

# China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) International Agreement: Language Planning and Policy



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Lahore School of Economics

**China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)  
International Agreement:  
Language Planning and Policy**

Edited by

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**Lahore School of Economics**

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## Preface

China has been keen to expand its economic horizon for some time. The Belt Road Initiative (BRI) proposed in 2013 by the Chinese President Xi Jinping is composed of two major trade routes, the New Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. BRI now known as One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative aims to redirect the Chinese domestic over-capacity and capital and use it for development of regional infrastructure as well as to improve trade relations with Asian, Central Asian and European countries (CPEC & Pakistan, 2017). The OBOR initiative further aims to facilitate policy coordination, connectivity, global trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds, among all the states part of the agreement. One of the most important initiatives of OBOR is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The idea for this book came from the visible presence of the Chinese and the imperatives of learning Mandarin promoted by the government in 2016 following the signing of the CPEC agreement. The imposition of foreign languages of invaders and imperialists in the past has resulted in the majority of Pakistani people not being proficient in any language. Language plays an important role not just in communication in informal spaces but is a critical requirement for education, employment and upward mobility. The status attached to a language thus comes from its usability and the value attached to it by society. With the coming of the British Persian lost its relevance and since that time Urdu and English have become the dominant languages; the latter is considered both a status symbol and essential for better jobs. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) brings with it many promises of prosperity, however being able to communicate in Mandarin appears to have become a prerequisite for deriving maximum benefits.

The research project on which this book is based is path breaking as to our knowledge no study has been undertaken on the issue of language planning and policy in the context of CPEC or OBOR.

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## Abbreviations

AJK	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
BHW	Bahawalpur
BSc	Bachelor of Science
BTech	Bachelor of Technology
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BRI	Belt Road Initiative
CPEC	China Pakistan Economic Corridor
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
EU	European Union
FSM	Federal State of Micronesia
FIEDMC	Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal area
FDGs	Focus Group Discussions
GCU	Government College University
GUFS	Guangdong University of Foreign Studies
HOD	Head of Department
TEVTA	Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority
ICBC	Industrial and Commercial Bank of China
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LPP	Language Policy and Planning
MSc	Master of Science
NAVTTTC	National Vocational and Technical Training Commission
NEP	National Education Policy
NOL	National Official Language
NUML	National University of Modern Languages
PKR	Pakistan Rupee
PU	Punjab University
SWL	Sahiwal
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
UOA	University of Agriculture
XFSU	Xi'an Foreign Studies University





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This book is path breaking in so far as no research has been undertaken to look into issues of language planning policy in the context of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) international agreement. This is the first indepth study on emerging language use trends in the context of the interplay between international, national and local languages based on evidence from CPEC project sites and Mandarin teaching institutions in the Punjab province of Pakistan. The research findings can provide guidelines for policy makers and researchers to move towards a more clearly defined language policy with implications for international projects at the macro level and for language and education in Pakistan at the micro level. As such it provides a baseline for a longitudinal study in the Punjab as well as a model for research in other provinces and regions of Pakistan.

#### Note on editors

Dr Sabiha Mansoor is a former vice-chancellor of Lahore College for Women University and is currently Professor of English at the Lahore School of Economics. An eminent educationalist and former Woodrow Wilson and British Council scholar, she has published extensively on language planning, higher education and teacher training. She was awarded the Asia Education Excellence Award in 2015 by the World Education Congress. Her recent publications include Challenge Education Pakistan (2016), Language Planning in Higher Education (2017), Punjabi, Urdu, English in Pakistan: A Sociolinguistic Study (2017) and Successful Women Educators and Human Development in Punjab (1947-2007) (2019). In recognition of her contribution to higher education in Pakistan, Dr Mansoor has received the award of Professor Meritorious.

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