



Comparative Study of Adjectives in Pashto and Dari as Cognate Languages

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Abstract

In Pashto, adjectives align with nouns in terms of number, gender, and case, which distinguish them from adjectives in Modern Persian-Dari. In both Old and Modern Persian, unlike in Pashto, adjectives are divided into two categories: attributive and predicative. In Modern Persian-Dari, there is little visible difference between adjectives and other grammatical roles, such as modifiers. The identification of adjectives in this language mainly depends on grammatical characteristics, whereas in Pashto, the structure of adjectives, in terms of number, gender, and case, is crucial. One of the obvious topics in Persian grammar books is the agreement between adjectives and nouns, which is derived from Arabic. It has never existed in Persian as a strict rule; however, in Ancient Iranian languages, and in Middle Western Iranian languages and Modern Persian-Dari, adjectives have always been able to agree with their nouns in terms of number, gender, and case. The authors of this paper aim to first present the opinions of several grammarians and the history of adjective-noun agreement in Persian, and then provide a general definition of adjectives in both Pashto and Persian-Dari, followed by a comparison of adjectives in Persian-Dari and Pashto from various perspectives. In this scholarly article, a library-based research method and a comparative approach are used to validate the study of adjectives.

Keywords: Ancient Persian, Adjective, Grammar, Persian-Dari language, Pashto language.

Introduction

Persian-Dari and Pashto languages are among the co-rooted languages, which are considered to be from the family of Indo-Aryan languages, and the direct influences of ancient languages such as Sanskrit and Avesta can be seen in these two co-rooted languages. It should be remembered that many characteristics of the ancient languages are also promoted and seen in today's Pashto language, and it should also be said that Persian-Dari and Pashto languages have many commonalities in different fields.

An adjective is a word that shows the state of something or a person; that is, an adjective makes the meaning of a noun more specific, obvious, and limited (Yemin, 1397, p. 84). An adjective is a function that is mentioned in words for the following purposes, such as: clarification, allocation, praise, and pity.

This research examines the structure of adjectives in cognate languages, and then the types of adjectives of the mentioned languages are compared with each other, and as a result of the analysis and analysis, the differences and similarities of the attributes of both languages are expressed (Mahjour et al. 2019, p. 11).

The category of adjectives in the Persian-Dari language is one of the topics that researchers have discussed a lot, and they have dedicated research to compare this topic in the Persian-Dari language and other languages such as Arabic, Russian, German, and English. Despite the great importance of the Pashto language for Dari languages, so far, there has been no research on the comparison of adjectives in Persian-Dari and Pashto languages.

Material and Method

This study investigates the comparative features of adjectives in Persian-Dari and Pashto languages. The research examines grammatical structures, usage patterns, syntactic positioning, types of adjectives, and their interactions within both languages. The study is conducted within Afghanistan's linguistic context, where both languages coexist and are actively used in parallel to support the analysis. Ten authoritative texts—including linguistic books, academic articles, and grammatical studies—focused on Persian-Dari were gathered. In addition, relevant resources on the Pashto language, including dictionaries and syntactic references, were examined so for the data were sourced from university libraries, online databases, and scholarly writings by linguistics experts. As our study used qualitative research, specially descriptive-comparative method was employed. Initially, adjectives in both languages were categorized, followed by an analysis of their syntactic structures, placement, and collocations. The adjectives in Pashto were systematically compared to their counterparts in Persian-Dari to identify parallels and distinctions. Data was collected from academic books, journals, and written references. Lexical examples were extracted from standard sentences and traced through syntactic analysis. Since this study does not involve any human or animal subjects, ethical approval was not required.

Findings

Adjectives in Persian-Dari

An adjective is a word that describes the state or quality of something or someone. The types of adjectives are as follows: active adjectives, passive adjectives, comparative adjectives, and relative adjectives (Qareeb, 1380: 46). However, Persian-Dari grammarians have offered different views on the classification of adjectives. One of the most comprehensive theories is the classification of adjectives in Abdul-Rasoul Khayampour's Persian Grammar Book. According to Khayampour, adjectives are divided into five types: absolute, demonstrative, numeral, interrogative, and indefinite (Khayampour, 2005: p. 46). An adjective is dependent on a noun and is not used independently, because if it is used independently, it will no longer be considered an adjective but will instead take the place

of the noun or another part of the sentence (Vafaei, 1390: 68). Also, in Persian-Dari, when the adjective is used with a plural noun, it remains in the singular form, as in: گمان نبردند مردان گرویده و زنان گرویده (Majid, 2010: P222).

It is derived from the absolute adjective with the suffix "-tar" (greater - بزرگتر) and Samai, which itself consists of two groups of Samai, which are the remnants of the middle Persian adjectives (that, meh - که، مه) and the adjectives. They are (Abolghasemi: 1999, p. 66).

