

DESIGN AND AUTOMATIC EXTRACTION OF ARUD RULES FOR URDU POETRY

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Abstract: Arud, also known as 'ilam-Arūd' (علم عروض), is a type of metrical system that is used to structure verse. It is a product of classical Arabic poetry. In the 8th century, it was developed by an Arab grammarian named Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad al-Farahidi. In order to organize and generate consistent metrical structures, which are referred to as "bahar" (plural: buhur). These guidelines were established to generate rhythmic pattern. This paper delineates the structure of Urdu words, the composition of Urdu poetry using meters and their sub-meters, and gather the rules that are implemented in the Arud system to maintain tone, rhythm, and harmony. This paper investigates the scansion principles that are essential for the conservancy of the rhythm of a poem. The Arud system originated in Arabic and was subsequently adapted and incorporated into Persian and Urdu, Turkish, Punjabi and Asian language poetry as a result of the historical and cultural interactions between these linguistic traditions. In this paper we discuss meters that are the specifically employed in Urdu poetry. The Arud system in Urdu poetry guarantees that the poetry adheres to established metrical patterns, thereby preserving the aesthetic and rhythmic qualities of verse. This integration has allowed Urdu poets to create works that are not only linguistically appealing but also adhere to a traditional and structured format, which enhances their phonetic appeal.

Keywords: *Arud System, Urdu words structure, Scansion Rules, Natural language processing, Pattern Matching*

1. Introduction

The knowledge of Arud علم العروض is crucial in Urdu poetry because it provides an appropriate process for ensuring that the poet's work complies with weight regulations [1]. Khalil bin Ahmed is the founder of Ilam-e- Aruud [2][4][5]. He designed this knowledge by using the ideologies of the melody. He uses basic knowledge of Arabic poetry; his focus was that every verse ensures some pattern to give proper weight. Weight or wazan is a poetic meter which is the rhythmical arrangement of mutaharik متحرك "Movant" and sakin "quiescent" ساكن letters into lines [3]. To test and measure weight, the ancients devised the Arud system. Researchers in Arabic region laid the groundwork for this knowledge. This knowledge was later applied to Persian and Urdu poetry. It can be viewed as a scale for evaluating the harmony and musicality found in the poems. It has been the subject of numerous books [4][5][6][7][8][9][10], however complete mastery is difficult to achieve. To become proficient in poetry, one does not necessarily need to acquire this expertise. Only what is required to utilize proper language with metric rhythm should be known by an individual. In Urdu poetry, "Arud" is a metric system that is used to determine the meter and rhyme of a poem. "Ilam" is a term used in Urdu poetry to refer to the knowledge and understanding of the rules of prosody. Hence "Ilam Arud" would refer to the knowledge and understanding of the rules of prosody in the context of Urdu poetry using the Arud metric system.

The remaining paper consists of 5 sections. Section 1.2 describe importance of Arud System. Section 2 explores the literature about Arud rules and their implementation in Urdu and Urdu like languages. Section 3 present structure of Urdu poetry. In section 4 scansion, Arud rule formation methodology is depicted with examples. Finally, the last section 5 provides the conclusion of this research.

1.2. Importance of Arud System

The Arud system has many rules to retain Urdu poetry quality. Researchers in [10][9][8] have figure out following benefits to tell the importance of knowledge of Arud.

- i. For an understanding of verse wazan/weight and types of verse metrics.
 - ii. Differentiate between each metric from the other one.
 - iii. Understanding the pros and cons of each metric.
 - iv. What modifications and variations can be possible in any given verse?
 - v. Knowledge of unfamiliar phonetics and their impact on the verse.
 - vi. Helps in differentiating two Urdu genres Nazam and Nasar.
 - vii. Differentiating between actual and false metrics.
 - viii. Identifying all metrics that are authentic in Urdu poetry but not implemented in it due to its complex structure.
- It shows that the learning Arud knowledge is as important as learning music Rhythms [11-12]. Without knowledge of rhythms, the singer can't sing a quality song with extra impact, the same reflects in good poetry as well. The sound that comes from only one letter is referred to as a word.

2. Related Work

Sufficient research has been conducted on foreign languages such as English, Chinese, and Arabic. However, there has been significantly less research conducted on Urdu language. Noteworthy contributions in the field include research on authorship attribution [2], sentiment analysis [29], content management [30], Urdu stemmer [28].

