

Extended Abstract

**The comparative construction of the verb in some border dialects of
Razavi Khorasan**

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1. Introduction

Persian is spoken in Khorasan in various dialects, some of which are closer to standard Persian and have greater mutual intelligibility. Unlike the Persian dialects of the central and southern parts of Khorasan, the Persian dialects of North Khorasan do not have sufficient homogeneity.

Klabasi has placed the dialects of the Khorasan region under the umbrella of the modern Southwest Iranian languages. In contrast to Ivanov, who considered the differences between the diverse varieties of the Khorasan dialect to be at the level of dialectal differences (Klabasi, 1388: 35).

Today, the Persian-speaking population mostly resides in the central and southern regions of Khorasan. Dialects such as Sabzevari, Neyshabouri, Kashmiri, Torbati (Torbate Heidarieh), Jami (Torbate Jam), Khafi, and Ganabadi in Khorasan Razavi, as well as Birjandi, Qaeni, Tabsi, and the Ferdowsi dialect in South Khorasan are considered examples of authentic Khorasan dialects.

Vocabulary similarities, along with grammatical similarities in the realm of verb conjugation, can be traced among some border Persian dialects in the southern regions of Khorasan Razavi. The inclusion of these common words in the speech of residents of this region is evident and indicates cultural commonalities between these areas.

This article aims to introduce some of the similarities and differences between several border Persian dialects in the southern regions of Khorasan Razavi (the cities of Khaf, Taybad, and Torbate Jam), and examine a part of the border dialects of eastern Iran from the perspective of verb construction variations.

2. Research Methodology

Masoud Amiri-Nejad (1375), Jahangir Timuri (1388), Alireza Zangeneh (1388), and Ahmad Shokati Rudi (1388) studied the dialect of the people of Khaf. Rahmatullah Kazemi (1379), Hossein Ali Zangeneh (1384), Hamideh Nik-Qadami (1395), Amin Zolfagari (1397), and Mohaddiseh Payame-Askari (1400) have conducted research on the dialect of Taybad County. Mahmoud Elyasi (1369), Mohammad-Naser Shafiee-Jafarabad (1367), Abdolnaser Ahmadi Bankdar (1374), Hamira Jami-al-Ahmadi (1389), Benjamin Sangak Khas Boozgani (1398), Abdolrahman Zamani (1398), Gholamreza Ranjbar Abdal-Abadi (1399), Nasser Noorozi (1399), and Nafiseh Soleimani (1400) have published studies on the introduction of the dialect of the people of Torbat-e Jam. This research, which is based on field study in the area of comparative study of eastern border dialects, has the task of examining verb conjugation variations in the Khafi, Taybadi, and Jami dialects. This research is the result of field-library research in which, through direct observation and interviews with five native (male and female) low-literate speakers over the age of 60 in two genders in each of the dialects in question, the necessary data was extracted and recorded. The data of the research corpus is introduced using the IPA transcription system.

3. Results & Discussion

The verb system (tenses and verb conjugation) in most border Persian dialects of southern Khorasan Razavi is more diverse than standard Persian. However, despite overall similarities, there are also differences between the verb structure in these dialects and standard Persian. In the following, the conjugation of the verb in different tenses in the three border dialects is presented.

3-1. Present Indicative

Table 1.

Verb Conjugation Present Indicative

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	me-xor-om	me-xor-i	me-xor-æ	me-xor-em	me-xor-en	me-xor-æn
Taybadi	me-xor-om	me-xor-i	me-xor-æ	me-xor-em	me-xor-en	me-xor-æn
Jami	mo-xor-om	mo-xor-i	mo-xor-æ	mo-xor-em	mo-xor-en	mo-xor-æn

Table 2.

Verb Conjugation Present Subjunctive

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	bæ-xor-om	bæ-xor-i	bæ-xor-æ	bæ-xor-em	bæ-xor-en	bæ-xor-æn
Taybadi	be-xor-om	be-xor-i	be-xor-æ	be-xor-em	be-xor-en	be-xor-æn
Jami	bo-xor-om	bo-xor-i	bo-xor-æ	bo-xor-em	bo-xor-en	bo-xor-æn

Table 3.

Verb Conjugation Present Continuous

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	dær-om me-xor-om	dær-i me-xor-i	dær-æ me-xor-æ	dær-em me-xor-em	dær-en me-xor-en	dær-æn me-xor-æn
Taybadi	hej mo-xor-om	hej mo-xor-i	hej mo-xor-æ	hej mo-xor-em	hej mo-xor-en	hej mo-xor-æn
Jami	der-om mo-xor-om	der-i mo-xor-i	der-æ mo-xor-æ	der-em mo-xor-em	der-en mo-xor-en	der-æn mo-xor-æn

Table 4.

Verb Conjugation Simple Past

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	be-xor-d-om	be-xor-d-i	be-xor-d	be-xor-d-em	be-xor-d-en	be-xor-d-æn
Taybadi	(be)-xor-d-om	(be)-xor-d-i	(be)-xor-(d)	(be)-xor-d-em	(be)-xor-d-en	(be)-xor-d-æn
Jami	be-xor-d-om	be-xor-d-i	be-xor-d-(ek)	be-xor-d-em	be-xor-d-en	be-xor-d-æn

Table 5.

