

BALOCHI

SOME USEFUL PHRASES IN BALOCHI

وش اتکے.

[.wa 'fatkəj]

/Washatkey/

Welcome.

تئی نام کئے انت؟

[tai no:m kəi en:]

/Tai naam kaey en'/?

What is your name?

تو چوئے؟

[taʊ 'ʃonəi]

/Tao Choney?/

How are you doing?

تو کجے مردم ئے؟ من انڈیانا ئیگ اوس.

[taʊ ko 'dʒei mər 'doməi mən? indi 'ɒno eɪg ɔ]

/Tao kojey mardomey? Man' Indiana eyg on'./

Where are you from? I am from Indiana.

منا گوں تو مہر انت.

[mənə gō to mehr en:]

/Mana gon' to mehr en'./

I love you.

منت وار.

[tai min:at wə:r]

/tae minnah waar./

Thank you.

مراد بات.

[mo 'rəd bə:]

/Morad baaa./

Congratulations.

بہ بکش.

['bɛbəkʃ]

/Bebaksh./

Excuse me.

وشیں!

['wɒʃɛ:]

/Washen!./

Good-bye.

FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN MORE ABOUT BALOCHS AND THEIR LANGUAGE

1. Balochi is spoken as a first or second language by over 5 million people throughout Western, Southern, and Central Asia, specifically in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and the United Arab Emirates.
2. A member of the Indo-Iranian language family, Balochi shares many structural similarities to languages such as Pashto and Kurdish (declensions, split-ergativity, SOV structure, etc.).
3. Because for many years they had no formal writing system, Balochi has a very rich history of oral literature, including Sher Sher the most famous and refined genre of Balochi oral poetry.
4. Balochistan is rich in vast natural resources. Minerals that can be found in Balochistan include gold, silver, copper, uranium, iron, zinc, limestone, onyx, amethyst, garnet, and several varieties of marbles and quartz, just to name a few.
5. Ongoing conflicts in the area make Balochistan of great interest to those concerned about international human rights.

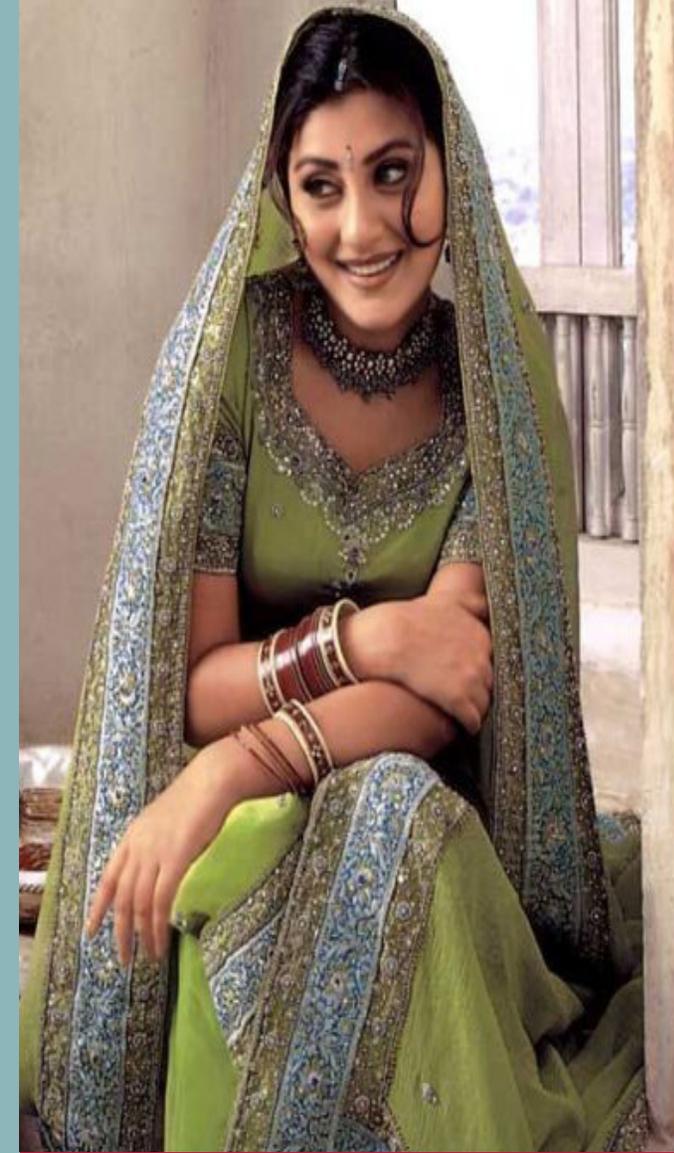
ABOUT US

The Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region (CeLCAR) at Indiana University develops materials for learning and teaching a wide variety of Central Asian languages.

