Journal of Language Researches

Faculty of Letters and Humanities
University of Tehran

Vol. 1 / No. 1
Spring - Summer 2010

Journal of Language Researches

Faculty of Letters and Humanities
University of Tehran

Editorial Board

Nicolas Sims-williams
Professor, School of Oriental and African Studies

Simin Karimi
Professor, University of Arizona

Ali – Ashraf Sadeghi
Professor, University of Tehran

Mohammad-Taghi Rashed Mohassel
Professor, Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies

Yahya Modarresi Tehrani
Professor, Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies

Mahmoud Bijankhan
Associate Professor, University of Tehran

Hasan Rezai Baghbidi
Associate Professor, University of Tehran

Mahmoud Jaafari Dehaghi
Associate professor, University of Tehran

Ali Darzi
Associate professor, University of Tehran

Managing Director: Manouchehr Akbari
Editor – in – chief: Ali Darzi
Editor: Ruhollah Tahmouresi

Rank granted: No. 3/4460 Date: 2008-08-31

All right reserved for the Faculty of Letters and Humanities of University of Tehran

Table of Contents

1. **Topicalization and Focus Movement in Persian A Feature-Based Approach/** Mazdak Anoushe **1**

2. **Study of the Origin of /l/ Phoneme in New Persian /** Rahman Bakhtyari **2**

3. **Verb Structure in Bactrian** / Mahmoud Jaafari Dehaghi **3**

4. **Semantic Aspects of *"bayad"* (must) in Persian/** Mohammad Amouzadeh & Hadaegh Rezaei **4**

5. **A Study of Semantic Shifting in Persian Proverbs** / Raahele Gandomkaar **5**

6. **An Explanation on the Grammatical Case of the Zraiiā Vourukašaiia (Yt .8.8.)/** Changiz Mowlaee **6**

Topicalization and Focus Movement in Persian
A Feature-Based Approach

Mazdak Anoushe
Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Language, and Inscriptions Institute
Cultural Heritage Organization

Topicalization and focus movement have been discussed in literature with respect to a vriety of their properties. In Persian, syntactic objects within Tense Phrase, including phrasal arguments, may freely be displaced to a higher position and the reordering of these elements is mainly considered to be the result of discourse functional elements such as topic and focus. The present study is an effort to address the question of the formal motiviation of these movements, and their formalization within a feature-based system. Moreover, it tries to account for the surface position of subject in Persian, based on a VP shell analysis and the strength of D-feature in this language. Thus one of the main contributions of this study is that the uninterpretable D-feature on the head of TP is strong in Persian and as a result, the structural subject has to move to the specifer position of its own clause. If this conclusion is on the right track, the scrambled elements cannot be raised to the specifer of TP, an alternative analysis to Karimi (2005) who asserts that Persian lacks typical A-movement involving subjects. Following on from Haegeman and Guéron (1999), the specifers of two functional heads, i.e. FocP and TopP, are proposed to be the landing sites of the scrambled elements out of TP. Finally, based on the notion of Minimal Domain (MD), it is argued that the scrambled elements are subject to fundamental principles of MP, including Minimal Link Condition.

Key words: Topic & Focus features, D-feature, Spec TP, Minimal Link Condition, Minimal Domain.

Study of the Origin of /l/ Phoneme in New Persian

Rahman Bakhtyari
Assistant Professor, Bu- Ali Sina University

The phoneme /l/ is one of the phonemes of Persian, which has different origins. a few of which is unknown.

This article studies the historical change of /l/ phoneme and phonemes and clusters which are the origins of /l/, from Proto Indo- European to Indo-Iranian, Old Iranian and Middle and new Persian. In adition, the historical change of other phonems such as group of consonants , which are origins of /l/ in new Persian has been studied. Finally, a few examples from /l/ in proto Indo- European and new Persian are introduced to classify of /l/ words in new Persian.

Key words: Historical linguistics, Persian etymology, historical phonetics, Indo-European language.

Verb Structure in Bactrian

Mahmoud Jaafari – Dehaghi
Associate Professor, University of Tehran

Verb system and its construction are two of the most important issues in the grammar of Middle Iranian languages. Comparing the construction of verbs in Middle Iranian languages and dialects reveals their relation with Old Iranian Languages. The aim of this research therefore is first to review the construction of verbs in Bactrian as one of the Eastern Middle Iranian Languages and second to find out whether its construction is in accordance with other Iranian Languages. To achieve these goals, the editions of Bactrian Documents I and II by Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams have been used. The outcome of the research shows the relation of Bactrian with other Eastern Middle Iranian languages.

Key words:verb, stem, euding, past participle, Bactrian.

Semantic Aspects of "*bayad*" (must) in Persian

Mohammad Amouzade
Associate professor, University of Isfahan
&
Hadaegh Rezaei

"ba:yæd" as a lexeme in Persian is interwoven with modality, a semantic category and therefore has a complicated and thought- provoking semantic nature. This paper uses some evidences from contemporary Persian to investigate the usage of this lexeme and some of its semantic and pragmatic aspects in this language.

The results indicate that this lexical category can convey a wide range of modal meanings in Persian in different contexts. While "ba:yæd" is widely used to transfer agent- oriented modal meanings, it has a limited number of speaker- oriented or epistemic interpretations. It seems that this pattern of use can be explained through some diachronic considerations. Using a pragmatic framework, one can study the diversity of the modal meanings of this category in a convincing way. Such a framework provides supporting clues for considering of the indispensable role of context and also factors like tense and modal hedges in analyzing the semantic aspects of "ba:yæd".

Key words:*bayad,* epistemic modality, speaker-oriented modality, aspectual meaning, context.

A Study of Semantic Shifting in Persian Proverbs

Rahele Gandomkar
Linguistics Graduate of Allameh Tabatabaei University

Semantic shifting which is one of the most important semantic processes forming the meaning of some linguistic structures was first introduced by Safavi (1379). The meaning of different structures such as proverbs, are made by semantic shifting which takes place on the syntagmatic axis, but is shown on the paradigmatic axis. The corpus used in this study consists of 10 Persian proverbs which are derived from some old stories. On the basis of this study, the validity of semantic shifting is proved. It is interesting to find out that there are some unconscious Persian speakers who cause some semantic changes in proverbs without paying attention to the stories from which they are derived.

Key words: Semantics, Semantic increasing, Semantic decreasing, Proverb, Semantic shift, Semantic change.

An Explanation on the Grammatical Case of the Zraiiā Vourukašaiia (Yt.8.8.)

Changiz Mowlaee
Associate Professer, University of Tabriz

It has long been supposed that zraiia vourukašaiia (in Yt.8.8) could be a locative singular form of the zraiiah- and vourukaša- stems. I shall attempt to show here that this explanation is incorrect. There are, however, several good pieces of evidence in the above- mentioned Avestan text that lead us to propose another reasonable explanation on this grammatical issue.

Key words: Avesta, Yasht, Grammatical Case, Stem.