

Extended Abstract

The course of development of the border Balochi language in the Rigan region of Kerman compared to border Balochi

Aliye Nakheipur¹

Ph.D. in Linguistics. Visiting Professor in Islamic
Azad University. Zarand Branch, Zarand, Iran.
nakheipur@gmail.com

Seyfollah Mollaei Pashaei

Assistant Professor
Linguistics Department, Payam-e Noor University,
Tehran, Iran.

Hamed Mowlaei Kuhbanani

Assistant Professor
Linguistics Department, Vali-e-Asr University, Rafsanjan, Iran.

Introduction

The Balochi language is one of the Northwest Iranian languages that has speakers in Sistan and Baluchistan province, parts of Khorasan, Golestan, Hormozgan, and Kerman provinces in Iran, as well as Baluchistan states of Pakistan and parts of Sindh, Punjab, and Karachi. In general, Iranian languages are divided into ancient, middle, and modern periods in terms of historical development. However, in the case of Balochi, only its new period is known and nothing has been obtained from its ancient and middle periods. The historical study of Balochi language can be done through historical and comparative studies, as well as by taking help from languages related to Balochi, such as Old Persian, Avesta, Middle Persian, Middle Parthian, and New Persian, which have documents from the past. The Rigan Balochi variety is spoken by some speakers living in the Rigan region. This variety was first brought to Rigan by immigrant tribes from Sistan. As a result of the region's proximity to the city of Rudbar-e Jonub and the coexistence of the immigrants with the Persian-speaking natives of the region, a different type of border Balochi language became popular in the city of Rigan. These differences are observed at the phonetic, lexical, and syntactic levels.

Materials & Methods

In order to collect linguistic data, male and female speakers with an average age of 60 years and an average level of literacy at the primary education level who lived in the research area of Rigan city were interviewed. To collect data, a questionnaire containing 208 words

¹ Corresponding Author

and 10 basic sentences was used based on the questionnaires of the “National Linguistic Atlas of Iran” and “Morris Swadesh Basic Vocabulary List”. The study of Balochi language began in the 19th century with the presence of the British in India and their interest in the languages spoken in their territory. Wilhelm Geiger can be mentioned as one of the firsts to study the Balochi language scientifically. In addition to him, we can mention the research of Spooner (1967) & (1971), Elfenbien (1989), Jahani (2003), and Okati (2008); (2010). In Iran, there have been many studies in the field of Balochi language, such as Mahmoudzahi (1999), Ahangar (2003), Ghasemzadeh (2011), and Dabirmoghadam (2013). The current research tries to analyze the linguistic variables in this language variety based on reliable data and a scientific and systematic method in order to identify the evolution of this type of language.

Results & Discussion

Based on the results of the analysis and review of the research data, it was determined that the common Balochi variety in Rigan city has undergone the following changes compared to the border Balochi.

1. Compound vowels /Iə /&/ ʊə/

Rigan Balochi variety, like border Balochi varieties, in addition to short vowels /o/, /e/, /æ/ and the long vowels /u/, /i/, /a/, there are also two compound vowels /Iə /&/ /ʊə/, which seem to be remnants of ancient Iranian compound vowels /au/ & /ai/.

2. Trilled

One of the distinguishing features of Rigan's Balochi variety with border Balochi language varieties is related to the use of the trilled phoneme /R/. Rostami Abu Saidi (2010: 109) has pointed out the semantic distinction of the use of two types of phonemes /r/ in Bashgardi dialect, including Rudbari dialect.

3. Consonance cluster /θr/

According to Abolghasemi, the ancient Iranian consonant cluster /θr/ mainly turns into /s/ in Middle Persian and New Persian. The Rigan Balochi variety also uses the consonant cluster /θr/ like the border Balochi language varieties.

4. Plural suffix /-on/

Plural suffix In the Rigan Balochi variety, the plural sign /-on/ is used to pluralize nouns, just like border Balochi varieties and Rudbari dialect.

5. Continuous prefix /ʔæ-/

In the constructions of the present participle, past continuous and past participle, the continuous prefix /ʔæ-/ is used instead of standard Persian prefix /mi-/. The continuous prefix /ʔæ-/ is also used in Roudbari dialect. In border Balochi language, according to Mahmoudzahi (1999: 62), the suffix /-æŋ/ is used to express continuity.

6. Derivative suffixes /-æŋ /&/ -æ/

Derivative suffixes /-æŋ /&/ -æ/ are added to some verbs and nouns in Rigan Balochi, like border Balochi language varieties, and make them nouns or adjectives.

7. Debuccalization process

In this case, like many dialects of the border Balochi language, the fricative consonants become /h/. The conversion of the consonant to pharyngeal is also noticeable in Rudbari dialect.

8. Ergative construction

Ergative construction is used in Rigan's Balochi variety, like Rudbari dialect and border Balochi language. In this type, the agent is connected as a personal pronoun and is considered the main component.

Conclusion

Rigan city has a lot of diversity in terms of language because some features of the border Balochi language, Farsi and Rudbari dialect can be seen in this language. The present study analyzed the linguistic variables in the common Balochi variety in Rigan city. The results indicate that Rigan's Balochi varies in features such as the plurality of specific words of the Balochi language, compound vowels /Iə /&/ uə/, ancient Iranian consonant cluster /θr/, plural suffix /-on/, noun-forming and adjective-forming suffixes /-æj /&/ -æ/, the process of debuccalization and the use of ergative construction as the border Balochi language has preserved, but it has been affected by the proximity to the Rudbari dialect in the use of the trilled phoneme /R/ and continuous prefix /ʔæ-/.

Keywords: Rigan Balochi Variety; Border Balochi Variety; Diphthongs; Consonant Cluster; Phonemic Process.

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