

Morphology of Gilaki words in Kouchesfahan, Iran

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims at gaining familiarity with the structures of words of Gilaki dialect in Kouchesfahan (one of the cities near to Rasht, Iran) using descriptive method and case study approach. In order to gather the data field and library research methods are used. The researcher incorporated instruments such as questionnaire, interview and note taking. The population of the study consisted 500 illiterate or partially literate people among whom 20 were randomly selected as the sample of the study. The data of this study includes 368 Gilaki words of Kouchesfahan. These words are classified according to major and minor word-formation processes and the results showed 116 words were originated by combination, 63 by derivation, 72 by combination and derivation, and 32 by reduplication. Moreover, 84 words are simple and just one word was borrowed. It can be concluded that the most frequent process is combination and the less frequent processes are reduplication and borrowing.

KEYWORDS: Kouchesfahan, dialect, Gilaki, Word, Structure.

INTRODUCTION

Linguistics, as the name reflects, is the scientific study of language. This science however, also focuses on the study of mother tongue. But it primarily considers language as it is generally concerned; that is, on one hand all languages and on the other hand the characteristics of human beings as they are distinct from other creatures. Some scholars have considered human as talking animal (Najafi, 2005: 9).

A systematic study of all forms of a language is dialectology which was flourished at the end of nineteenth century. It was a comprehensive study using questionnaires and recorded interviews and differentiated words according to the regions under study. A collection of these differentiated words are illustrated on a map and published in a dialectology atlas. If a number of different distinct words are found to be related to the certain area, it can be said that there exists a distinct dialect (Rahimi, 2006: 32).

Gilaki is one of the dialects of western group of languages of Iran. It is widespread in Gilan and is still used as the mother tongue of the people living in Gilan (Khanlari, 1973, 41).

Statement of the problem:

With the advancement and expansion of knowledge on one hand and the increasing influence of media on the other hand as well as the immigration of villagers to small towns and megacities, Farsi has dominated other local dialects. Facing this situation, local dialects may continue in of the following ways:

- 1- Local dialects continue their lives since they are not affected by Farsi due to their geographical distance from Farsi speaking centers;
- 2- Coexistence of local dialects and Farsi, especially in terms of individual words and originating a dialect of Farsi consisting some characteristics of the local dialect;
- 3- Extinction of the local dialect and the substitution of Farsi.

Considering the above-mentioned facts, change and extinction of dialects are inevitable. For this reason, documenting some aspects of dialects and understanding their word-formation processes are necessary. By word-formation processes we mean what mechanisms are used actively and repeatedly to produce new words in a language. These processes are classified in two major and minor categories (Afrashi, 2008: 84). Major processes include derivation and combination (however, these two processes can be applied together in order to produce new words). Through derivation affixes are added to the roots and the derived word is produced. Through combination the words with independent meanings are added together to originate a new word. If a word is produced through the application of both, the process is named derivation-combination process. (Afrashi, 2009: 88)

Besides the major processes, there are minor processes including borrowing, blending, conversion and back formation. Every language extends its vocabulary by borrowing some words from other languages. In addition there are a number of simple words which have only one morpheme and have remained from the old days (Shaqaqi, 2008: 33). Since in this article, the borrowing and reduplication words have been only found other processes are not

discussed. This paper focuses on the Gilaki words of Kouchesfahani dialect only. Kouchesfahan is a town near to Rasht, the capital of Gilan province in northern Iran and south of the Caspian Sea. Gilaki is common north-western dialect of Iran which is dominantly used in Gilan.

METHODOLOGY

The main purpose of this paper is to become familiar with

- 1- the word-formation processes of Gilaki dialect in Kouchesfahan.
- 2- The most and the least frequent word – formation processes of Gilaki dialect in Kouchesfahan
- 3- The roles of simple words in this dialect.

Based on the abovementioned questions the paper attempts to answer the following questions:

- 1- Which major or minor word formation processes are used in Kouchesfahan dialect?
- 2- Which processes are the least frequent?
- 3- What are the roles of simple words in Kouchesfahani dialect?

According to the last census, the population of the city (Kouchesfahan) is 8402, among which 4165 are male and 4237 are female. 500 of them are illiterate or partially literate who can speak in Gilaki. Among these 20 were randomly selected to participate in this study. The sample was born in Kouchesfahan and has not lived in any other places for a long time. Ten of them (5 men and 5 women)were in their thirties and the other ten of them were above 40 years old. They were all in acceptable physical and mental conditions. The data were gathered in 2010 and were analyzed inferentially .The morphemes were separated with (.) sign.

