| **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Noun Structures in the Persian-Dari Dialect of the People of Farah Province in Afghanistan

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| **ABSTRACT**

This study explores the noun groups' structures in the Persian-Dari dialect of the people of Farah Province in Afghanistan. It aims to bring out the variations between the Standard Persian and the one which is spoken in Farah, in the west of Afghanistan, to analyze if there are any differences in the Farahi Persian dialects. To reveal the various structures of the Persian dialect of Farah residents in the west of Afghanistan, a qualitative approach was adopted. The data for the study was collected both from a spontaneous conversation of the native residents in public places and from the selected conversation among 30 Farah University students. The results of the study revealed some remarkable variations in the daily conversation of the Farahi natives. The changes included reduction, increase, and transformation in shape and of the nouns used in the Persian dialect of the residents of Farah compared to Standard Persian. It is the fact that Farah is neighboring Iran, which has effects on the language dialects. These effects are not only seen in the noun phrases. They are also widely visible in other linguistic units of the people living in Farah.

1. Introduction

Located in the west of Afghanistan, Farah is one of the large provinces neighboring Iran. The majority of the people residing in the province speak Persian Dari. Dari is one of the three main dialects of Persian (Farsi) spoken widely in Afghanistan. Dari in the western provinces of Afghanistan, particularly in the Herat and Farah provinces, is a bit different than any other areas in the country. Therefore, this article examines the structures of nouns in the Persian-Dari dialect of the people of Farah.

Dialect is a special type of speech or utterance that is identified under different languages in different regions. In their speech, Persian speakers in Farah province use words that have almost lost their original forms. Indicating the state of transformation of the standard language, the accent is present in each language. This change of accent causes the language units to change as well, and this change can be seen in all linguistic units (Agha & Soori, 2015). Thus, the noun phrases face some changes in increasing, decreasing, or substitution. A noun is used to identify categories, people, things, places, and affairs. (Farshidvard, 2014). In fact, whatever we see around itself, has a certain name. Besides it, there are different kinds of dialects which are needed to be explored.

Various researchers have conducted studies on the Persian-Dari dialects in Afghanistan. However, the focus of this research is on the Farahi dialect of Dari, particularly on the nouns and noun phrases. In this case, the researcher has concentrated on the different types of nouns that are recognizable in the daily conversations of the residents of Farah Province in the west of Afghanistan.

2. Literature Review

There are many unexplored areas of Persian dialects within Indo-Persian dialects. Few investigations have been conducted on Afghanistanian Persian dialects (Dari) so far. Thus, there is limited related literature published (Agah & Soori, 2015). However, these few published works are mostly small-scale research or written pieces published. According to Hansia (2014), rather than being

separated, Dari has been regarded as one of the Farsi language dialects by linguistics. However, it differs somehow in phonology, syntax, and lexicon. The lexical differences, most often, appear in their colloquial speeches.

There are different accents and dialects in Afghanistan's Dari (Persian) Language. Some non-standard dialects of Dari (Persian) are found in different areas of Afghanistan rather than in Kabul. Among them are Hazaragi and Herati dialects ((Ioanessyan, 2009). Herati dialect is named after Herat province in the west of Afghanistan. Herat is the second-most populous province of Afghanistan after Kabul and was once the city of scholars, great Persian poets, and rulers. Since Farah is a neighboring province of Herat in the west of Afghanistan, its local dialect is quite similar to the spoken Herati dialect.

There have been fewer research studies conducted to explore the different parts of speech in the Dari dialect of the people of the western region of Afghanistan. Among them, there is one book (An Introduction to Dialects) authored by Dr. Mohammad Hussain Yameen, a professor from Kabul University. The book briefly focuses on dialect words, but it does not contain any words, particularly nouns. Dr. Yamin has not dealt with every single word in his book; rather, the book concentrates on general knowledge of the dialects (Yamin, 2009). Therefore, no research has been done on the study of noun dialects of the western region of Afghanistan. Recently, a book entitled "Persian-Dari Dialectology" was written by associate professor Azima Majidi, which is a new attempt made to explore more on noun dialects and structures in Afghanistan (Majidi, 2009). However, this study does not contain the Farahi dialect. Therefore, this study is a novel work on the Farahi dialect in which the authors studies the nouns and noun phrases of Farah Dari.

3. Methodology
A qualitative study designed to investigate the noun phrase structures in the Persian dialect of Farah province. Both field and library research methods were used to conduct the study.