In Urdu poetry Arud system is the key to maintain poetry quality. Arud system was originated in Arabic language by Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad al-Farahidi [12-15]. He introduced 16 meters, having unique rhythmic patterns [14]. Arud system is used in all Arabic derived languages like Persian, Urdu, Punjabi, Ottoman and some Urdu like eastern languages [14]. Arud system using the concept of the melody by ensures some pattern to give proper weight/wazan. Wazan is a poetic meter term which is the rhythmical arrangement of mutaharik and sakin letters into lines [13]. The base knowledge of Arud meter found in chapters 2-4 of the book of Captain Pybus [4] chapters 1-7 of the book Pritchett and Khaliq [5] and knowledge of Urdu poetry metrics and its sub-meters collected from authentic books [6-10].

Consequently, we came across academic literature on Arud system for detecting Arud meter that primarily concentrated on the Arabic [14-23] as well as Punjabi [24,25], and Ottoman languages [26]. Moreover, algorithms have been developed to evaluate Arud meter detection in Arabic language. However, there is no research found on algorithmic meter detection in Urdu poetry. In literature review all Urdu poetry structure and meter detection work is done in published books [1][4-10] in late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. In Two most prominent web systems Aruzz [26] and Rakhta [27] facilitates Urdu poetry learners.

3. Structure of Urdu Poetry

The Urdu poetry contents use structures like words, syllables, and letters. A word is the smallest, independently meaningful unit of a language. Words are "what people generally utter in common usage." Every sentence of the poem is scanned and broken down into a series of syllables. It is used for metrical purposes. A syllable is an essential concept for understanding phonological structure. Urdu language compose of Urdu alphabet from alif 'الف' to yaa 'ے'. Appendix I.

Syllables are important for metrical considerations. No line of poetry can be scanned until it is first broken into a series of syllables. The process of breaking words into identified syllables is called scansion. Each word in a line of poetry must be divided into a metrical syllabus according to the below criteria.

1. **Long syllables:** Any syllable consisting of two letters is considered as long syllable
2. **Short Syllabus:** any syllable consisting of one letter is a short one.
3. **Flexible Syllable:** A syllable that consists of only two letters and may be used as long or short, at the poet's pleasure, will be called a flexible syllable.

Every verse of the poem is scanned and broken down into tokens using certain rules. The process of tokenizing verse into letters is called scansions تقطيع. The basic principle of Urdu scansion is based on the distinction between movant متحرک "mutaharik" and "sakin ساکن" letters that are termed as ہجائے کوتاہ .

Movant letters: The letter accomplished by one of the diacritics, zabar, zer, and pesh is termed as متحرک "mutaharik e.g. دل the letter د is mutaharik as the zer accomplishes it. Movant letters categorize as two types of Harakat i.e. Harkat e-mutliq, حرکت باسکون harkat-e-basakon حرکت مطلق mutliq.

- Harkat Mutliq حرکت مطلق is that Harkat where sakin is not instantly attached to it. e.g. نظر here ن is harkat Mutliq.
- Harkat-e- Basakon حرکت باسکون is harkat where sakin immediately comes after harakat, such as in گل or in بلبل.

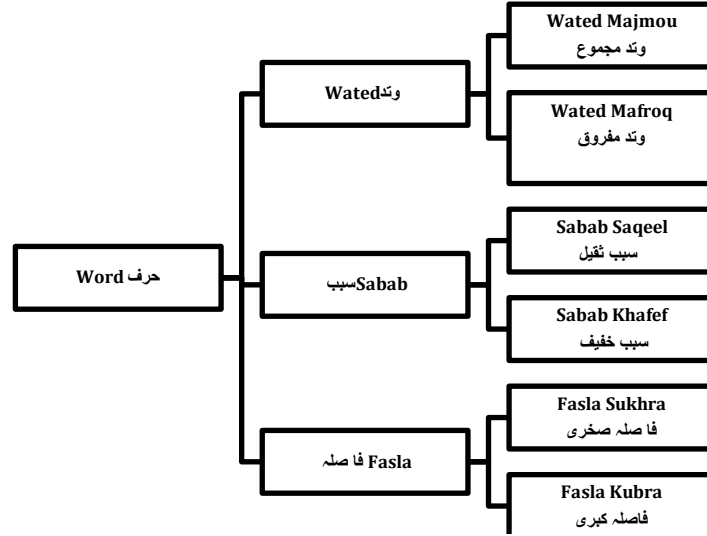


Figure 1: Urdu words structure hierarchy

Quiescent letters: When a consonant is unaccomplished by any diacritics, it is termed “sakin” ساکن. Sakin is defined as a letter of the alphabet that represents the end of a sound. Diacritics such as tashdeed تشدید are meant to represent sounds that are first treated as a sakin and then as mutaharrik [12]. Usually an Urdu word combination of sakin and mutaharrik letters. Sakin words are of two types, Sakon-e-Mutlik, سکون مطلق, Sakon-bul-harkat سکون بالحركة.