Verb Conjugation Past Continuous

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	me-xor-d-om	me-xor-d-i	me-xor-d	me-xor-d-em	me-xor-d-en	me-xor-d-æn
Taybadi	me-xor-d-om	me-xor-d-i	me-xor-d	me-xor-d-em	me-xor-d-en	me-xor-d-æn
Jami	mo-xor-d-om	mo-xor-d-i	mo-xor-d	mo-xor-d-em	mo-xor-d-en	mo-xor-d-æn

Table 6.

Verb Conjugation Past Subjunctive

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	be-xar-d-æ b-om	be-xar-d-æ b-i	be-xar-d-æ ba	be-xar-d-æ b-em	be-xar-d-æ b-en	be-xar-d-æ b-æn
Taybadi	xor-d-æ bef-om	xor-d-æ bef-i	xor-d-æ bef-æ	xor-d-æ bef-em	xor-d-æ bef-en	xor-d-æ bef-æn
Jami	xor-d-æ bef-om	xor-d-æ bef-i	xor-d-æ bef-æ	xor-d-æ bef-em	xor-d-æ bef-en	xor-d-æ bef-æn

Table 7.

Conjugation of the Continuous Past

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	deft-om me-xor-d-om	deft-i me-xor-d-i	deft me-xor-d	deft-em me-xor-d-em	deft-en me-xor-d-en	deft-æn me-xor-d-æn
Taybadi	hej me-xor-d-om	hej me-xor-d-i	hej me-xor-d	hej me-xor-d-em	hej me-xor-d-en	hej me-xor-d-æn
Jami	deft-om mo-xor-d-om	deft-i mo-xor-d-i	deft (ek) mo-xor-d	deft-em mo-xor-d-em	deft-en mo-xor-d-en	deft-æn mo-xor-d-æn

Table 8.

Conjugation of the Recent Past

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	be-xar-d-æm	be-xar-d-ej	be-xar-d-æ	be-xar-d-ēm	be-xar-d-ēn	be-xar-d-æ̃n
Taybadi	xor'-d-om	xor'-d-i	xor-d-æ	xor'-d-em	xor'-d-en	xor'-d-æ̃n
Jami	be-xo-rd-ōm	be-xor-d-ej	be-xor-d-æ	be-xor-d-ēm	be-xor-d-ēn	be-xor-d-æ̃n

Table 9.

Conjugation of the Continuous Recent Past

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	me-xar-d-æ̃m	me-xar-d-ej	me-xar-d-æ	me-xar-d-ēm	me-xar-d-ēn	me-xar-d-æ̃n
Taybadi	me-xor'-d-om	me-xor'-d-i	me-xor-d-æ	me-xor'-d-em	me-xor'-d-en	me-xor'-d-æ̃n
Jami	mo-xor-d-ōm	mo-xor-d-ej	mo-xor-d-æ	mo-xor-d-ēm	mo-xor-d-ēn	mo-xor-d-æ̃n

Table 10.

Conjugation of the Remote Past

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	be-xar-d-æ bij-om	be-xar-d-æ bij-i	be-xar-d-æ bu	be-xar-d-æ bij-em	be-xar-d-æ bij-en	be-xar-d-æ bij-æ̃n
Taybadi	xor-d-æ bud-om	xor-d-æ bud-i	xor-d-æ bud	xor-d-æ bud-em	xor-d-æ bud-en	xor-d-æ bud-æ̃m
Jami	xor-d-æ bud-om	xor-d-æ bud-i	xor-d-æ bud	xor-d-æ bud-em	xor-d-æ bud-en	xor-d-æ bud-æ̃n

Table 11.

Conjugation of the Future

	1.s	2.s	3.s	1.p	2.p	3.p
Khafi	bæ-xa- xor-d-om	bæ-xa- xor-d-i	bæ-xa- xor-d	bæ-xa- xor-d-em	bæ-xa- xor-d-en	bæ-xa- xor-d-æ̃n
Taybadi	(be)-xæ- xor-d-om	(be)-xæ- xor-d-i	(be)-xæ- xor-d	(be)-xæ- xor-d-em	(be)-xæ- xor-d-en	(be)-xæ- xor-d-æ̃n
Jami	xa- xor-d-om	xa- xor-d-i	xa- xor-d	xa- xor-d-em	xa- xor-d-en	xa- xor-d-æ̃n

4. Conclusion

The Persian dialects of Northern Khorasan lack sufficient uniformity due to their extensive mixing with the languages of migrating Kurdish and Turkish tribes, while the majority of the Persian dialects in the southern regions of Razavi Khorasan have experienced less structural mixing due to their location at the edge of the Lut Desert and exhibit some Middle Persian words and grammatical structures. In the comparative study of verb structures in the border dialects located in southern Razavi Khorasan, including the cities of Khaf, Taybad, and Torbat Jam, differences in verb structures concerning the aspect of continuity in present and past continuous tenses (tangible) as well as the presence of a continuous recent past construction in these dialects, along with the prefix 'be' at the beginning of some past constructions aligned with Middle Persian are identifiable, which are not

observable in Standard Persian and indicate the ancient nature of certain features of these dialects over the northern dialects of Khorasan.

Keywords: Verb construction, Khafi dialect, Taybadi dialect, Jami dialect

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