Extended Abstract

Similative Constructions in Persian Language

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Introduction

This study focuses on exploring the similative constructions in Persian language. Similative constructions are a type of comparative constructions in which we evaluate(compare) one person or thing with another person or thing. Example (1) as an instance of similative construction, describes how (or in what way) Mary sings. In such case Mary cannot consider to be a nightingale but the way or the manner of her singing is exemplified by the manner a nightingale sings.

1. Mary sings as a nightingale.

Similative construction is a type of comparison using another person or thing as a standard. In this research, we will examine the types of similative constructions in Persian language, in this regard, we will mainly use the methodological of Haspelmath and Bachholtz (1998) and Noose (2009). Based on this, in the present study, we intend to answer the following two questions:

1) What strategies are there to encode similative constructions in Persian language?

2) What is the fix order of the main elements in similative constructions?

It should be noted that there have been few researches about similative and equative constructions in Persian, some of which will be mentioned below.

Najafi and Moazipour (2022) based on the opinions of Haspelmath (2017) and Nose (2009) discuss and investigate the types of similative and equative constructions in Lori Silakhouri dialect. This dialect is prevalent in the Silakhor region of Lorestan [which includes the cities of Doroud and Borujerd]. The authors acknowledge that the speakers of Lori Silakhouri mainly use three strategies to express the concept of similarity which include: 1)

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similative particle, 2) absence of particle, and 3) similative predicate. In the following, based on the data, the authors introduce eight types of strategies to encode the concept of equality in Lori Silakhouri. In addition, their findings indicate that there is a tendency to omit the parameter in both similative and equative constructions in the Silakhouri dialect. Najafi et al. (2022) study the types of equative constructions in the Turkish (Azerbaijani) language based on the opinions and methodology of Haspelmath (2017). Their findings confirm that there are five main strategies in encoding equative constructions in Azerbaijani Turkish. Najafi and Rahimian (2020) based on the approach of Hespelmet (2017) discuss and investigate about equative constructions in Persian language. The authors introduce seven types of equative constructions in Persian based on spoken Persian language data. Also, their findings show that the structure of the Persian language works to confirm the generalizations proposed by Hespelmet (2017).

Materials & Methods

We use the descriptive-analytical method for analyzing the data. The data of the current research also consists of 739 similative and equative from the Persian language, which are mainly extracted from contemporary stories, scripts, and colloquial Persian dictionary (Najafi, 2018). The mentioned sources are electronic and the data collection method was based on searching keywords. These keywords include similative particles (mesl, šabih, etc.) or similative predicates (manestan, raftan, etc).

Results & Discussion

In the current research, in a general classification, we divided all kinds of similative constructions in two categories, lexical constructions and syntactic constructions.

3.1. Morphological similative.

Type 1. *Particle*. The use of particle in similative construction is one of the productive strategies in Persian language. In this strategy, similative particles such as, mesle, šabih, manand, etc. appear in the standard marker position:

2) divɑreš eyn/ mesl/ šabih-e pust-e gerdoo ast.

Its wall is the same as walnut skin.

Type 2. *Verbal similative*. In these constructions, a verb is placed in the predicate position of the sentence, which itself expresses similarity, verbs such as mɑnestan, raftan, bordan, etc.

3) Be pedare-š raft-e.

He is like his father.

Type 3. *Essive case*. In Persian language, the morpheme "-var" can be considered as a morpheme showing similarity. The mentioned morpheme is attached to the noun or adjective bases and expresses the state of simile.

4) divɑne-vɑr faryad mizad.

She/ he screamed madly.

3.2. Syntactic similative.

In these types of constructions, a phrase or clause is placed in an adjunct position (adverbial) for the predicate of the main clause or the whole clause and encodes the concept of comparison in terms of similarity. In the following, the types of syntactic constructions will be introduced.

Type 1. *Disjunct.*

5) Mesl-e hamsar-am (ke qarč dust nadarad) man ham qarč dust nadarm.

Like my wife (who doesn't like mushrooms), I don't like mushrooms either.

Type2. *Role phrase.*

6) Man in rɑ mesl-e mɑdar-at be to mi-guy-am.

I say this as your mother.

Type 3. *Similative clause.*

7) ba'azi-hɑ češm-e-šan rɑ mi-band-and va šansi entexɑb mi-kon-and, mesl-e bardɑštan-e yek belit lottery.

Some close their eyes and take a chance, like picking a lottery ticket.

Type four. *Simile clause.*

8) moč-e dast-am hanouz ke be yɑd-e an mi-oft-am. engɑr dor-e moč-am yek alangu-y-e atɑši gozɑšte bašand.

My wrist still burns when I think about it. It's like they put a fire bracelet around my wrist

Type five. *Accord clause.*

9) hamɑn tor ke dɑnešman-ɑn modat-hɑ piš pišbini kard-e budan-d, jav-e zamin be tadrij dar hɑl-e garm šodan ast.

As scientists have long predicted, the earth's atmosphere is heating up gradually.

Conclusion

In the present study, an attempt was made to analyze similative constructions in Persian language. Based on the results, it can be concluded that similative constructions in Persian language are generally encoded based on two morphological and syntactic strategies. In the morphological construction strategy, we can consider three types of similative constructions with similative particle, similative predicate and essive case. At the level of syntax, there are phrases and clauses that add the concept of similarity to the whole structure in an adjunct form and include disjunct constructions, role phrases, similative clause, simile clause, and accord clause. In the Persian language, due to the nature of its free lexical order, it cannot be proven that similative elements can be assigned to a fixed position, but regarding the position of the standard marker and marker, we would say that; All features are based on the principle that standard marker placed before standard but in essive cases standard marker attached to standard so it is in post-positional position.

Keywords: Comparison, Equative Construction, Morphological Strategy, Similative Construction, Syntactic Strategy

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