Review Paper

Effect of Arabic Language and Grammer on Persian language and Grammer

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Abstract

This paper aims at investigating how Arabic language and grammer affected Persian language and literature. Library descriptive method has been adopted in this paper, and data have been gathered through reviewing valid scientific references, textbooks and academic resources. This paper's findings reveal that extension and effect of Arabic language and grammer and its penetration into Persian language in various literary spheres have transformed pure Persian words and terms, and importantly, high orientation towards Arabic language has made the Persian authentic words to be forgotten in Iran.

Keywords: Arabic language grammer, Persian language grammer, Persian terms, language transformation, Arabic language effect.

Introduction

The Arabic language was the scientific, religious and official language in Iran during three first centuries following the conquest of Iran. It enters Iran when Iranians became Muslim and from solar third century onwards the poets began to compose poems in this language and also from forth century onwards authors began to write books in this language and translate the Holy Quran. Until five century the official language of Iran government was still the Arabic language, and up to fifth and early sixth centuries, some scholars still preferred to write their important books in Arabic language[1]. As per extant evidence, phonetic and phonological system of Persian language has not yet affected by Arabic phonetic and phonological system till first 4 – 5 centuries, and it was like middle Persian phonetic and phonological system[2]. The scope of Arabic language influence was highly expanded following the establishment of Islamic government; and along with Islamic conquests, Arabic language departure to the conquered areas commenced and many Arabic tribes went to various areas of Sham, Iraq and Iran in the following years. These tribes departed and dwelled in conquered cities inside garrisons. Gradual social intercourse of immigrant Arabs with peope of these lands resulted in making Iraq and Sham Arabic, and some groups of Arabs entered Iran via Iraq[3].

Groups of Arabs redeployed in Kashan, Hamedan and Isfahan to the extent that in Qom the Arab descent became dominant; yet the largest Arab groups dwelled in Khorasan. According to Balazari, Arabs community in the era of "Qatibeh Ibn Muslim" in Khorasan was comprised of "40 thousands people of Basra militants, seven thousands people from Kufa and seven thousands from Mawali , and immigrant Arabs belonged to different tribes. Among them, there were tribes of Bakr, Tamim,

Abd Al-Qeis, and Ezdeham". Presence of these Arabs in Iran villages and their increased social intercourse with Iranians of these areas created two parallel phenomena during several centuries. Many Iranians learnt Arabic language and many Arabs learnt Persian language as well[3]. Therefore these two languages have some effects on each other and today we witness abundant transformations in Persian language arising from Arabic language grammer. So this paper seeks to investigate how Arabic language grammer influenced the Persian language.

Theoretical Basic Priniciples

Persian and Arabic languages are full of many alien words and this is not surprising; because when extensive tribes mingle with foreign developed nations, alien words inevitably penetrate into their language and even influence their language, literature and culture. Persians and Arabs have had such a destiny. Arabs were various and sporadic tribes that mingled with all of their neighboring nations[4]. In Al-Marhazmi, Sayuti states that "Taghlib and Yemen in the Arab peninsula became neighbor with Greece, Bakr, India and Ethiopia. People of Oman in Bahrain mingled with Indians and Persians, and people of Yemen mingled with people of India, Ethiopia, desert dwellers of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran, and it was when Arabs entered many words of these nations' languages into their own language and influenced other languages as well". In Shifa Al-Falil, Khafaji says, "the word 'Belgha' in the language of Medina people is the Arabic equivalent of 'leg' "[5].

As mentioned earlier, Arabs make extraordinary changes in alien words some examples of which are as below[6]: i. They skip some letters of the beginning, the middle or of the end of the alien word structure. For example they call "bimarestan" as "marestan" or "hezardastan" as "hezar". ii. They add some

letters to the alien word structure. For example, they call "satu" as "satugh". iii. They convert the letters of the foreign word into another letters and they commonly use this method to make foreign words Arabic. For example, they convert n and r into l. iv. They add j or gh to the end of some words, they usually use this method for words that end with "h". For example, the call "gozineh" as "jozingh" or call "karbeh" as "gharbaj" and "gharbagh". v. Sometimes they make a foreign word Arabic by so various ways that those words have little or great proximity with the main structure of the alien word. For example they call "zunkel" as "zunkel", "tanparvar" as "tanbur", "jebar" as "jetar". vi. They derive verbs from not only Arabized words but also from alien words. For example, they have derived the verbs "jender" from Persian "jendereh", "Bazro" from "b&z" and "rashm" from "Rasama"[6].