In Persian-Dari, unlike in Pashto, where adjectives are considered a type of noun, adjectives are classified as a separate category and are not considered part of the noun class. In Persian-Dari, adjectives do not agree with the noun in terms of singular or plural; whether the noun is singular or plural, the adjective remains the same. For example:

سبا به لطف بگو آن غزال رعنا را
که سر به کوه بیابان تو داده‌ای ما را
(Hafez, 2003 :p 4)
گر چه بد نامیست نزد عاقلان
ما نمی‌خواهیم تنگ و نام را
(Hafez, 2003 :p 8)

However, in Pashto, adjectives are generally divided into two categories based on their agreement with the noun in terms of gender and number:

A: Those adjectives that do not fully agree with the noun in terms of masculine gender and number.

B: Those adjectives that fully agree with the noun in terms of feminine gender and number, as shown in the following examples:

Masculine singular	masculine plural	feminine singular	feminine plural
Blak pin	Blak pines	net net	net net
Good young man	good youth	good girl	good girl

(Khoishki, 2016:p203).

2. Adjective in the Pashto language

There are no triple grades (to, better, best (behtarin), bigger, biggest به، بهتر، بهترین یا بزرگ، بزرگتر، بزرگترین) to show adjectives in Pashto language like Persian-Dari language; Rather, it shows its rank and class by means of adat (dir and khora - دېر و خورا), such as: (good, very good, very very good or white, very white, very very white ډېر ښه، خورا ښه یا سپین، ډېر سپین، خورا سپین) (Khoishki, 2016, p202).

In Pashto, adjectives are classified into several types, including: main adjectives, relative adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, numerical adjectives, interrogative adjectives, verbal adjectives, and passive adjectives (Rekhteen, 1950: p. 39).

In Pashto, adjectives agree with the noun in terms of gender, number, and case. However, adjectives in Pashto, based on their agreement with the noun, are generally divided into two categories:

A: Adjectives that do not fully agree with the noun in terms of masculine gender and number.

B: Adjectives that fully agree with the noun in terms of feminine gender and number (Khoishki, 2016, p. 203).

In the grammar of the Pashto language, it has been mentioned that common adjectives do not match completely in terms of gender and number, but this statement is worthy of consideration (MacKenzie, 2018). Those common adjectives that end with the vowel letter (o/a) show agreement in terms of feminine singular and plural. The multiplicity of dialects in Pashto has caused problems on the one hand, but on the other hand, it has contributed to the structural completeness of this well-rounded language. For example, in the Kandahari dialect and in the neighboring regions, nouns that end with the vowel letter (a), such as *ساده* (پياده) *بنايسته* show complete agreement with the feminine plural.

Masculine singular masculine plural feminine singular feminine plural Simple
girl simple girl simple girl
On foot boy, On foot boys, On foot girl, On foot girls. Beautiful
girl, beautiful girls, beautiful boy, beautiful boys.

Masculine plural	Masculine singular	Feminine singular	Masculine singular
ساده هلک	ساده هلکان	ساده نجلی	سادې نجونې
پياده هلک	پياده هلکان	پياده نجلی	پيادې نجونې
بنايسته هلک	بنايسته هلکان	بنايسته نجلی	بنايستي نجونې

It is worth mentioning that in Pashto, the adjective usually comes before the noun. such as
سور کمپس، لوی ښار او ښه ځوان:

3. Analysis and matching

In Persian-Dari, there is a strong semantic connection between the adjective and the noun, but in Pashto, this connection is evident both semantically and structurally. The criteria for identifying adjectives in Persian-Dari are syntactical, while in Pashto, both structural and syntactical indicators are involved. In Persian-Dari, the adjective follows the noun. such as (a good boy and a white book); However, in Pashto, unlike in Persian-Dari, the adjective comes before the noun, as in: *ښه هلک او سپين کتاب* white book, good boy.

3. 1. Attributive adjective

It is to express the state of something or someone absolutely and completely without comparing it or showing its degree and size. For example: *خوب، بد، سفید، خمارآلود، نیرومند، باهوش* good, bad, white, lazy, strong, intelligent... In normal cases, this kind of adjective is placed after the adjective, and the adjective is connected with the adjective with the sign of increase /i/, such as: *دست توانا، آدم خوب* the powerful hand, A good person... and whenever the adjective ends with the vowel /, o, a, å, W, in this case it is a sign of the increase of /yi/, which comes in the form of /-y/, for example: *هوای خوب، آشنای باوفا و لیموی هندی* Good weather, faithful acquaintance and Indian lemon... (Yamin, 2018: p85).

