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Indian Language Kit: Which Scripts & Languages Supported? (2/97)

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TOPIC ---

What scripts and languages are supported by the Indian Language Kit?

DISCUSSION --

The different languages on your computer are supported by software known as the
script system. A script system makes a character set available for a particular
language, tells your computer which characters to display when you type,
specifies the direction of text flow, and provides other information such as
sort order, date, time, number, and currency formats. If you are working in
English on your computer, your system uses the Roman script.

If you are working in an Indian language, your system uses one of the Indian
scripts provided by this kit. The script system generates the complex
combinations of characters used in Indian languages in response to different
sequences of keystrokes.

The Indian Language Kit supports several North Indian scripts. These scripts
have letters representing consonants and vowel sounds. Many North Indian scripts
depict words with a bar above all of the letters in the word. Also, when two
consonants are joined together, a composite letter--a consonant conjunct--is
formed. So, although there are a relatively small number of letters, there may
be many more consonant conjuncts for a particular script.

The Indian Language Kit supports three North Indian scripts. Devanagari,
Gurmukhi, and Gujarati. The same script can be used by several languages if they
share most of the same characters and behaviors. For example, Devanagari is used
for four languages: Hindi, Marathi, Nepali, and Sanskrit. Gurmukhi for the
Punjabi language; and Gujarati for the Gujarati language. So, the Indian
Language Kit supports three different scripts and six different Indic
languages.

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