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SANSKRITISMS IN HINDI

Hindi is one of the most spoken languages in the world. Hindi has been developed from the Old Indo-Aryan language called Sanskrit and belongs to the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European language family.

Being in contact with many foreign languages during the past, such as Arabic, Persian and English, Hindi has been enriched with a lot of loanwords. Many loanwords are also taken from the language Hindi itself has developed from, i.e. from Sanskrit. Those loanwords are called *tatsama*, which literally means „same like that“.

Both Hindi and Sanskrit are written using the Devanagari script, and Sanskrit loanwords are written in Hindi the same way as in Sanskrit. In spite of that, there is some difference between their original pronunciation and their pronunciation in Hindi.

Sanskritisms are mostly used by the educated part of society, because they form a big part of the vocabulary concerning religion, science, politics and technology. Moreover, the sanskritisation of Hindi was very important for the formation of Hindu identity in contrast to the identity of Muslims speaking Urdu.