- 1- Which major or minor word formation processes are used in Kouchesfahan dialect?

The analysis shows that among 368 words gathered in this study, 116 words are produced through combination; that is combination process with 31.52% of the total processes is the most frequent word-formation process in Kouchesfahan Gilaki. It is shown in table 1. Further analysis shows that 63 of the total processes is dedicated to derivation. It is shown in table 2. Moreover, as it is shown in table 3, 72 words are formed through derivation-combination processes. The only borrowed word is /pâmudur/ which is borrowed from Russian.

Table no. 1: Combination words

âb.čək	âjar.pâyə	âb.čîn	â.jân	âqâ .jân	âb.lâku
arbə.xuj	bâbâ.quri	bazar.sər	bâqla.qâtuq	bâqla.vavij	bəkəftə.pâləvân
dəs.âb	čâ.ləb	čəčul.bâz	pâ.gir	pâ.kâr	pələ.pəg
pile.pəsər	tare.učîn	taxtə.sər	turəng.xus	jâjigâ	Jir.sər
dâq.tušk	dəryâ.kənâr	zânə.xâ.zən	xânə.zâmâ	xərtə.pərt	xun.dimir
xuj.dâr	xurəm.pəsər	dâqə.tušk	dâr.viji	dəs.âmuç	dəs.məjan
dəgərd.vəgərd	dil.vasa	dil.qəš	do.xân	râ.sər	ru.bâr
rubâr.lât	ruxân.kol	ru.dâr	zâr.zen	zən.mâr	sâtur.taxtə
sâ.kutə	sâmân.sər	səbzî.kuku	sər.dəbəd	sər.futurk	səl.kol
səg.lâb	siya.kuli	sifid.mâyi	sinə.âb	siyâ.tâve	sob.dəm
surx.kuli	surx.putâl	šâ.bâr	šâl.dâd	šân.kus	šaxus.dâr
šâxus.kələ	šâxus.vəlk	šərap.šurup	šəkəm.pəs	šələm.qələm	šiš.andâz
širin.qorme	qâb.bâz	qâb.dân	qeylə.nâhâr	qurân.xane	kâr.va.kun
kâs.kulu	kâl.geb	kəllə.piča	kəllə.xuk	kuči.kâr	kurə.ququ
kuluš.muštə	kiš.xâl	gâb.čum	gâb.mast	gâz.mâlə	gali.puš
gəməj.dânə	gəndəm.vâš	gur.xânə	gil.mərd	lâb.tân	lalə.pita
loxt.u.soxt	ləgəd.dəməg	mândə.čînâ	mərd.mâr	mərd.pər	mu.sər
nak.tâl	nuqul.dân	nim.dânə	nim.kâ	vâj.amon	vâ.xân
vərza.duš	vərza.kulə	vəlvələ.guš	vi.dâr	ham.zâmâ	yətim.kolə

Table no. 2: Derivation words

âquz.ə	bâ.vər	bə.kâr	bə.jâr	bə.jâvəst.ə	bə.jir
bi.niš	bi.xeir	bu.do	čâl.ə.ka	ču.to	čušm.ə
dərz.ə	pâš.an.en	prk.əš	tâb.an.en	jəlîsh.an.en	jingir.ə
jiviz.ə	xušk.ə	dâl.ə	dâqul.ə	dəpəlkəst.ə	dəm.ə
də.kəšən	dučulkəst.ə	dim.ə	rəšt.ə	ruf.ə	zərx.ə
zəvâl.ə	suj.an.en	sulâx.ə	šânt.ə	fačəməst.ən	fâəməst.ə
fakəlašt.ə	fursuft.ə	fisqal.ə	kâl.ə	kə.še:n	ləng.ə
mar.ə	mafing.i	manəst.en	manəst.en.i	murq.ânə	must.ə
must.ə	nâ.jur	nâ.xuš.i	nâ.rəs	nəbât.i	nə.pəč
ni.ša	vâ.bij.an.en	vâ.tərkəst.ə	vâ.xəb	vâsin.ə	va.kəft.ən
va.gərd	va.višt.ə	vər.ja	yâr.ə		