For more information, go to celcar.indiana.edu.



238 Eigenmann Hall, 1900 East 10th Street,
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47406
Phone: (812) 856-1230
E-mail : celcar@indiana.edu
Website: <https://celcar.indiana.edu>



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WHO ARE THE BALOCHI PEOPLE AND WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

The Balochi people are a tribal society and ethnic group native to Central and Southeast Asia. The majority of Balochs live in the Balochistan region,

which is an arid, desert

and mountainous region that spans through southwest Pakistan, southeastern Iran, and southwestern Afghanistan, however there are small groups of Balochs scattered through other areas of Central Asia as well. The total number of Balochi speakers in the world is estimated to be about 5 million, with approximately 2,920,800 of those living in Pakistan, 200,000 living in Afghanistan, and 28,000 in Turkmenistan.

WHAT KIND OF LANGUAGE IS BALOCHI?

Balochi, also known as Baluchi, is an Iranian language, which is a subset of the larger Indo-European language family. Other Iranian languages include Dari, Gorani, Farsi, Hazaragi, Tajiki, Pashto and Persian. Iranian languages have historically been spoken across areas of Southwest Asia, Central Asia, and western South Asia. More specifically, Balochi belongs to the Northwestern branch of the Iranian language family, which includes Kurdish languages.

Balochi has three main dialects: Eastern Balochi, which has been influenced by Sindhi, is spoken

mostly in Pakistan, Western Balochi, which has been influenced by Persian is spoken mostly in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan, and Southern Balochi is spoken mostly in India.

Similar to other Iranian languages, Balochi uses a subject-object-verb (SOV) word order and is agglutinative, using complex combinations of affixes to create words and meaning. Another feature Balochi shares with many Iranian languages is split-ergativity. In the present tense or future tense, the subject is marked as nominative, and the object is marked as accusative. In the past tense, however, the subject of a transitive verb is marked as oblique, and the verb agrees with the object.

WHAT ALPHABET DO THE BALOCHS USE?

For centuries, Balochi was an oral only language, and it only started being written during the 19th century. At first it was written with the Latin alphabet, using a system devised by linguists. Then in the 1940s, Baloch scholars adopted a Perso-Arabic Script, based on the Pashto alphabet. Currently, Balochi is written in an Arabic/Urdu script. However, many scholars outside of Balochistan still use the Latin script.

چو گڼه بک مردم ءوتی چدر ء عزت ء شرف ء نینی آدمی ء بر ابرین ء
دگرانی دست ء نه دنهگی حقان ء سنگ ماں جهان ء آزاتی ء انصاف ء ایمینی

WHAT IS BALOCHI CULTURE LIKE?

Balochi people strongly value their culture and traditions, and have been mostly successful at holding on to their cultural identity over centuries.

Historically, Balochs practiced Zoroastrianism, an ancient Indo-Iranian religion; but for several

centuries now the majority of Balochs have been strict adherents of Sunni Islam.

Like many

Like many of their Central Asian neighbors, Baloch cuisine is based on meat, rice, and vegetables. Probably the most well-known dish is *sajji*, a whole lamb that has been marinated, stuffed, and roasted over coals.

Balochi people are well known for their distinctive dress. The men wear long shirts with long sleeves and loose pants, and often a turban, known as a *pagh*. Balochi women also dress in a long, loose dress with long sleeves over pants. However, the bodice and sleeves on the women's dresses are often decorated with intricate woven designs, needle work, and even tiny pieces of glass. Women also usually cover their heads, but with a scarf called a *sarig*. Baloch women also enjoy wearing lots of gold jewelry: necklaces, bracelets, and *dorr*, which are heavy earrings that fasten to the head with gold chains.

Balochs are known for their beautiful and sturdy wool pile rugs. Because Balochs are historically nomadic people, Baluch rugs are typically limited to eight feet in length, which made them lighter and easier to transport.