3.1 Participants
The participants were all native speakers of the Farahi Dari native speakers and had almost all their lives in the Farah Province of Afghanistan.

3.2 Data Collection
A 10-week period was spent collecting the primary data for the present study in Farah Province of Afghanistan. The data were collected in two ways. First, the native speakers' conversations were recorded spontaneously in the markets and mosques. Second, almost 30 Farah University Students were asked to converse about food, parts of the body, relatives, animals, and some other stuff for five minutes. The data were recorded using a voice recorder at a distance of 20 CM from the participants.

3.3 Data Analysis
The recorded data were transcribed and then analyzed using categories based on the types of words and dialects used.

4. Results and Discussion
Nouns are words to name humans, animals, things, and places (Yamin, 2015). In the dialect of the people of Farah, the use of nouns after verbs is used more and has been subject to change. There are different types of nouns that face changes in the Farahi dialect of Persian-Dari.

4.1 Common Noun:
Common nouns refer to any group of people, places, or things that are the same type (Cambridge Grammar). That is all objects that have a specific name for everyone in a language. For example, the words "table", "river", and "teacher" are common nouns.

Common nouns are used differently in various dialects. In the Farahi dialect, they have changed from their original state and taken on different forms.

Examples:

گوساله **گسله**: (Calf)

This is a common noun that faced a reduction in dialect. Instead of saying (goosala), the noun dialectically changes to (gosla).

Also, (egg) تخم مرغ :**ترمغ** . It is a compound noun that faced reduction. It can express a common noun meaning in the sentence. The following chart contains some more examples.

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
Calf	گُسلَه	goslæ	گوساله	Gosālæ
egg	تُرمّغ	tormogh	تخم مرغ	Toxm morgh

Hole	نَخرَه	næxræ	سوراخ	sùràkh
Sip	گُولُم	golæm	شُپ، جُرعه	ʃop, joræ
crow	گَراغ	gorāgh	زاغ	zāgh
	کَرَک	korāk	بُودنه	bùdānā

4.2 Nouns referring to parts of the body:
People of Farah have their own special dialects of nouns for parts of the body. Here are some of them.

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
nose	پُوز	pùz	بینی	bìnì
Forehead	پِینَک	pìnæk	پیشانی	pêʃànì
eye	چِیش	tʃìʃ	چشم	tʃêʃm
Cheek	لَمبُس	lùmbùs	گُومَه	komê
Soft palate	مَلَه زَبوتَک	mêlàzàbùek	زبانچه	zêbàntʃê
Eyelashes	مَجگ	mêjàk	مژه	mezhê
Box	گُورمُشت	gùrmoʃt	بوکس	box
Ribs	غَزَه	ghêzà	قبرغه	qaberghê

4.3. Nouns referring to relatives:
The names of relatives are also considered common nouns. Because the discussion of nouns referring to relatives is not found in any Persian-Dari grammar; however, it has found a special place in the dialect of the people of Farah. This type of noun can also be considered a common noun since they are used equally by the referents.

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
Newborn	پُوتَک	pùtêk	نوزاد	nowzàd
Sister-in-law	خوشلُوچه	khoʃlùtʃê	شوهر/خواهر زن	ʃowhêr/khahêr zên
My baby	خُورکَک مه	khorêghêkmê	طفلم	tìflom
Grandfather	بابو	bàbù	پدرکلان	pedêrkêlàn
Father	پِیَر	pìyêr	پدر	pedêr
Big sister	دَدَه	dêdà	خواهر بزرگ	khahêrbozùrg
Brother	لَعله	làlê	برادر	barodêr
Grandmother	انا	anà	مادر کلان	motherkalàn
Grandchild	نَماسَه	nomàsê	نواسه	nowàsê

4.4 The noun words for time:
The noun words for time in the Dari language are in various forms – simple and real, such as: day, night, morning, evening, etc. (Majid, 2019). The following words, which are also called adverbs of time, are seen in Farahi dialects.

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
Noon	نیم رُوزَه	nìmroz	چاشت	tʃàʃt
Last night	دیشنَه	dìʃnê	دیشب	dìʃêb
Summer	تَمُوس	tamùs	تابستان	tàbstàn

4.5 The nouns referring to places
Place nouns shows refer to places such as city, house, country, forest, etc. (Yamin, 2015).