According to this adjective, in the Pashto language, they say adjectives that express the states and characteristics that belong to the essence of a noun, good or bad, such as: *مشر* مشر (مشر و ښه) in which his *سړی، ښه سړی* is one of the main or absolute attributes.

It should be remembered that there are two types of absolute adjectives in the Pashto language: A- Simple: the one that has a component, i.e., it is a single word, such as: (Good

and bad (بد، به). This type of adjective is completely dependent on sama. BCompound: It is composed of two or more components, such as: خټکر، ناپوه، تورپالی (Rekhteen, 1948: p 108).

3. 2. relative adjective

It is a relative adjective that refers to something or a place (Qarib, 2008, p. 55).

In Persian-Dari language, relative adjective has the following suffixes:

A. /y /: in words ending with a consonant, for example: ...خشتی، چوبی، سنگی، هراتی، بلخی

B. / E / for example: ...یک ساله، سه ماهه، ده روزه، سبزه ...

C. /Yen / for example: ...زړین، سیمین، بلورین، غمین ...

D- /ineh / for example: ...سیمینه، پشمینه ...

E. /ana / for example: ...طفلاڼه، زناڼه، مردانه، عاشقانه ...

And / Ganah / for example: ...دوگانه، پنج گانه، یگانه ...

The equivalent of this adjective in the Pashto language is to attribute someone or something to a place or something. A place or something that is related to a noun is attributed to it, and that noun is said to be attributed. Some famous signs of relative adjectives are (such as: Kameh-Wal, Kabuli, Sulaiman-Khel, Sedozi, Oseni, Vareshmin, Charehiz, etc (Rekhteen, 1948: p 108).

3. 3. Subjective adjective

It is an adjective that shows that it describes a work or has a state (Emad Afshar, 1993: p 62).

In the Persian-Dari language, it has the following suffixes:

A) The suffix /نده/ when attached to the end of an imperative verb, such as in پرسنده، بافنده، خواهنده ...

B) The suffix /آن/ as in خواهان، روان، دوان، پرسان ...

C) The suffix /الف/ , which also appears at the end of an imperative verb, such as in شکيبا، خوانا، جویا ...

D) The suffix / آر/ is mostly found at the end of past tense verbs, such as in خریدار، خواستار، گرفتار ...

E) The suffix /گار/ , which mostly appears at the end of imperative and past tense verbs, such as in آموزگار، پرهیزگار، پروردگار ...

F) The suffix /کار/ , which is generally attached to the end of nouns of meaning, such as in ستمکار، فراموشکار ...

G) The suffix /گر/ is also found at the end of nouns of meaning, such as in دادگر، رامشگر، بیدادگر ... (Qarib, 2008: p47-48).

The equivalent of the active adjective in the neighboring Persian-Dari language, that is, Pashto, is the active adjective, which, in addition to showing the meaning and concept of the noun, also occurs, such as: ...هونکی، تلونکی، چلونکی، راتلونکی او ... (Sherzad, 2014: p 91).

Active adjectives in the Pashto language have suffixes like the Persian-Dari language, but in Pashto, these suffixes are placed instead of infinitive signs and form active adjectives, such as:

A - / Nd/ This suffix is often placed in place of the infinitive (ydel) and indicates the meaning of an active adjective, for example: Active adjective infinitive.

صفت فاعلی

مصدر

گر خند	گر خیدل
سو خند	سو خیدل
ژرند	ژریدل

B - /ndi/: This suffix, similar to the suffix /nd/, is often used in place of infinitive verbs ending in /-idel/ and functions to form a Subjective Adjective. For example:

صفت فاعلی	مصدر
خو خندی	خو خیدل
رپندی	رپیدل
کرپندی	کرپیدل

c - /-ndah/ This suffix is also added to the verb stem instead of infinitive markers to form an active Subjective Adjective, such as:

صفت فاعلی	مصدر
پوونده	پوول
خرنده	خریدل
چلنده	چلیدل

D. The suffix 'and-اند' is appended to the end of the verbal root to form Subjective Adjective. For example:

صفت فاعلی	مصدر
پوهاند	پوهیدل
ژراند	ژریدل
بهاند	بهیدل

E. The suffix 'nadui-ندوی' is also added at the end of the verbal root to form a Subjective Adjective. For example:

صفت فاعلی	مصدر
ساتندوی	ساتل
گتندوی	گتل
پیژندوی	پیژندل

(Rekhteen, 2010: p 85 - 86).

3. 4. Objective adjective

It is to know the object. In the Persian-Dari language, the passive adjective is formed from the past participle root with the suffix /-e/, as: ... کشته، خورده، برده، کشته ...

The passive adjective is also placed after the noun it belongs to, which has an increasing sign, such as: ... سخن گفته، حیوان کشته، دل شکسته، (Yamin, 2018: p 88).