- Sakon Mutlik سکون مطلق that word in which there is no Harakat added on letter, e.g. آس .
- Sakon Bil-Harkat, سکون بالحركة that word in which there is Harakat added on letter, e.g. اب .

Urdu word has three main categories, as shown in figure 1. The sound that comes from a combination of two letters is called Sabab. Sabab is of two types sabab-khafef سبب خفيف (first letter is mutaharik second one is sakin) e.g. اب, تو and sabab Saqeel سبب ثقيل (both letters mutharik) e.g. Narrhaa (نرچا). The sound that comes from three letters is referred to as wated وتد in the Urdu language. When the first two letters are mutaharik and the last third one is sakin such words are referred to as wated majmouie وتد مجموع, e.g. diya , دیا , while the second type of three-letter wated mafrooq وتد مفروق consist of first and last letter mutahark and the middle one is sakin e.g. پان, بخت . The sound comes from four letters referred to as fasla فاصلہ . when the first three letters are mutaharik and the last fourth one is sakin called fasla-sukhra فا فاصلہ صخری . Fasla-Sukhra is a combination of sabab-khafeef and sabab Sakeel. While the sound of five letters is referred to as fasla-Kubra فاصلہ کبری . Five letters word is a combination of sabab-saqeel سبب ثقيل and wated-mafroq وتد مفروق.

Urdu poetry is a combination of the above-said word categories. These categories create the basis for the metrics afaail افاعيل. Variant arrangement of these words based on certain rules defines Asool Afaail اصول افاعيل. Each afaail has its numerical value. The combination of different afaail in certain patterns define wazen or meter of that verse. Wazan, also known as weight, is a technique of portraying an Urdu word following its afaail, which is actually its phonetic pattern rather than how it is transcribed. The afaail split into two categories: a huge number of variants, or muzaahif مضاعف, and a small number of original ones, or salimm [4].

The arrangement of a certain feet/afaail افاعيل in a specific order is termed as meter بحر in Urdu poetry. Meter is the rhythmical arrangement of mutaharik متحرك and sakin letters into lines. Arabic Arud lies in the system of sakin and Mutharik letters. “Movent” Harkat حركة and “quiescent” Sakin. If any Urdu letter accompanied by any one of three zaab, zeer, pesh, is referred as movent harkat letter. While Urdu consonants letters unaccompanied by any harkat are referred as quiescent or Sakin. For example بلبل (Nightingale bird), مسجد (Mosque) these two Urdu words are same in quantification/syllable arrangement. س and د are sakin in masjid word, while م and ج are mutaharik because of Zaber on م , and zeer on ج . similarly word بلبل have two sakin and two mutaharik words. With same sequence of Mutaharik, Sakin, Mutaharik, Sakin. All meters in Urdu are composed of one or more of eight standard feet/Afaail. These eight feet divided into two types one is known as five-lettered (khamasiفاعلن , خماسیفاعلن , and second type is seven letters (Saabaiفاعلن , سباعیفاعلن). these Afaail can be used as its catalexis زحاف . These Standard feet/ Afaail with their Zehaf زحاف are describe in table 1. Zehaf word means mould from the original one. Meters comprise numerous sub-meters, each with a unique arrangement of "afaail" and its "zehaf" or catalexis. Catalexis is the term used to describe any atypical alteration in the meter. These modifications can be implemented by incorporating or eliminating "sakin" or "mutaharik" words from the afaail. The zehaf is subject to specific regulations. The principles that are most frequently implemented, or their combinations, are as follows:

- Converting mutaharik words to sakin.
- Eliminating sakin or mutaharik letters.

- Increasing the number of letters in the afaail.

The zehaf of each foot is used to define the number of meters and their sub-meters.

