

## Comparative investigation in modality and translation of Spanish sentences to Persian

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### Abstract

Both Persian and Spanish are parts of Indo-European language family that despite the need to categorize and understand some grammatical points for learning, so far no comprehensive comparative research on the grammar of these two languages has been done. Mood of verb is a sample of the complexities of the grammar of these two languages. . In this article, after matching the structures of indicative and subjunctive moods in these two languages, We have examined the association of commonly used modal elements and indicators in simple Spanish sentences with the verbs of these two moods and by dividing them into three groups, we have determined which mood is used with verb along with the elements of each group, therefore by systematizing them, it is easier to find the mood equivalents of the two languages and this helps the process of learning and teaching the field of research. Besides, during the research, it was found that without knowing the structure of the source and destination language, and just by emphasizing the translation of modal elements, it is impossible to transfer the exact modal meaning concept of sentences in translation.

**Keywords:** *Persian language mood, Spanish language mood, Persian and Spanish comparative grammar, verb in Persian and Spanish language*

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**Extended Abstract****1. Introduction**

"Verb" is one of the linguistic elements that has been paid attention to in the first researches about word types. In this course, Protagoras for the first time points out the modal characteristic of the verb and therefore to different types of sentences, such as: Imperative, Declaration, Interrogative and aspirational, and the effect of their meaning on grammatical construction (Zu, 2015, p.35) and finally, it is in the school of Alexandria that for the first time "mood" was mentioned as one of the characteristics of the verb (Zu, 2015, p.36) and with the writing of the first independent grammar in Latin, the verb and its features are discussed.

It should be noted that western grammars were written under the influence of Greek-Latin grammars, that in historically the most important of them, the grammar of Dioniso de Tracia, the five moods of the verb, declarative, imperative, aspirational, subjunctive and infinitive are enumerated, which later became a model for all grammars of Greek and Latin languages and some Indo-European grammars. (Zu, 2015, p. 36) As influenced by this tradition, the first Spanish grammar written by Antonio de Nebrija was published under the title Castiani Nebrija Grammar in 1492 AD.

Grammar writing has also existed in Iran since ancient times, and grammar of the Persian language can be found in dictionary and criticism books and the like. Farshidward has mentioned these sources on pages 31 to 34 of the introduction to the book of "Today's Grammar", but grammar writing in its current meaning, which means compiling an independent book, does not have much background in Persian grammar.

The first Persian grammar, which was written according to the grammar of European languages and considered the term grammar to mean the collection of phonetic rules, lexical and syntax structure of the Persian language, is the book "Speech Grammar" (Istanbul 1910) by Habib Esfahani, in which for the first time mood of the verb form has also been mentioned. (Mazaheri et al, 2009, p. 96-97)

## **2. Literature Review**

From the beginning, the mood of verb has been the focus of Spanish grammarians, but in the Persian language, attention to the mood of verb has less background, and it is in recent decades that monographs on the mood of Persian verb have been done.

Despite the importance of comparative studies in education, such studies on the mood of verb between Persian and Spanish - whether in Persian or Spanish - are very new. As the newly published doctoral thesis of Mrs. Maryam Eftekharian by the title of *Estudio Contrastivo del Subjuntivo en Persa y en Español* - which she defended in 2019 at the University of Salamanca - is the first comparative work in the study of mood in Persian and Spanish. She has examined mood and modality in Persian and Spanish compound sentences from the point of view of syntax and semantics.

## **3. Methodology**

In this article, considering the disagreements between the grammarians of the two languages about the mood of the verb from the beginning until now, we will first briefly discuss the background of consideration about mood of verb in both languages. Then, in the indicative mood part, we put the tenses related to this mood in front of each other in a table and present the basic points about them.

In the following, we will deal with the subjunctive mood and by presenting a similar table; we will point out the differences and similarities between subjunctive mood in Persian and Spanish. Afterwards, we present the concurrency table of the modal elements with the verbs in indicative and subjunctive mood. It should be noted that the purpose of this work is to provide a model for comparative study of mood, which is probably useful for teachers and learners. For example, the table of modal elements which has been provided over the months and is based on the analysis of various sentences and the matching of tenses, has not been previously printed in any book and can clear the ambiguities of many Persian and Spanish learners or teachers..

## **Results**

After discussion, modal elements were divided into three parts. They are separated in such a way that with the first group, the verbs come only with indicative form. (Supongo que- A lo mejor/ creo que/ igual/ Imagino que/ lo mismo). And with the second group the verb comes with both indicative and subjunctive form. (Tal vez/ Quizás/Seguramente/ Posiblemente). And with third group the verb

comes with only subjunctive form that shows a degree of certainty and doubt with the help of the mood of verb of the sentence. (Es posible que/Es probable que/Puede que/Puede ser que). By examining the translation of the sample Spanish sentences, the appropriate equivalent of these modal elements in Persian was also selected and it was found that without knowing the structure of the source and destination languages and only by emphasizing the translation of the modal elements - as we saw in the examples of the modal elements of the first group – it is impossible to convey the precise modal meaning concept of the sentences in the translation.

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