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
Ceiling	کُولَک	kùlak	سقف خانه	saqfkhànê
Corridor	بَرَندَه	baranda	دهلیز	dahlìz
Yard	گَاش	gàʃ	صحن حویلی	sahnhawili
Dessert	دَغال	daghàl	دشت	daʃt
Stable	تَبله	têbìla	طویله	tawila
Beehive	غال گُوج	ghàlgùj	خانه زنبور	khànêzanbùr

4.6 Nouns referring to apparatus:

Different tools have various names. In Farsi-Dari, the tools and devices' names exist in simple and real ways, as some of them are shown in the table below.

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
Spoon	غَشغ	ghaʃigh	قاشق	qȧʃūq
Pot	غِلیف	ghalif	دیگ	deigh
Cupboard	کَمُود	kamȕd	الماری	almaȧrȉ
Water glass	تَاس	tȧs	ظرف آب	Zarfeȧb
Teapot	کَتری	katrȉ	چای‌جوش	tʃȧijȕʃ
Stove	کُوتَه یٰاتَه	kȕtapȧya	اجاق	ojȧq
Water jug	یارچ	pȧrtʃ	جک آب	jakȧb
Radio	ټِیپ	tayp	رادیو	rȧdeo
Cart	فُرغُون	forghȕn	کراچی	karȧtʃȉ
Bed	کَت	kat	چیرکت	tʃaparkat
Bicycle	چَرخ	tʃêrkh	بایسکل	bicykel
Knife	چاخُون	tʃȧghon	چاقو	tʃȧqȕ
Lock	غُلف	ghêlf	قفل	qofol

4.7 Onomatopoeia:

There are several types of morphemes and sound words in the Persian language. Some of them come to express emotional and sudden states such as showing surprise, regret, admiration, etc. However, there are other sound words that are used to name different sounds produced by humans, animals, or nature. Here are some of them.

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
Thunder	یاتَه	Paia	رعد و برق	rȧd barq
Oh!	یُوه	ȕ:h	کلمه تعجب	kalȉmêtaȧjub
sadness	جیزییز	gȉzpȉz	جگرخون شدن	Jigarkhonshudan
Bark	غَج غَج	Ghaj ghaj	صدای سگ	sêdaȉsag
Frying	چلیزو یلیز	chalpêz pliz	سرخ کردن چیزی	sȕrkhkardan
tear	تریش تریش	têresh	پاره پاره	pȧrakardên

4.8 Proper Nouns:

Proper nouns refer to certain objects, people, and places (Ghaznavi, 2010). Proper nouns cannot be plural.

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
Thorn	چَغَک	Chghak	خار	khȧr
Cereal	غلور	ghalȕr	حبوباتی	hubȕbȧt
Farah	فَرَه	frê	فراه	fêrȧh
Sparrow	چُغَک	Chughak	گنجشک	Gunjushk
Bird	یلیلاسی	palpêlȧsȉ	پرنده	pêrandêh
Quail	کَرَک	Garak	بُودَنَه	bȕdêneh

4.9 Nouns referring to clothes:

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
Clothe	جل	jil	لباس	libȧs
trousers	جوصَن	jȕman	شلوار	ʃêlwȧr
Wallet	تُبرَه	têbêrê	کیف	kȉf
Turban	لَنگوتَه	lagȕtê	دستار	dêstȧr
Socks	یاکَش	pȧkêʃ	جوراب	jȕrȧb

4.10 Food and fruit:

English	Farahi Script	Phonetics	Standard Script	Phonetics
Watermelon	کَخَک	Kakhuk	تربوز	têrbȕz
Chewing gum	جَک	Jak	ساجق	sȧjuq
Melon	گَلو	galȕ	خربوزۀ	kharbȕzê
Candy	دَشلمه	daʃlêmê	شیرینی	ʃirinȉ
Lentils	لَیّه	lapê	دال‌نخود	dȧlnêkhȕd
Banana	مُوز	mȕz	کیله	kilê

5. Conclusion

The present study attempts to explore the dialectical differences between standard Dari and the one spoken in the Farah province of Afghanistan. Findings show the fact that the Persian language of the people of Farah province is expanding compared to other languages, and as a result, the language dialect is getting stronger. There are some transformations seen in the Persian-Dari dialect of the Farahi people. These changes could be a reduction, increase, and word transformation, as well as the shape of most of the nouns they use in their daily speech. Thus, the researchers considered it important to be studied, which has not been done so. Since this study is the first attempt, further research is required to explore the differences in the Farahi Dari dialect.

Conflicts of Interest: "The authors declare no conflict of interest.
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