CultureTalk Pakistan Video Transcripts: http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu
Using Urdu and English

Urdu transcript:

کیوں جوان نسل کی اردو بگڑ رہی ہے

نوجوان: نہیں میں اردو سہی بول لیتا ہوں لیکن میری کمزور ہے تھوڑی اردو۔ ہمیشہ سے میری انگریزی تھوڑی بہتر تھی۔

انٹرویور: اور آپ کو کبھی کبھار
embarrassment
ہوتی ہے کہ آپ اردو اتنی برّی بولتے؟

نوجوان: میں اردو برّی بالکل نہیں بولتا ہوں۔ دوسرے لوگوں کی بنسبت میری اردو کا معیار بہت اچھا ہے ہاں اگر دیکھا جاۓ تو میں اپنے والدین کے--- والدین کے
compared to my
اچھا میری آپ دیکه لیں اردو کمزور ہے لیکن اگر میں والدین سے
comparison
کروں تو میری اردو اتنی اچھی نہیں ہے۔

انٹرویور: آپ کا خیال ہے کہ یہ
sign
ہے کے لوگ اپنا
culture
بھول رہے ہیں؟ اردو زبان کی
popularity
کم ہو –

نوجوان: ہاں آپ ایک حد تک یہ کہہ سکتے ہیں لیکن میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ اردو کو زبردستی پڑھایا جاتا ہے ہماری
society
میں۔
Especially
جو ہم لوگ
O Levels
اور
A Levels
کر رہے ہیں۔ تو اس میں لوگ اردو کے
period
میں کوئ توجّہ نہیں دیتے پھرزبردستی
exam

دیتے ہیں وہ۔ ہم
second language paper
دیتے ہیں۔ جس میں کوئ
challenge
نہیں ہوتا۔ یہ ان لوگوں کے لیئے ہوتا ہے جو یہاں پر بڑے نہیں ہوئے اور وہ
paper
دیتے ہیں ہم۔ اس لیئے کوئ
challenge
نہیں ہوتا۔ بہت کم لوگ ہیں جو شاعری والا
paper
دیتے ہیں۔ جس کو
Paper A
کہا جاتا ہے جو
first language paper
ہوتا ہے۔ تو اور پھر میں نے جیسے
O Levels
کے بعد اردو پڑھنا بند کردی۔ بہت کم لوگ اردو لیتے ہیں
A Levels
میں بلکہ کچھ لوگ تو یہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ جو لوگ اور کچھ نہیں پڑھ سکتے وہ اردو پڑھتے ہیں۔ یہ بھی
impression
دیا جاتا ہے ہماری
society
میں۔ اس لیئے ہم لوگوں کی اردو کمزور ہو جاتی ہے۔ اگر آپ
practice
نہیں کرو گے تو کمزور ہوئے گی کوئ بھی زبان۔

میں اردو کے پروگرام زیادہ شوق سے نہیں دیکھتا اس لیئے کے مجھے اردو کے
programs
میں زیادہ
appeal
نہیں ہے۔میں صرف انگریزی کے پروگرام دیکھنا پسند کرتا ہوں۔ اب سے نہیں بچپن سے۔

انٹرویور: آپ انگریزی کے کون کون سے
programs
دیکھتے ہیں؟

نوجوان: ڈرامہ
comedy
جو –
Off the top of my head I like watching 'Lost'. I'm not going to admit one program I love watching. What else do I watch? Family Guy, South Park…stuff like that. uhh… You know the general sitcoms. Not soap operas I hate those.

لیکن۔

انٹرویور: اس لیئے آپ کو ڈرامے اتنے نہیں پسند کیوں کے وہ
soap opera style –

نوجوان: جی۔

انٹرویور: جیسے لوگوں کی روزمرہ کی زندگی جو ہوتی ہے اس کے بارے میں ہوتے ہیں۔ اور زیادہ عورتوں کے لیئے،
housewives
کے لیئے۔

