

Two Archaic Constructions in Persian and Their Similar Examples in Estonian "Possession" & "Pleasantness"

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Abstract

Although Persian and Estonian Languages are from two different language families; Persian is from the Iranian branch of Indo-Iranian group of Indo-European Family and Estonian is from the Finnic branch of Finno-Ugric group of Uralic family, but there are some similar and analogous constructions in these two languages which this paper studies and analyses two constructions of them through comparative method which consist of:

Persian

Ma-ra	ketab-i	ast.
<i>I+ra:pre</i>	<i>a book</i>	<i>be:3sg</i>
<i>on(for) me</i>	<i>a book</i>	<i>is</i>
= <i>I have a book.</i>		

Estonian

Mul	on	raamat.
<i>I-adess</i>	<i>be:3sg</i>	<i>a book</i>
<i>on(for) me</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>a book</i>
= <i>I have a book.</i>		

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2- The construction that states something is pleasant or likable for someone.

Persian

Ma-ra	in ketab	kosh ayad.
<i>I+ra:pre</i>	<i>this book</i>	<i>be pleasant:3sg</i>
<i>on(for) me</i>	<i>this book</i>	<i>is pleasant</i>
<i>= I like this book.</i>		

Estonian

Mulle	meeldib	see raamat.
<i>I-allative</i>	<i>be pleasant:3sg</i>	<i>this book</i>
<i>on(for) me</i>	<i>is pleasant</i>	<i>this book</i>
<i>= I like this book.</i>		

The result of the paper:

a) confirms the hypothetical language family named Indo-Uralic consisting of Indo-European and Uralic.

b) indicates that in the far past, there has been a close relationship between Persian and Estonian Languages that researches can be pinpointed its accuracy or inaccuracy by the next researches in the future.

Keywords: The similarity of the *Persian Language* with the *Estonian Language*, *possession construction in Farsi and Estonian*, *pleasantness construction in Farsi and Estonian*, *Comparative Persian grammar*.

Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

"The Persian language, belongs to the Iranian language group, a branch of the Indo-Iranian languages, and is counted among the large and widespread family of Indo-European languages, alongside European languages such as German, Albanian, Greek, and others." (Abolghasemi, 1373: 5-20) But the Estonian language, belongs to the

Finnic branch of the Uralic language family. (Erelt, 2007: 131 & 275) It is related to languages such as Finnish and Hungarian and is currently one of the smallest languages in the world. It is the only official language of Estonia in the state and governmental institutions, and since 2004, it has been accepted as an official language in the European Union, fulfilling all the necessary functions within the language scope for an independent country (R.K. Sutrop, 2015: 4 & 13).

The Persian and Estonian languages are completely different in terms of script; Persian, written from right to left, differs from the scripts of European languages, including Estonian, which is derived from Latin and written from left to right. However, despite the difference in the language family, apart from the script and long distance, these two languages have many similarities both structurally and morphologically and lexically, such as:

- The inflection of six-person pronouns and verbs
- The construction of a number of compound words and compound numbers
- The construction of noun phrases composed of preceding adjectives + nouns
- The pattern of archaic genitive construction (*Ez⁻afe* construction: POSSESSOR + RA+ POSSESSED)
- Structure of existential sentences (sentences indicating the existence of something in a place) and sentences indicating necessity, obligation, or compulsion

Among the similar patterns and constructions evident in Persian and Estonian, two well-known and highly used structures exist, which this article refers to as "Possession" and "Pleasantness" structures, comparing and analyzing them.

The structures of two patterns, either "Possession" or "Pleasantness, are made based on the "XSV" or "XVS" pattern. (That means the patterns begin with the complemental group "X", then the verb "V" and after that the subject "S" come).

Research Question(s)

What similarities are there in Persian and Estonian?

2. Literature Review

In the field of comparative and contrastive linguistics, many works have been done comparing aspects of Persian language with other languages

such as English, French, Russian, Spanish and German. Also, extensive research has been done on the Estonian language compared to other languages such as Russian, Turkish, German and English. However, based on the searches conducted for this article, no research - neither general nor specific - was found on the comparison of the Persian and Estonian languages.

3. Methodology

As this research is a structural comparative study, it mainly focuses on two patterns about possession and pleasantness in Persian and Estonian languages. This study is conducted as a case study, involving the description and analysis of these two structures and its main purpose is to investigate the similarity of them within the scope of Persian and Estonian syntax.

The necessary materials were gathered through library research, by observing Persian language texts and Estonian syntax reference books then the data from both languages were described and analyzed through the contrastive method.

4. Results

Persian and Estonian are from two different language families, but there are many similarities in their structures.

a: What stands out in this similarity is that most of the structures in contemporary Estonian are similar to the ancient structures of Persian.

b: Although with a slight similarity between two languages, it cannot be said that two languages are related or have a common root, but in terms of the fact that the similarity in constructions is other than lexical and structural similarities, which may be the result of coincidence or borrowing, so if the frequency of structural similarities increases the assumption of kinship between two languages is strengthened.

c: In addition, the existence of such homogeneous constructions in two languages can be another point in confirming the hypothesis of those who believe that the branch of Indo-European languages and the branch of Uralic languages come from the same origin called Indo-Uralic languages.

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