Extended Abstract

The analysis of Metathesis process in Digehsaraee Taleshi Dialect within the framework of Optimality Theory

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Introduction

The process of the metathesis has been analyzed from different historical, social, phonetic, psychological and taxonomical aspects. From the phonological point of view, this process is analyzed in terms of the nature of the shifting phonemes, their position in the phonological system, compliance with phonemic restrictions, and compliance with well-constructed phonological patterns. While reviewing these points of view, the present article analyzes the nature of the process of the metathesis Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect from a phonological point of view.

The present research analyzes the process of the metathesis in DigehsaraeeTaleshi dialect within the framework of the optimality theory. Metathesis process can be regular or irregular according to the field of function. Regarding the analyzed data, which are related to Digehsarai Taleshi Dialect, we cannot speak about its regularity. Because while in some cases the output of the heart process has been consistent with the sonority sequence principle and the absorption principle, in other cases it has changed the sequence of phonemes that were subject to the sonority sequence principle and the absorption principle in the opposite direction.

The current research, which was carried out adopting a descriptive-analytical method and based on the theory of optimality, seeks to find an answer to the question that what phonetic and phonological factors are involved in the metathesis process in Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect? Attempt was made to investigate the reason for the metathesis process in Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect in the framework of optimality theory.

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Research background

In most of the conducted researches, the process of the metathesis in order to achieve the sonority sequence principle, compliance with the obligatory contour principle or the principle of absorption has been considered. Atai (2013) and Berzio (2002) do not consider the sonority sequence principle as the driving force of the metathesis process, but consider the obligatory contour principle or the principle of absorption as a main driving force. Gutiérrez (2010) considers the process of the metathesis as a regular and productive phenomenon. Bradley (2006) considers the metathesis to be an irregular and unpredictable process. Hume (1998) considers the main cause of metathesis to be avoiding complex syllabic edges and avoiding hiatus and avoiding syllables without onset. Hume (2001) considers the process of the metathesis as a factor for ease of perception and production. Nurcherani (2022) states that in the metathesis process, consonants change their places in the middle of words with vowels at the end of words. The current article considers the process of the metathesis to be irregular and unpredictable according to the phonetic system of the Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect and the words as evidence in this dialect. In some cases, the process of the metathesis was in accordance with the sonority sequence principle, and in other cases, it worked the opposite way. In some cases, the metathesis process has been mandatory to comply with the obligatory contour principle so that two continuant features do not come together, but in some cases the opposite has happened.

Research Methods

The method of conducting this research is descriptive and analytical. The linguistic data used were conducted through interviews with 30 speakers (fifteen women and fifteen men) living in Digehsara Talesh region, between the ages of thirty-five and sixty-five. Factors such as age, gender and level of education are taken into account in the selection of speakers. Also, the writer is a speaker of this dialect. The framework used in this research is the theory of Optimality, which is one of the dominant theories in this decade and is very popular and influential in linguistics. The main goal of the theory of Optimality is to compare options according to a hierarchy of constraints.

Results and Discussion

The metathesis process in Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect works in the direction of optimal syllable construction. In other words, the Sonority Sequence Principle within one syllable in monosyllabic words and the Syllable Contact Law at the border of two syllables in two syllable words have been observed. Evidence shows that less sonorant the onset, the more consistent it is with the Syllable Contact Law and the less influenced by the metathesis process.

Non-contiguous metathesis occurs when the order of non-contiguous elements in a word is changed, which is an option to compensate for a variety of phonologically bad constructions, which is a violation of the linearity constraint. A number of languages allow

both ocntiguous and non-contiguous metathesis, while some languages only accept contiguous metathesis. An ocntiguous metathesis causes only one violation of the linearity constraint, while a non- ocntiguous metathesis causes two or more violations of the linearity constraint. Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect accepts both types of metathesis.

Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect prefers metathesis over deletion and insertion, so in the ranking of constraints, deletion and insertion should be ranked higher than LIN constraint. In Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect, for example in facs, the replacement of two sounds [c] and [s] shows that the continuant consonant [s] tends to be placed next to another continuant sound, the vowel [a]. In other words, the vowel with the [continuant] feature attracts the continuant consonant to itself, and by moving two consonants, Sonority Sequence Principle is automatically observed. Then the contiguity of two [+continuant] features activates the obligatory contour principle and leads to the merging of this feature between two adjacent phones. Borrowed words such as fax, fix, mix, lux, wax, and box in Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect undergo the metathesis process that changes the sequence /cs/ to sequence /sc/ and there are a series of words specific to Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect that naturally have the sequence of /sc/ such as "lisk", "chəsk" and "task", but there are a series of words in Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect that changed the sequence of /sc/ to the sequence of /cs/ as a result of the metathesis process, which violates the Sonority Sequence Principle,and the absorption principle, for example, "flask" , "risk", and "mask" are pronounced in the form of "flaks", "riks", and "maks", and there are a series of words specific to the Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect, which have the /cs/ sequence by nature, such as "achəkste", "pechəkste", dachəkste,and etc.

Conclusion

Regarding the metathesis process in Digehsaraee Taleshi dialect, it can be said that we cannot talk about the order of the metathesis process in the analyzed data. Because in some cases, the output of the metathesis process has been consistent with the Sonority Sequence Principle and absorption principle while in other cases, the metathesis process has changed the sequence of phonemes that were subject to the Sonority Sequence Principle or the absorption principle. No specific reason was found for the non-ontiguous metathesis, and we can only mention the ease of perception and production in speech.

Keywords: phonological metathesis, regular metathesis, irregular metathesis, Sonority Sequence Principle, absorption principle, optimality theory

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