother tongue sends waves of love that have the power to mesmerise others towards the magnetic personality of the person. A personality built with the strength of the lovely words of the mother tongue stands gleaming in this complex society of ours. The words of the mother tongue learnt in childhood can never be forgotten, and beautifies the impact of a person upon another's soul to create a meaningful relationship.

A Sikh child talks to his Guruji with the help of his mother tongue. There is nothing more sinful than to deprive a child of the ability to talk to his Guruji. A child cannot sing the praises of the Lord if he cannot read *Gurbani*. This singing also helps a child to strengthen his self-confidence with the help of which he or she achieves success in life.

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