Research Findings

Here, by studying Persian and Arabic works and references accurately, the researcher has investigated how Arabic language grammer has affected Persian language and has discussed the impact of those words, letters and grammatical functions of Arabic language which have entered into the Persian literature.

Similar to Persian words, Arabic words take grammatical functions. That is, they become subject, object, possessive from, sound, conjunctive, adjective or adverb. Among different types of Arabic words, nouns and adjectives are mostly applied in Persian language. However, some verbs and letters of Arabic language are also used in Persian language and take different grammatical functions[7]. The most important ones are briefly referred in the following.

Arabic Nouns in Persian

Arabic nouns are mostly applied in the form of noun in Persian language, yet they are rarely converted into adverb, adjective, sound and conjunctive as well:

Noun: For example, cloak, sophy, nonsense, absurd words, ruins, superstitions in below verse of Hafez: Let's take sophy cloak to the ruins and take nonsense and abusrd words to the market of superstitions.

Adjective: It implies the manner, volume, number or any other characteristics of noun[8]. For example, health and completion: "he is health" means he is healthy, "the capacity is completion" means it is complete[9].

Conjunctive: It is a word that conjoins two words or two phrases or two sentences and makes them tantamount. In Persian "specially" and "like" are nouns that conjoin two words: "I love all of them specially Hossein" that in which specially refers "Hossein" to "all"[8].

Sound: Arabic nouns sometimes act as a sound like Persian nouns. For example, in Persian language: Affarin (i.e. bravo!), and in Arabic language: Barek Allah, Marhaba, Ma sha Allah (i.e. bravo!)[8].

Part of a compound word: Arabic nouns combine with Persian words, prefix and suffix and build compound words. For example: eshve gar (i.e. coquette) (derivative adjective), fereshteh sirat (i.e. angelic) (compound adjective), ghasd kard (i.e. intend) (compound verb).

Duals and plurals. Arabic language duals and plurals are applied in Persian language either in dual or plural form, while there is no dual in Persian language[10].

Arabic Adjectives in Persian: Arabic adjectives are applied in Persian language as per below: **Adjective**: These types of words are mostly applied in the form of adjective in Persian language. ii. **Noun**: In many languages, Arabic adjectives are applied instead of noun. Accordingly, in Persian language, Arabic adjectives may be substituted for noun particularly when they become plural[10]. Many Arabic adjectives are applied as proper names in Persian language like: Mahmud, Hamid, Mohammad. iii. **Adverb**. In Persian language, all adjectives including Arabic adjectives can be applied as adverb, too.

Arabic Letters in Persian Language

Arabic letters when enter into the Persian language, take below grammatical functions.
The sound "Alla" (i.e. alert) is sometimes used as a punishment sound in Persian language.
Alert! He must not cry, that the great throne
Will be quaked if an orphan cries

Conjunctive: "Amma", "Ella", "Bal", "Laken" (i.e. but) and "hatta" (i.e. even) are applied as conjunctive in Persian language.[10] Ella is an exception letter in Arablic language that is considered as a conjunctive in Persian language.

Adverb: "Na'am" and "La" (i.e. Yes and no) are answering letters in Arabic language, yet these words in Persian language are called adverbs of emphasis that are substituted for sentence. For example, in Persian language, in response to the question "has Fereidun gone to Mashhad?" it is said "No." that means he has not.

Preposition: Arabic language prepositions applied in Persian language are considered as prepositions.

Arabic Verbs in Persian Language

Arabic verbs are rarely applied in Persian language and take below grammatical functions[11].

Adverb: Some verbs are applied as adverb in Persian language like "Yahtamel" which means "it is probable" in Arabic language and is applied as the adverb "maybe" in Persian language.

Adjective: Some negative verbs are applied as adjective in Persian language[12] like "lam yazre" that means "not growing" in Arabic language and is applied as an adjective and means "infertile" in Persian language.

Conjunctive: Some verbs are applied as conjunctive in Persian language like "madam" that is used as a conjunctive and means "as long as".

Noun: Some verbs are applied as noun in Persian language like "Ahsant" (i.e. Bravo).

Sound: Some verbs are applied as a praise sound like "Ahsant".

Verb: For example in some verses of Sanaei poetry, some Arabic verbs have been applied as verb like the below verse that italic words are Arabic verbs:[13]
Why it has been said to the Saints *orzoghni* and *vaffeghni*
Why it has been said to the Prophets *amanna* and *sollamna*

Arabic Grammer in Persian Language

Arabic grammatical rules are applied in two ways in Persian language, one with Arabic words and the other with Persian and non-Arabic words, and occasionally some changes are made in these grammers by Iranians.

