



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

An Autonomous Institution

Coimbatore-35



Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with 'A+' Grade
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING

III YEAR/ VI SEMESTER

19HST105 ESSENCE OF INDIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

UNIT 2 INDIAN LITERATURE, CULTURE, TRADITION, AND PRACTICES

Northern Indian Languages & Literature



Languages were evolving at two levels:

- 1) The spoken language
- 2) The written language

The old Brahmi script of the Ashoka days had undergone a great change. The alphabets during Ashoka's period were uneven in size but by the time of Harsha, the letters had become of the same size and were regular, presenting the picture of a cultivated hand. The studies have indicated that all the scripts of present northern Indian languages, except that of Urdu, have had their origin in old Brahmi.

If we compare the scripts of Gujarati, Hindi and Punjabi, we can easily understand this change. As for the spoken word, there are over 200 languages or dialects spoken in India at present. Some are widely used while others are limited to a particular area. Out of all these, only twenty-two have found their way into our Constitution.



A large number of people speak Hindi in its different forms that include **Braj Bhasha**, and **Avadhi** (spoken in Oudh region), **Bhojpuri**, **Magadhi**, and **Maithili** (spoken around Mithila), and **Rajasthani** and **Khadi Boli** (spoken around Delhi). Rajasthani is another variant or dialect of Hindi. This classification has been made on the basis of literature produced by great poets over a length of time. Thus, the language used by Surdas and Bihari has been given the name of Braj Bhasha; that used by Tulsidas in the **Ramacharitamanasa** is called **Avadhi** and the one used by Vidyapati has been termed as **Maithili**. But Hindi, as we know it today is the one called Khadi Boli. Though Khusrau has used Khadi Boli in his compositions in the thirteenth century its extensive use in literature began only in the nineteenth century. It even shows some influence of Urdu.



THANK YOU