

“Burushaski Dialect: Its future and the role of libraries to preserve it”.

Ahmad Ali Shah
University of Central Asia

Overview

- Burushaski, revisiting the terms
- Geography, people and references
- Its future & Challenges to record
- Role of Libraries in preservation of the language in its purest form
- References

Revisiting the Terms

Burushaski (in literature)

Boori-shaski (locals spell it)

Found different terms as alternates to

Burushaski at wikipedia

Biltum, Khajuna, Kunjut, Brushaski, Burucaki, Burucaski, Burushaki,

*Burushki,^[9] Brugaski, Brushas, **Werchikwar** and Miśa:ski.*

Bru-za is found in old Tibetan Literature

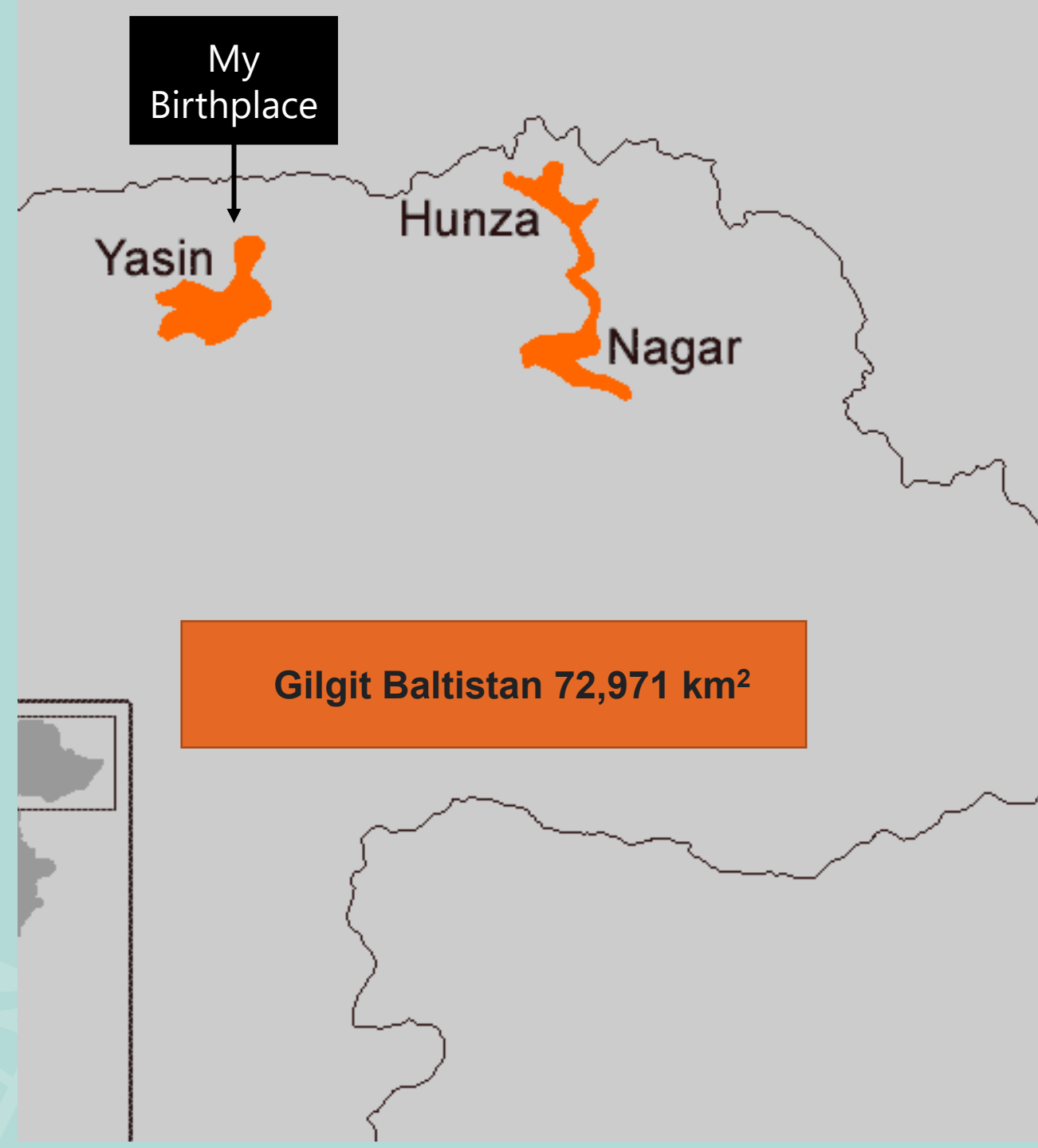
Geography, People,

Burushaski

- in 3 locations of Gilgit Baltistan
- over 90000 people speak it

GB

- population of GB 1.24m
- home to K2 and 4 more peaks over 8000
- Longest Glaciers
- Historical Silk Road can be seen here linking China with other Central Asian countries
- Constitutionally in Limbo
- Culturally Diverse, over 15 dialects are spoken in GB



References in Literature

Some Facts from "Survey of Burushaski Studies by Prof. Hermann Berger.
In Journal of Central Asia, Vol. VIII no 1. 1985.

1 st recorded Reference	2 nd Recorded Reference	1 st Attempt to write a Grammar	3 Volume Bru. Grammar	Dictionaries	Poetry & Music
1854	1870	1880, 1889	1935-1938	latest	Latest
British Geographer, Cunningham published a vocabulary of Burushaski (Hunza, Nagar) in his book, "LADAK" with some amusing mistakes,	British Geographer, G.W. Hayward Scanty & Inaccurate fieldnotes with interestingly documented first wordlist of Burushaski of Yasin.	G.W. Leitner, an Austrian in British Service and British Colonel J. Biddulph the first Political Agent of Gilgit 1889	D.L.R Lorimer Introduction and Grammar, followed by 1 st Burushaski Grammar (with no Linguistic Training)	There are few dictionaries Burushaski-Dictionary Burushasking-Urdu Dictionary Burushaski-English Dictionary By local authors with international collaborators	There is a trend of producing Burushaski poetry, music and prose by local youth. Now a combined arthrography is also being developed by local authors and researchers of Burushaski with the Collaboration of FLI

Future Challenges & Role of Library

- **Globalization (changed conditions of modern life)**
 - outward flow of local communities**
 - inward flow of tourists and businessmen**
- **Data Collection. Old vocabulary with elder people is at risk**
- **Curriculum (School Based education)**
- **Absence of libraries (GB has been a library desert)**
- **Language and Library as a discipline has less attraction to young adults**



The background of the image is a solid green color with a subtle, repeating pattern of stylized leaf veins. The veins are light green and create a sense of depth and texture. The pattern is most prominent on the left side, where it resembles a large leaf, and then transitions into a more abstract, wavy pattern on the right.

Thank You