

**Extended Abstract**

**Description of phoneme structure of Bolkheyr dialect: An IPA approach**

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**Introduction**

Tangestan county in Bushehr province has two districts, central and Delvar. Bolkheyr Village is the center of Bolkheyr rural district of Delvar district. Bolkheyr dialect is a variety of Tangsir (Tangestan) dialect. In this study, the phonetic system of this dialect has been described and analyzed using the IPA<sup>2</sup> method. In the current research, phonology, distribution and features of consonants and vowels, phonetic processes and syllable structure have also been analyzed. Using the aforementioned analyses, phonetic analysis has been conducted and also a part of the selected vocabulary is presented as the research sample. Bolkheyr dialect is one of the modern southern dialects of Iran. However, to be exact, its phonetic features show that it originates from the southwestern branch of languages of Iran. One of the prominent features of these regions is the preservation of old dialects. Although the villages in these areas are not far from each other, it is worth mentioning that some of these neighboring villages also show dialectical differences. Such differences are so substantial that there are as many Tangsir dialect varieties as these villages. Bolkheyr dialect has considerable similarities with Dashti, Delvar, Larestan, Kerman dialects, and some types of Lori dialect. Moreover, expressions and vocabulary of Sasanian Pahlavi (Middle Persian) can also be abundantly found in Tangsir dialect.

**Materials & Methods**

In this research, the data were collected, examined, and described respectively, through using a combination of field research (interviews with native-speakers) and

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descriptive-analytical method with library research tools. To extract minimal pairs and phonemes of Bolkheyr dialect, the theory of Prague school was adopted as the theoretical foundation in this research.

Zende-budi (2004) studied public culture and literature, vocabulary, and some syntactic structures of Tangsir dialect. In another study, Vahedi-Langrudi and Mamasani (2004) investigated the system of personal pronouns in Delvar dialect. Yazdan-Shenas (2005) has studied the linguistic aspects of Tangestan dialect. In addition, Kord-Zafaranlu and Mamsani (2006) have described and investigated the phonological system of the Delvar dialect. Also, Hajiyani (2008) described the phonological system of Tangestan dialect. Khalili (2011) provided a diachronic description of the phonetic system and noun and verb conjugations in Tangsir dialect. Pur-ebrahim and Vahedi-Langrudi (2013) described the verb structure in Delvar dialect. In another study, Nemati and Nouruzi (2015) explored the description of syntactic and semantic uses of the preposition 'si' in Delvar dialect and examined its historical background. Moreover, Baba-salari, Yazdan-Shenash, Sharaf-Zadeh and Yazdani (2019) identified of clitics in Tangestan dialect in their study.

The purpose of this research was to investigate the chain features (phonetic construction, phonology, syllabic construction, and syllabic processes) in Bolkheyr dialect through analyzing the collected linguistic corpus using the IPA method.

## Discussion and Review

In the present study, first, by extracting minimal pairs (in different lexical positions based on the theory of Prague school) in a special order, each group of phonemes of the Bolkheyr dialect was investigated using the IPA method. The pulmonic consonants of the Bolkheyr dialect can be described and analyzed according to their manner of articulation, which are plosives, fricatives, nasals, approximants, laterals, trills, and affricates. In the Bolkheyr dialect, the plosive consonants /p, b, t, d, k, g, ʔ/ and also the fricative consonants /f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, ʁ, ʁ, h/ are used. Furthermore, nasal consonants /m, n, ŋ/ and two approximants /j/, /w/ are also used. Moreover, in Bolkheyr dialect, there is only one lateral /l/ and one trill /r/. In addition, two affricates /dʒ/ and /tʃ/ are used. Based on the extracted minimal pairs of vowels, the Bolkheyr dialect contains six monophthongs and three diphthongs, which are divided into two groups of back and front. Moreover, all the diphthongs in Bolkheyr dialect are of double type.

In this dialect, every word that at first glance seems to start with vowel, actually starts with the consonant /ʔ/ (glottal stop which is equivalent to Hamza) like (water) /ʔou/.

In the Bolkheyr dialect, two consonants cannot be placed together at the beginning of a syllable. Therefore, borrowed words with this feature are also localized, and an intervening vowel comes between the two consonants: /klas/ → /kelas/.

In this dialect, native-speakers localize loanwords that end in more than two

consonants by adding an intervening vowel between the consonants: /lustr/ → /luster/

In the Bolkheyr dialect, as in standard Persian language, syllables are divided into three general categories of light, heavy, and super heavy in terms of syllable weight. These groups are later divided into short, long, open, and closed types.

Consonants and vowels affect each other when they are next to each other. The manifestation of the inevitable influence of phonemes on each other is called phonological or phonetic process. This process is also a part of people's unconscious knowledge in relation to the Bolkheyr dialect. What shows the importance of studying these types of processes in this dialect is the fact that these processes bring about changes in the pronunciation of the standard form of linguistic constructions that make native speakers' speech difficult to understand for non-natives who are trying to learn that language.

### Conclusion

According to the findings of this research, the Bolkheyr dialect has 25 pulmonic consonants and 9 vowels.

Consonants: /p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, ʧ, ʤ, χ, γ, m, n, ŋ, l, r, w, j, h, ʔ/

Vowels are of two types: monophthongs and diphthongs:

Monophthongs: /i, e, a, ɒ, o, u/

Diphthongs: /ei, oi, ou/

In this dialect, there are two consonants in addition to standard Persian consonants: /w, ŋ/.

The phonological processes of assimilation, dissimilation, elision, addition, and metathesis exist in this dialect, among which elision and metathesis are the most frequent, especially together. In this dialect, all syllables begin with a consonant, and two consonants cannot be placed together at the beginning of a syllable. In the Bolkheyr dialect, as in Standard Persian, words do not end in over two consonants. Syllable structure in the Bolkheyr dialect is divided into three main categories in terms of syllable weight:

- Light syllables: (cv)
- Heavy syllables: (cv:) and (cvc)
- Superheavy syllables: (cv:c), (cvcc), and (cv:cc)

To summarize syllable structures in the Bolkheyr dialect, the following general formula can be used: cv(:)(c(c))

Additionally, the least frequent syllabic pattern in this dialect is (cv:cc) and the most frequent syllabic pattern is cv.

### Keywords

Tangsir Dialect; Bolkheyr dialect; Phonology; Minimal pair; Vowel; Consonant

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