These grammatical rules include attribution, dual, plural, Arabic rhythms, synthetic infinitive, tanween, consistency of noun and adjective, comparative noun, absolute object, ablative[14].

Attribution: Some Arabic words applied in Persian language have not followed these rules: i. The redundant "t" of some words have not been excluded when attributing, like "san'ati" (i.e. industrial), ii. Some of these words have been applied sometimes as per the rule and sometimes inconsistent with the rule, like "zera'at" (i.e. agriculture) that has been applied as both "zera'ei" and "zera'ati"; that is, sometime the redundant "t" has been eliminated and sometimes not.

Dual: There is not a great deal of Arabic duals in Persian language like "tarafein" (i.e. both parties).

Plural: Some female plurals have been applied in Persian inconsistent with the rules, like "talafat" (i.e. losses).

Arabic Rhythms: These words are divided into three types namely, Arabic root, Persian root, and Arabic-Persian root: i. Synthetic words from Arabic roots, namely: Infinitive. For example "hefazat" (i.e. protection), "dekhalat" (i.e. intervention)., Subject noun. For example "modir" (i.e.

manager) "Monji" (i.e. savior)., Exaggeration. For example "baqqal" (i.e. grocer)., Moshabbahe adjective. For example "khajul" (i.e. shy). ii. Synthetic words from Persian roots, namely: Infinitive. For example "nezakat" (i.e. tact) from Persian "nazok". Exaggeration. For example "niaz" (i.e. need) from the root "neizeh". Object noun. For example "mamhur" (i.e. sealed) from the root "Mohr". iii. Synthetic words from Arabic-Persian root, for example "tazarmoz" (i.e. intelligence) from "haramzadeh".

Tanween in Persian: Arabic words with tanween are seen in the oldest Persian works. These words were not many but from 6th century onwards they invaded our language, like "akhiran" (i.e. recently), "lozuman" (i.e. necessarily).

Synthetic Infinitive: It is an infinitive that is made by adding "idan" to the end of an Arabic or Persian noun, like "talab: talabidan" (i.e. to request), "jang: jangidan" (i.e. to fight)[15]. Also sometimes "iyat" is added to the end of Persian and non-Arabic words, like "adam: adamiyat" (i.e. humanity)[16].

Tanween: These words have firstly been few, yet from 6th century onwards these words invaded our language like another Arabic words and rules. Also some Arabic words that do not have tanween in Arabic language, has been applied with tanween in Persian language like "aksaran" (i.e. mostly), and some Persian and non-Arabic words have also taken tanween and has become common among some people like "telephonan" (i.e. by telephone), "telegraphan" (i.e. by telegraph), "dovoman" (i.e. secondly), "sevoman" (i.e. thirdly)[11].

Comparative Noun: Here, there is similarity between the words in Persian language that are made by the suffix "tar" (the sign of comparative nouns) and comparative nouns of Arabic language; that is, both of them have both comparative and superlative meaning. So, the fact that "tar" (the comparative form) has been occasionally applied in the meaning of "tarin" (the superlative form), may have been resulted from the effect of translating Arablic texts[17].

Consistency of noun and adjective, absolute object and ablative have similar trends, as well. Besides, many Arabic words have been transformed following entrance into the Persian language that is discussed in the following.

Transformation in Arabic Words: In irregular verbs, some Arabic words changed like "da'u" that becomes "do'a". Transformation is created via omission and conversion and combining letters and is divided into: 1) merger, 2) conversion of vowels (which is called "e'lal"), and 3) conversion.

Merger. It is occurred only when certain requisites are met. One of these requisites is that there must be no distance between two identical letters. Second, in three-letter words the second letter must be vocalic like "melal". Third in the words that merger has once occurred no other merger is possible[9].

E'lal. These words have abundant application in Persian language like "mizan" that was "muzan", "khianat" that was "khuvanat", "mi'ad" that was "mu'ad", these words have entered into Persian after E'lal[18].

Conversion. It is divided into two types; it is either for vowels or for other letters, the latter is applied in Persian language: i. If one of the letters of Efte'al is "sad, zad, ta, za" (Arabic alphabet), then "t" is converted into "ta" like "ezterab" with "t" that becomes "ezterab" with "ta"[19]. ii. If one of the letters of Efte'al is "z, d, za" (Arabic alphabet), then "t" is converted into "d", like "eztiad" that becomes "ezdiad".