Table 1 provides a comprehensive list of all potential feet, along with their catalexis. The rhythmical arrangement of feet mentioned in table 1 generates a pattern that is called meter, Beher, weight, or wazan, which are distinguished by unique rhythmic patterns. Each pattern consists of a combination of afaails افاعيل. Arrangement of afaail in certain sequence creates specific meter. This pattern creates a melody when uttering the verse following a certain melodic aspect that is audible when read aloud.

Nineteen meters in Table 2 are most commonly used in Urdu poetry. Recently, in the nineteenth century one more meter Jameel جميل is added in Arud system [13]. Urdu poetry meter has its roots in the Arabic poetic tradition. This system enhances the aesthetic coherence and auditory appeal of poetic creations. By using table 2 and table 1, it was found that there can be number of basic meter's sub-meters. We observed that from basic 20 Arud meters there are over 290 derived submeters used in Urdu poetry. The list of 290 meters can be found in Annexure I. List describe numbers of identified sub-meters for each basic meter shown in Table 3.

Every appealing poetry can be written by following any one of the given rhythm in table 2. Poetry in Urdu language can be implemented according to the defined meters by applying scansion rules on a verse. A couplet can be created by applying above meters. These meters are categories into two main types i.e. simple meter, compound meter. The compound meter is a combination of two or more feet. Feet in verse are divided into the following parts, the first foot is termed as Sadar صدر, the second, and third foot termed Hashuu حشو the fourth is Aruzz عروض, the fifth foot is abtada ابتدا, the sixth & seventh foot is called Hashuu حشو and the eighth foot called Zerb ضرب. A meter of 8 feet (4 per hemistich) is called Musaman مثنى. A meter of 6 feet (3 per hemistich) is called Musadas مسدس. A meter of 4 feet (2 per hemistich) is called Murabaa مربع. The couplet feet compose of the combination of any meters.

Musadas Example:

ٹھیک ہے خود کو ہم بدلتے ہیں
شکریہ مشورت کا چلتے ہیں

Romen: (Teek hy khud ko hum badalty hain
Shukriya Mashwarat ka chalty hain)

Translation: Well, we change ourselves, Thanks for the advice.

Feet: فاعلاتن مفاعلتن مفاعلتن

Meter: خفيف مسدس مخبون محذوف مقطوع

Musaman Example:

یقین عمل محکم پیہم، محبت فاتح عالم
جہاد زندگانی میں ہیں یہ مردوں کی شمشیریں

Romen

(Yaqeen Mohkam, Amal Peham, Mohabbat Faateh-E-lam
Jahad-E-Zindagani Mein Hain Ye Mardon Ki amsheerain)

Translation:

Firm certainty, eternal action, the love that conquers the world— These are the swords of men in the holy war of life.

Feet: مفاعلتن مفاعلتن مفاعلتن مفاعلتن

Meter: ہنچ مثنى سالم

4. Scansion تقطیع

The scansion word comes from the Arabic word, which means to cut or divide into small parts. This is one of the basic parts of ilm-Arud علم العروض. In Urdu poetry, "scansion" refers to the process of analyzing and determining the meter and rhyme of a poem. The rules of scansion in Urdu poetry are based on the "Arud" metric system.

The rules of scansion in Urdu poetry are based on the "Arud" metric system, which is used to determine the meter and rhyme of a poem.

The Arud system is based on the number of syllables in a line of poetry, and the specific pattern of long and short syllables. The basic unit of meter in Aruz is the "qafia" قافیه, which is a group of two or three syllables. The number of qafias in a line of poetry determines the meter of the line.

The rhyme in Urdu poetry is determined by the final syllable of the line, which must match the final syllable of at least one other line in the poem. The rhyme scheme of the poem is determined by the pattern of rhymes used throughout the poem.

It's important to note that many poets use the rules of Arud more flexibly or creatively and deviate from the strict rules of the system. Additionally, scansion can be difficult to do by machine, as it requires a thorough understanding of the rules of Arud, as well as a deep understanding of the cultural and historical context of the poem.

4.1. Rules of Scansion

Overall, scansion in Urdu poetry can be complex and challenging due to many rules and variations in the Arud metric system, as well as the complexity of the Urdu script and diacritics.

Rule #1: Dropping letters

The first rule is that only those letters which are pronounced are taken into account and those which are not pronounced are rejected. For example, بالکل contains five letters, however it is pronounced without the sound of 'ا' as if it is written like بلکل. During scansion only articulate letters are taken into account. Some most important rules [9] implemented in scansion procedures are discussed below:

The following are the letters most commonly dropped in scansion.