Table no. 3: Combination- derivation words

âb.xor.i	âpâr.bâz.i	âtəş.par.ə	âftâb.dim.ə	aşkel.ə.bejâr
bə.jâr.sər	bə.jâr.kâr	bə.jâr.mərz	bi.čəng.ə.muşt	čâr.čum.i
pəş.a.šu	təbər.dum.ə	tum.bə.jâr	turş.ə.tareh	təsk.ə.dill
juxus.bâz.i	xušk.ə.čû	xušk.ə.xâl	xušk.ə.jiga	xudâ.nu.kud.ə
dâz.ə.dum.ə	dâz.ə.tuk	dək.ə.dəndə	dil.ə.dərd	riş.čərm.ə
zəkən.ə.âb	sâs.dəmərd.ə	sər.â.jir	sər.asb.i	sər.â.jor
sər.bi.jir	sər.čin.â	surx.ə.čum	sir.â.bij	sir.ə.qəlyə
şələm.turş.i	şəndər.ə.pəndər.ə	feşkel.ə.âb	fak.ə.fâmil	qâb.bâz.i
kərd.ə.xâl.ə	kərd.ə.xâl.ə	kələč.mələč.i	kur.ə.piča	kun.a.mu.j.ân
gâb.dəkəft.ə.bazaar	gâz.ə.pušt.ə	gərdən.pəs.ə	lâr.ə.turb	lâfənd.bâz.i
lanti.xum.ə	lâl.ə.dânə	mərd.ə.gud	murq.jəng.e	mirzâ.qâsm.i
nân.ə.bəranj.i	nu.kud.ə.kâr	vâ.ba.dən	vâ.bin.ə	vələng.ə.vâz
bâləko.guş.ə	tumân.bə.kəndə	ruqən.xur.ə	sim.pər.ək	gâb.bənd.i
pâ.sər.i	darə.kun.ə	sər.â.kun.â	qeyş.bâz.i	lət.ə.sər
nâz.bə.dâşt.ə	vərf.gud.ə			

2- Which processes are the least frequent?

According to the gathered data, 32 words are originated through reduplication and one word is originated by borrowing process(pâmudur) ; that is these processes are the least frequent processes of word formation in Kouchesfahan Gilaki. It is shown in table 4.

Table no. 4: reduplication words

pəta. pəta	pərtə. pərtə	ti.ti	jiliz.viliz	ču.ču	xus.xus
xər.ə. xər.ə	xurd.ə. xurd.ə	xure.xure	rək.ə. rək.ə	rəc.bə.rəc	dâl.bə.dâl
dexâr.dexâr	dəs.dəs.i	zir.zir.ə.ka	şəg.şəg	fakəş.fukəş	fər.a.fər
kəllə.bə. kəllə	kut.kuti	gərd.vâ.gərd	gurr.â.gur	gij.gij.i	lâčâr. Lâčâr
ləb.ə.ləb	məs.məs	mən.əm. mən.əm	mil.i.mil	muft.muft.i	vasin.vasin
vər.a. vər.a	hâr.hâr				

3- What are the roles of simple words in Kouchesfahani dialect?

The analysis of the data shows that 84 words are simple as they are shown in table 5.

Table no. 5: simple words

Âu	Âluq	âjur	Ajar	abruşum	abji	Aşan
Ato	Ax	arâdə	aşbəl	bâləko	bâləkâ	Bâj
bərzəx	bəlk	polik	Pord	per	putal	Puşal
tâsiyân	Tur	Tutu	təbajah	turəng	jimjâl	Jâkuh
jukul	Xâxur	xekâre	Xilik	xutəka	xurəm	Dâr
čačul	Čaroq	čət	čərə	čəməčə	čuxâl	Čuruk
Čul	Čičal	dadul	Dârâbi	dârə	dədâr	râbişkən
ruxân	rəzək	rəz	Zâmâ	zərx	zibil	zimbəlazimbo
səl	Subul	şâpərtələx	şâpələx	şâpə	şâltâq	şâləki
şukul	fâkələş	fluxos	Qâtoq	qârmâq	qeyş	Kâpiş
kərkər	Kaleh	kunduj	Kişka	gâb	gajamə	Gače
Gâz	Gâli	loča	Lučân	lâsu	mâčči	vərza

Conclusion

Among the 368 words from Kouchesfahan Gilaki dialect, 116 words are formed through combination. That is to say, combination is the most frequent word-formation process in this dialect (31.52%). 63 words are produced through derivation and 72 words are produced out of derivation - combination process. Based on these findings it is suggested that similar studies be done in other dialects of Gilan and the results be compared with those of this study. Among the 368 words under study 32 words are produced by reduplication and only one word is originated by borrowing process. That is borrowing and repetition are the less frequent word formation processes in Kouchesfahan Gilaki. It is suggested that word formation processes of other Iranian dialects be compared with those of Gilaki.

84 words of the 368 gathered words are found to be simple. It is suggested that considering the variety of Gilaki dialects, the simple words of other dialects be studied and compared with kouchesfahan dialect.

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