The effect of Arabic language on Persian language phonetics: As per extant evidnce, phonetic and phonological system of Persian language has not been influenced by Arabic language until first 4-5 centuries, and it was more or less like middle Persian phonetic and phonological system. Consonant letters of middle Persian are as below:

P   t   c   k
b   d   j   g
F   s   s   x   h
        Z (z)
 W   l   y   r
 M   n

According to middle Persian experts, the phoneme state of the letter "gh" in middle Persian is doubtful, because this phoneme in some words of Zoroastrian texts has been borrowed from other Iranian languages. Also the phoneme state of the letter "dz" is doubtful. Yet we know that in Dari Persian in Khorasan which was created by integration of middle Persian and Parti languages, there are some words with the letter "dz" and the application of this letter in those words is not dependent upon any specific position. Also there are some words in Dari Persian like "ghuk", "ghariv", "ghaltidan" etc., that have been borrowed from Iran eastern languages and the letter "gh" has been applied in the beginning of these words, while in such words as "bagh", "kalagh", etc. the letter "gh" has been placed after a vowel. Abu Hatam Razi in 322 lunar year states, Iranians cannot pronounce the letter "gh" of Arabic language and they say "volam" instead of "gholam"; so as it is seen the status of "gh" in Persian language is complicated. The comparison of phonetic and phonological systems of contemporaty Persian and middle Persian languages reflects that the phoneme "hamzeh" that had only been placed in the beginning of the words commencing with vowels, is placed in other positions in contemporary Persian. Also the phoneme "gh" that has not existed in Persian language according to Arab and Iranian authors has entered into phonetic system of this language.

Jahez states that Abu Moslem said "kolto laka" instead of "gholto laka" and in Persian Gulf coasts there is not still the letter "gh", as the people of these areas say "korban" and "kelyan" instead of "ghorban" and "ghelyan". The word "gholam" is not nowadays pronounced "volam" by Iranians. In many areas of Iran, Afghanestan and Tajikestan, these two phonemes are distinctive.

Acceptance of these pronouncations in Persian language has doubtless stemmed from two factors namely, first the enterance of mass of Arabic words with these phonemes into the Persian language and second, redeployment of multiple groups of Arabs in different parts of Iran. With regard to the first factor, it is worth mentioning that in 4th solar century Arabic words comprised 25 to 30 percent of Persian vocabulary, but in 6th solar century this figure reached 50 percent. The evidence of the second factor is the presence of Arabs groups in some parts of Afghanestan and Transoxiana.

Albeit in some parts of Iran, the phonemes "ha" and "ein" of Arabic language entered into the phonetic system of Persian language. In phonemes combination, Persian language has also been influenced by Arabic language. For example proximity of two occlusive phonemes in Persian language is impossible or difficult to pronounce, yet following the penetration of mass of Arabic words like "sabt", "rabt", "abd", etc. the proximity of two occlusive phonemes became usual for Iranians.

Conclusion

Indeed, based on the traits and components of Arabic language and with respect to the penetration of this language into other languages particularly Persian language, it can be stated that influence of Arabic language has made Persian authentic words to be forgotten in Iran. Also in the theories of this paper, it is concluded that i. Arab poets and writers have influenced Iranian Poets and writers; ii. Arabic language grammer has entered into Persian language and has left its effect; iii. Arabic letters and sentences have directly or indirectly influenced Persian language grammer; and iv. many phonemes have entered into Persian language influenced by Arabic language.

Accordingly, Arabic language has been the scientific, religious and official language in the first three centuries after Iran conquest, and it got prevalent among Iranians when they became Muslim. From 3rd solar century onwards, the poets began to compose poems in Dari Persian and from 4th solar century onwards, they began to write books and translate the Holy Quran into this language; however the official language of Iran government was still Arabic language and up to 5th and early 6th centuries some scholars still preferred to write their important books in Arabic language. As per existent evidence, phonetic and phonological system of Persian language has not been affected by Arabic language phonetic and phonological system up to the first 4-5 centuries and it was similar to middle Persian phonetic and phonological system.

The influence of Arabic language was highly expanded after establishment of Islamic government; and along with Islamic

conquests, the departure of Arabic language to the conquered areas commenced.

This paper investigated the effect of Arabic language grammer on Persian language and literature and revealed findings that are briefly presented below.

Arabic words take grammatical functions in our language similar to Persian words, like subject, object, conjunctive, adverb, etc., and among different word types of Arabic language, mostly nouns and adjective are applied in Persian language. Yet some verbs and letters take different grammatical functions in Persian language as well. For example:
Noun: like cloak, sophy.

Adjective: implying the state and volume. For example, health in "he is health" means he is healthy.

Regarding Arabic letters in Persian, it is seen that the meaning of Arabic letters in Persian language are not always consistent with the meaning of them in the grammer books of this language.

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