- aliph in Arabic words such as في الحال having 7 seven letters which are scanned as if split into في حال six letters word.
- ہاؤ مخلوطہ Do Chashmi ہ, is aspirated consonant, although it affects the pronunciation of the syllable in which it occurs, is metrically invisible. e.g. کھانا is 5 letter word scanned as کانا 4 four letters word.
- یاؤ مخلوطہ in کیا kya meaning "what" will be scanned as کا. Having 3 letters instead of 4
- واو معدولہ letter و used in words like خود, خوش is scanned as if split as خد, خش respectively.
- نون غنہ ن, the nasal N if preceded by any حروف علت i.e. ا, ی, و, ی. e.g. word جھونکا having 6 letters will be scanned as جوکا have 4 letters.

Rule #2: Doubling letters

The second rule is related to characters which are counted twice.

- مشدّد letters are of course counted as two e.g. تردد = فعولن = تزد, and ول لاه = واللہ
- الف ممدودہ Aliph counts as two, the first being mutaharik the second sakin as انا to انا the above word was 3 letters scanned as 4 letters.

Table 1 Basic feet with their Catalexis

- Hamzated واو count as two as in the word رؤف- which is scanned as رؤوف.

The persian izafat is counted in scansion, e.g. عروسی چمن = عروسی چمن.

Rule #3: Positioning of Two Sakin Letters

If two sakin letters occur together except at the end of the line (where both are counted Sakin) , otherwise the first is referred to as sakin and the second mutaharik.

Rule #4: Positioning of Three Sakin Letters

If three sakin letters occur together in a word but not at the end of line , the first remains sakin, and the rest of the two is governed by poetic license. If the second and third sakin letters are preceded by ا, و, ی the second sakin is not counted and the third becomes mutaharik i.e. دوست will scan as دست.

Rule #5: Poetic Desertion

According to rule #5 there is flexibility for the poet that he can switch sakin letter into mutahark letter and vice versa to keep the rhythmic situation consistent for metrical purpose in Urdu poetry. This rule helps poets to get out of the bed rhythmic situation. The rule of poet desertion complicates the implementation of Arud principles.

For example کارى کاشتى, دستدارى, د و ستدارى, کاشتى کارى will be scanned as دستدارى, کاشتى کارى - by converting mutaharik letter 'ت' as silent letter .

Table 3: Number of Basic meters's Sub-meters detected in Urdu poetry

| S.No | Meter Name | No of its sub-Meters |
|------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | متقارب Mutakarib | 24 |
| 2 | رجز Rajiz | 24 |
| 3 | رمل Ramel | 12 |
| 4 | کامل Kamel | 19 |
| 5 | وافر Wafer | 5 |
| 6 | هزج Hazej | 48 |
| 7 | متدارک Mutadarik | 28 |
| 8 | مدید Maded | 17 |
| 9 | طویل Taweel | 3 |
| 10 | بسیط Baseet | 10 |
| 11 | جدید Jaded | 5 |
| 12 | خفیف Khfeef | 14 |
| 13 | سریع Sariee | 6 |
| 14 | قریب Qareeb | 8 |
| 15 | مجتث Mujtass | 16 |
| 16 | مضارع Muzare | 15 |
| 17 | مقتضب Muktazeb | 7 |
| 18 | منسرح Munsaree | 7 |
| 19 | مشاکل Mushakeel | 8 |
| 20 | جمیل Jameel | 5 |

Rule #6: Assigning weight

Some **common rules** for assigning weight to words are based on the position of vowels and consonants. The Urdu language has 36 alphabets, in which some letters like و، آ، اے، ی، ا are treated as vowels while the remaining letters are treated as consonants.

- The consonant will have the value of '1'. As 'j' in 'aaj', 'r' in 'pyar' 'ba' in 'bahaar'.
- Two consonants, if spoken together, will have a value of '2' as in 'hum', 'ab' 'chal' 'yad' in 'shaayad'
- Vowel 'e ی', 'o و', 'u اے', 'i ا' have a value of '1' and with a consonant will have the value '1' e.g. 'mein', 'ae', 'ku' in 'kuch', 'lo' in 'lori'.
- If two consonants joined by an above vowel and spoken together have the value of 2 as 'tum' تم, 'fir' پھر, and 'dil' دل all have a value 2.
- Aa' ا will alone or with consonants will always have the value of 2 as 'kaa' کا in 'kaam' کام, 'yaa' یا in 'qayaamat' قیامت 'haa' ہا in 'bahaar' ب.
- Vowel 'ee', 'oo', 'ao' will have a value of 2 as 'bhi' in 'kabhi', 'hi' in 'nahin', 'ho' in 'kaho'. e, o, u, alone or with a consonant, have a value of 1 or 2 provided by the scratch of a syllable, e.g. 'mere' میرے may have 1-1, 2-1, 2-2, or 1-2 anyone, 'tumhare' تمہارے maybe 2-2-1 or 2-2-2.

