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Extended Abstract

The Role of Color-words in the Construction of Toponymy Names in Iran

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Introduction

Geographical names such as peak, valley, desert, mountain, river and the like have little changes in the face of social changes. As the language of a society changes, place names may change in some cases. For example, they should be shortened and translated, their sounds should be harmonized with the phonetic system of the common language in every age. However, the generality of geographical names often remains in place.

The residents of each region have tried to find the root or meaning of the name of their place of residence in different periods, or if they did not find it, they would pass on whatever came to their mind to others. From such efforts, there is a lot of research, both in the form of books and in the form of scattered writings, in which strange comments about a number of Iran's place names are expressed. The main feature of these popular etymologies is that they often try to link the name and meaning of that place to very distant periods and to one of the historical or mythological kings and great men. For example, the name of the city of Astara is taken from the name of Ki Khosro's wife! (Qadakasaz, 1996: 8). Such opinions can be seen throughout traditional research related to the names of geographical places.

Materials & Methods

The method of conducting this research was that, first, a list of place names was prepared from the list of names of Iranian localities uploaded in the national statistics portal of Iran*, which is composed of one of the Persian language words such as black, white, green, red and yellow. Blueness and their other forms have a role in Persian language or one of the common languages in Iran. These names have been checked together by comparative method in terms of construction. In addition to the national portal of Statistics of Iran have also been used from other library sources. In this research, an effort has been made to mention the exact addresses of all the names. This has inevitably assigned a part of the research to itself.

Ahdian and Bakhtiari (2009) have mentioned many foreign toponymic terms in the Persian equivalent. Bakhtiari (2011) has pointed out good points about etymology in the popular

* <https://www.amar.org.ir/>

etymology of Iranian place names (faking history and identity). Abdi et al. (2016), investigate the relationship between the language of the region under study and the place names of that region. Borjian (2018) concludes that the frequency of the word 'demon' in the names of Central Alborz determines the weakness of the foundation of Mazda worship in the eyes of the Caspian people. Sabzalipour (2016) investigated a number of toponyms of the Tat-speaking regions of Khalkhal. EbrahimiJuybari (2017) expressed the efforts of poets in using the nominative form of names in cultivating literary concepts in the form of allegory.

Results & Discussion

In examining place names, the method of construction, origin, meaning and physical characteristics of the mentioned place are always very important. In this research, an attempt has been made to determine the effect of colors on making toponyms. In the investigated place names of this research, most of the main color-words are used. In a few cases, the names of a few sub-words, such as 'bruise' and 'qashqa' (darkness or two colors of the animal's forehead) are found. Sometimes, instead of color-words, we see words that somehow refer to color. Like 'zarrin' (golden), which refers to the color 'yellow'. As mentioned below, this morpheme is not a color-word, but because it is assigned to the color of gold, it indirectly carries the meaning of 'yellow'. Below are the color-words involved in the construction of place names.

White (Sefid) is one of the color-words that play an essential role in the construction of place names throughout Iran. Sometimes, instead of white, its equivalent or its translations have been used. For example, its dialectal forms such as Sepid, Spaid, Esbi, Aq (in Turkish) and Bayaz (in Arabic) have been used in the construction of Jainam. Like 'SefidDasht', 'ChameSepid'.

Black (Siyah) is also one of the other color-words that plays an essential role in the construction of Iranian place names. This color-word, with its equivalent in the Azeri Turkish language 'Qara', in various Iranian dialects 'Siyah' and in the Lakki dialect 'Sey', shows itself in the names of many villages in Iran, such as 'siyâhcheshmeh' and 'black spring'.

Red is another color-word that plays a role in making many names in Iran. This morpheme in Farsi is in the form of 'red', in a number of dialects such as 'Sehr', 'Sor'. In the Pahlavi language, Sukhrsuxr (Hasandoost, 2013: 1714) and in Turkish as 'qarmzi' are used to make many place names, such as 'QarmezTepe' and 'QarmezQashlaq'.

Green is one of the other color-words that play a role in the construction of Iranian place names. This morpheme in the form of 'green', 'sabzeh' and 'suz' plays a role in the construction of Iranian names, such as 'ChahSabz' and 'Sabzekhani' (Green spring).

Conclusion

The result of the survey shows that one of the most frequent features in the construction of place names is the use of color-words. The color of the soil, or the bed of the earth, the color of plants and flowers, as well as their different effects from a distance (such as the dark or green color of the sea from a distance), the color of metals and minerals, and things like that have made the people of every society for the first time, the appearance of each place to refer to it. What emerges from this research is that in every language there are features that are involved in the construction of nouns. Color-words are also one of those attributes that play a direct role in the construction of Iran's place names or Toponymy. That is, from the combination of a color-

word and another morpheme (which is often the morpheme of a genitive (such as valley, hill, spring, castle, kalat, etc.)) a genitive is obtained.

Keywords: Color-word; Toponymy; Color; Geographical-name.

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