Passive adjectives are sometimes reduced like active adjectives. in such a way that the second part of it becomes a verb:

ای نظامی پناه پرور تو
به در کس مرانش از در تو
(Qarib, 2008: p 53)
سه دیگر به یزدان بود ناسپاس
تن خویش را نهان ناشناس
(Ferdowsi, 2010: p1070)

The passive adjective in Pashto language is made with the suffixes (e, y, and wanki), such as: ((وواهه، وساته، ساتی، لیکي، پرې کېدونکي، وهل کېدونکي او...)) (Rekhteen, 1950: p41).

Adjectives correspond with adjectives in terms of their states, and the changes that occur in adjectives in terms of gender are also reflected in adjectives. As:

Dark eyes drive me insane. (Subjective case).

Who hit this little boy? (Objective case).

May God's gaze be upon the great mountains. (Possessive/Genitive case) (Sherzad, 2014: p88).

3. 5. superlative adjective

It is that the word "Ter" is added at the end, and its meaning is the preference of the adjective over another person who is a partner and equal to him in the existence of the adjective, and it should be attached only to the end of the adjective and the words that have the meaning of the adjective. Like: ...گویندتر، برتر...

The superlative adjective is used in three ways:

A- With "of" such as: خرد از مال سودمندتر است - تدبیر اندک از لشکر بسیار، مفیدتر است.

B- With "that" like: دانش بهتر که مال - سیرت پسندیده‌تر که صورت.

C- With "Yen" (Qarib, 2008: p54-55). کمترین، فاضلترین، بزرگترین "Yen".

There are no triple degrees (بهتر، بهترین یا بزرگ، بزرگتر، بزرگترین) to show a superlative adjective in the Pashto language like Persian-Dari language; Rather, it shows its rank and class by means of adat (دبر او خورا), such as: (بهره، خورا سپین، دبر سپین، خورا سپین) (Khoishki, 2016: p202).

It should be remembered that one of the grammatical characteristics of the adjective in the Persian-Dari language is that it never accepts the plural suffix, and whenever such words accept the plural sign, they are included in the noun group, for example: ...نیکان، بدان ...

There is no such feature in the Pashto adjective. Also, the superior comparative adjective in the Persian-Dari language is mostly used as an adverb, which means that it is related to the verb. For example, Parveen is more beautiful than Gulalai. پروین از گلالی زیباتر است.

There is such a rule in the Pashto language as well, such as: Parveen is beautiful than Gulalai. (پروین تر گلالی دېره ښکلې ده)

Conclusion

By examining and matching adjectives in the important sources of Persian-Dari and Pashto languages, the following results can be enumerated:

The adjective is dependent on the noun and is not used independently; Because if it is used independently, it will no longer be an adjective or a dependent, but it will occupy the place of a noun or something else in the sentence. Also, in Persian-Dari, the adjective is singular when the adjective is plural.

In the Persian-Dari language, unlike the Pashto language, which considers it a type of noun, it is placed in a separate category from words and is not classified as a noun. In the Persian-Dari language, adjectives do not match with adjectives in plural and singular; Whether the noun is singular or plural, whenever the adjective is removed and an adjective is placed in its place, that adjective becomes plural according to the meaning.

In the Pashto language, adjectives are classified according to (gender, number, and mood),

but adjectives in Pashto are generally divided into two categories in terms of their dimensions.

A: Those attributes that do not have a perfect match with the described partner in terms of gender and number.

B: But the described feminine gender shows complete correspondence in terms of number. To show adjectives in the Pashto language, like the Persian-Dari language, there are no triple degrees (بزرګتر، بزرګ، بڼه، بهتر، بهترين يا بزرګ، بزرګتر، بزرګترين); Rather, it shows its level and class by the habits (دېر و خورا), such as: (بڼه، دېر بڼه، خورا بڼه). In the Persian-Dari language, there is a strong connection between adjectives and nouns in terms of meaning, but in the Pashto language, this connection is obvious both in terms of meaning and in terms of structure. Adjective recognition scales in the Persian-Dari language are syntactic, but in Pashto, both structural and syntactic indicators are involved. In the Persian-Dari language, the adjective comes after the noun, such as (پسر خوب); But in the Pashto language, unlike the Persian-Dari language, adjectives come first and then nouns, such as: (بڼه هلک).

It should be remembered that one of the grammatical characteristics of the adjective in the Persian-Dari language is that it never accepts the plural suffix, and whenever such words accept the plural sign, they are included in the noun group, for example: ... نیکان، بدان that such There is no special feature in the Pashto language. Also, the superior comparative adjective in the Persian-Dari language mostly comes as an adverb, which means that it is related to the verb. For example: پروین تر ګلالي زیاتر است. There is such a rule in the Pashto language as well, such as: پروین تر ګلالي دېره ښکلي ده.

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Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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