The Arud system is challenging since poet diacritics exist, which allow the poet to drop any sakin word to mutahaik or treat any mutaharik letter as sakin in order to maintain proper meter. Such letters and words are classified as flexible syllables. It is abbreviated as X. X flexible syllables can be quantified as either one or two.

By applying these rules, we can verify any verse in the defined meters mentioned in table 3. Taking examples of different verses can describe the implementation of Arud rules.

4.2. Describing Arud Rules with Examples

In order to understand the impact of Arud rules on the Urdu verse we need to go through some of the examples. If we consider Mirza Ghalib's famous verses to apply arud rules on it. This verse tokens will be quantified by applying Arud rules and then identifying its syllable.

Let take the verse 1 is as an example of implementing Arud rule in Urdu poetry.

نکلنا خلد سے آدم کا سنتے آئے ہیں لیکن

All the words in the verse 1 are parsed as below in figure 2.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Verse | نکلنا خلد سے آدم کا سنتے آئے ہیں لیکن |
| Tokens | نکل+تا غل+د سے آدم کا سن+تے آئے ہیں لے+کن |
| Arud Form | نکل+تا غل+د سے آدم کا سن+تے آئے ہیں لے+کن |
| Verse Feet | مفاعیلن مفاعیلن مفاعیلن مفاعیلن مفاعیلن 2221 |
| Verse Meter | ہزج مشن سالم |

Figure 2: Verse 1 example

To get Arud form of the verse following rules mentioned in section 4.1. Implemented on the verse 1.

Scansion Rule #1.a implemented on word "کا" of the verse where "ا" Alif is omitted from the word کا "kaa" as کَ.

Scansion Rule # 1.c یا مملوہ applied on word آئے where "ی" of the آئے omitted , similarly Rule 1.e applied on word "ہیں" where ں is omitted as it doesn't contain any weight in meter.

Verse 2: ستم کو ہم کرم سمجھے جفا کو ہم وفا

By applying Arud rules where necessary verse will be converted into Arud-form as in figure 3.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Verse | ستم کو ہم کرم سمجھے جفا کو ہم وفا |
| Tokens | ستم کو ہم کرم سمجھے جفا کو ہم وفا |
| Arud Form | ستم کو ہم کرم سمجھے جفا کو ہم وفا |
| Verse Feet | مفاعیلن مفاعیلن مفاعیلن مفاعیلن مفاعیلن 12, 1212 |
| Verse Meter | ہزج مشن متبوض مخدوف |

Figure 3 Verse 2 Example

Here poet uses diacritics by applying rule #6 to drop word سمجھے as .س .جے

Arud form ensures that these verse patterns help poets to maintain a rhythmic structure that is both pleasing to the ear and consistent with traditional forms. These patterns ensure that the verse flows melodically and adheres to the classical standards of Urdu poetry. Arud -form pattern clearly differentiates word's syllables and can be easily quantify.

5. Conclusion

The paper thoroughly examines the Arud system, illustrating its significance in the evolution of Urdu poetry. It delves into the structure of Urdu poetry and the precise techniques utilized to convert Urdu poems into Arud form by removing words that do not contribute to the verse's phonetics. Arud's principles do not apply to all written words; only phonetically relevant terms are quantified and considered. In this document, all Arud system structures, such as feet, catalexis, and scansion rules, are collected and placed in one location. In light of the paradigm transition from print to digital media, there is a huge increase in need for automated systems that recognize Arud systems. These principles make it easy for new Urdu poets and readers to identify the meter and rhythm of any verse. According to the literature review, Arud system research in Urdu poetry has been ignored due to limited resources, and all work on the Arud system dates back to the early 19th century. There is a need to investigate the Arud method in simple words so that new learners can understand it and apply it to Urdu poetry composition. As arud system counts only that words which are phonetically uttered so there is need to have a system that recognize speech to convert voiced verse into arud form.

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