

ABSTRACT

This study is about discourse analysis of the historical writings of Maulana Shibli Nomani, the doyen of Muslim historiography in Urdu. This discourse analysis is premised on epistemological construction of the oriental knowledge tradition which Shibli tried to contest. Shibli was amongst these major exponents of Muslim revivalism, who attempted to eulogize past by reminding Muslims of the glories and grandeurs of Muslim civilization and the achievements of the Islamic heroes like the pious caliphs, Haroon, Mamoon and Aurangzeb Alamgir. More over, he tried to project the Muslim past in such a manner as to provide befitting response to the Oriental constructions of Islam. Shibli tried to romanticize Muslim past in order to help the Muslims to overcome the inferiority complex experienced by them. This was largely an outcome of the Oriental misrepresentation of Muslim past which essentialized Muslims as passive, decadent, intolerant and fanatics. The underlying didactic aspect of his writings was to impel the Muslims to action.