نوجوان: بالکل بالکل۔ اس ہی
market
کو
target
کرتے ہیں۔ میرے
Age group
کے لیئے یہ میرے
gender
کے لیئے زیادہ
appeal
نہیں کرتا۔ میں نے یہی دیکھا ہے کے میری امّی اور میری بہن ہی بیٹھ کر یہ پروگرامیں دیکھ رہی ہوتی ہیں اور ابّو اور میں کہیں اور بیٹھے ہوں یہ نہیں دیکھ رہے ہوں گے۔ ہاں
news channels
میں شوق سے دیکھتا ہوں۔ جیو بہت
famous channel
ہے مشہور ہے ہمارے ملک میں۔ تو وہ میں بیٹھ کر دیکھتا ہوں۔ کبھی کبھار کوئ اور
programs
جیسے جو ہمارا
media
بہت بڑھ گیا ہے۔ پیچھلے سالوں میں تو بہت سارے
music channels
کھلیں ہیں وہ سب اردو میں ہی ہوتے ہیں بیشک وہ –
اور سب وہ پاکستانی
music
دیکھا رہے ہوتے ہیں۔ وہ
English
میں بھی ہوتے ہیں لیکن وہ دیکھ لیتا ہوں بس اور زیادہ نہیں۔

English translation:

Teenager: No, I can speak correct Urdu, but my Urdu is weak. My English has always been a little better.

Interviewer: And have you ever felt embarrassment at the fact that you speak such bad Urdu ?

Teenager (slightly offended): I don't speak bad Urdu at all. Relative to other people, my Urdu is of a very good standard (comparing to those within his age group). But yes, if you look at it, compared to…compared to (struggles to find a way to express the phrase in Urdu) my parents…(then laughs) Okay, now you can just see that my Urdu is weak. (Continues) But in comparison to my parents my Urdu is not so good.

Interviewer: Do you think this is a sign that people are forgetting their culture? The Urdu language's popularity is going down?

Teenager: Yes, to an extent you can say that. But I am of the opinion that Urdu is forcibly taught in our society. Especially those of us who take our O Levels and A Levels[1]. So in this system during Urdu class, no one pays attention and forcibly (means reluctantly) gives the exam. We give the Second Language[2] paper, which is not challenging in the least. It is for those people who have not grown up in Pakistan and we give that paper. That is why it's not challenging at all. There are very few people who give the paper with the poetry (means literature) component, which is called Paper A, which is the First Language one. And then like after O Levels I stopped studying Urdu. Very few people take Urdu at the A Level, in fact some people even think that those people who do not have the capacity/capability to study anything else they are the ones who go on to study Urdu (at the A Level).This also is the impression given by our society. That is why our Urdu becomes weak. (Naturally) If you don't practice any language then you will be weak at it.

I don't watch Urdu programs (means television shows) with too much interest for the simple reason that they just do not appeal to me. Like I've (always) liked watching English shows. Not just from now, but since childhood.

Interviewer: What English shows do you watch?

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[1] O Levels and A Levels are British standard exams for high school which are taken by students both at home in the United Kingdom as well as abroad in other countries, predominantly those which were previously a part of the British Empire. The O Level or the Ordinary Level are examinations taken in 11^{th} grade, which the A Level or the Advanced Level are taken in the 13^{th} grade. The British high school system has 13 years of schooling in contrast to the 12 year system in the United States.

[2] At the O Level Urdu is offered at two separate levels: Urdu as First Language and Urdu as Second Language. The former is supposed to be for native speakers and contains an Urdu literature section while the latter is for those whose mother tongue is English. In the majority (but not entirety) of Pakistani schools offering O Level examinations, the Second Language curriculum is taught to native speakers since the standard of Urdu of most people giving these examinations is very low.

Teenager: Drama, comedy, anything. Off the top of my head I like watching "Lost". I'm not going to admit one program I love watching. What else do I watch? Family Guy, South Park…stuff like that. uhh… You know, the general sitcoms. Not soap operas I hate those.But…

Interviewer: Is the reason why you don't like (Urdu) dramas that they (are) soap opera style…

Teenager: Yes.

Interviewer: …like about people's everyday life and (meant) more for women and housewives?

Teenager: Exactly, exactly. That is the market that they target. They don't appeal much to (people of) my age group or my gender. I have observed that only my mother and sister sit down to watch those programs and that my dad and I will either be sitting somewhere else or just not watching them. (But) Yes, I watch news channels (in Urdu) with a lot of interest. Geo is a very famous channel, famous in our country. So that channel I'll sit down and watch. Sometimes some other programs…like our media industry has grown a lot in the last few years and many music channels have started broadcasting. They are all in Urdu and they all show Pakistani music (videos). There are also (some) in English which I watch but not too much.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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