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INTERFERENTIAL PROCESSES IN PERSIAN COMPOUND VERBS IN THE FEREYDANIAN DIALECT

Abstract

This study examines the formation and development of the Fereydanian dialect within a Persian-speaking environment. The analysis focuses on verb forms and instances of borrowing compound verbs, which clearly illustrate the multi-stage process of linguistic interference. The study shows how the dialect preserves the main characteristics of the Kartvelian languages while simultaneously acquiring structural features borrowed from Persian.

Keywords: *Fereydanian Dialect; Persian influence; Compound verbs; Linguistic interference; Kartvelian languages*

This study aims to explore, through the lens of complex verbs, the linguistic changes that occur when a language is relocated to a different territory and placed within a new linguistic environment – focusing in particular on the evolution of the Fereydanian dialect of Georgian in an Iranian-speaking context.

The Fereydanian dialect – this linguistic island – has existed within the Islamic Republic of Iran for nearly four centuries in an entirely Persian-speaking environment. Georgian (a Kartvelian language) and Persian (an Iranian language) belong to different language families. Nevertheless, a continuous interaction between these languages has developed over the centuries, driven by the long-standing historical relationship between Georgia and Iran. Iranian lexical elements have entered and become established in the Georgian language at various historical stages, with borrowings from Old (such as Avestan, Old Persian, Median, and Scythian-Sarmatian), Middle (including Parthian and Middle Persian), and New (Modern Persian) Iranian languages.

Due to the historical and political circumstances in Georgia, the Fereydanian dialect of Eastern Georgia – originally a branch of the Kakhetian variety – separated from the valley dialect in the early 17th century and began to develop independently. Fereydanian retains the grammatical system of its parent dialect and is therefore still classified within the valley group of Eastern Georgian dialects. Notably, it has preserved many linguistic features – characteristic of 17th-century Kakhetian – that have since disappeared from Kakhetian itself.

As a result of sustained contact with an unrelated language, the Fereydanian dialect exhibits strong signs of interference. Nearly four centuries of direct contact with Persian

have left a significant imprint – not only on the vocabulary, but also on the phonemic and grammatical systems. While Fereydanian has preserved much in common with Kakhetian, prolonged interaction with Persian has led to innovations that ultimately transformed it into an independent dialect.

Before proceeding to the analysis of the material, I will first outline the textual sources on which our research is based: Arn. Chikobava, *Main Features of Fereydanian*, Tbilisi University Bulletin, 1927; Sh. Dzidziguri, *Chrestomathy of Georgian Dialects with Dictionaries*, 1956; M. Beridze and L. Bakuradze, *The Fereydanian Dialect of the Georgian Language*, 2020.

In identifying Persian borrowings in the Fereydanian dialect, it is essential to consider lexical items that had already been integrated into the Georgian language prior to the emergence of this dialect - that is, before the 17th century. All borrowings presented in this study have been verified using the Georgian language corpus, as well as in later dialects.

This time, we focus on the borrowing of compound verbs. As Arnold Chikobava once said, 'Let us begin with the verb, that scourge and lord of Georgian morphology'. The Fereydanian dialect has borrowed compound verbs from Persian and adapted them to conform to its own grammatical system.

It has been noted in the scholarly literature that the Fereydanian dialect features the formation of analytical verb forms, arising through analogy with the complex verbs found in New Persian.

Historically, the Old Iranian languages were inflectional in nature, featuring a rich morphological structure. Their grammatical system distinguished three genders, eight cases, and two numbers. The verbal system included various stem types from which categories such as person, number, tense, mood, and voice were derived.

Already during the Achaemenid period, a process of grammatical structure breakdown began, culminating in the Middle Iranian era. In this period, morphology is marked by the erosion of inflectional categories - such as the loss of gender distinctions and other inflections – leading to a rise in analytical constructions and consequent changes in syntax.

The morphological structure of Modern Persian is analytical: it lacks gender and case categories. Instead, their functions are expressed through prepositions, the suffix *-rā*, and *izāfe* constructions. The verb system encodes categories such as person, number, tense, and mood.

The morphological system of Persian exhibits clear signs of agglutination, where affixes are mechanically attached to the root or stem of a word, making it straightforward to decompose the word into its constituent parts. Each affix carries a single grammatical meaning, with specific affixes used for different functions - similar to the Georgian language. For example, in Persian, the plural of a noun is formed using several agglutinative affixes. This agglutinative nature is even more pronounced in the Persian verb system, where conjugation morphology is fundamentally based on agglutination.

Georgian also has many compound verbs, sharing numerous common linguistic, typological, and universal features. The principle of the 'frame' is neither entirely foreign nor incomprehensible: compound verbs in Georgian also include additional elements. The main difference lies primarily in the *izāfe* system and the process of its chain extension.

Arnold Chikobava once addressed the issue of interference in the Fereydanian dialect: 'The Persian influence is especially evident in phrase formation; sometimes a phrase combines a Persian and a Georgian word, while other times Georgian or non-Persian words are borrowed, yet the phrase structure remains based on Persian rules', and presents several examples.

The following stems are used as components of compound verbs: *to have, to catch, to be, to stand, to pull, to do, to set, to create, to give*, and others.

In some cases, both components of the loan translation are reflected in the translation: *to stand on a wedding* – meaning *they held a wedding*; and similar examples.

We have categorized examples of verb borrowings from Persian into Fereydanian as follows:

1. Persian nominal part + Georgian verb:

დარსა ვკითხულოვ *darsa vk'itxulop* 'I am studying' #4095¹ درس میخوانم [dars mixānam] 'I am studying' درس [dars] 'lesson', خواندن [xāndan] 'to read'

ყალიანს ეზიდებოდა *q'aliāns ezideboda* 'he was smoking a pipe' #4078 قلیان می کشید [qaliān mikešid] 'he was smoking a pipe' قلیان [qaliān] 'pipe', کشیدن [kešidan] 'to pull'

ფარყი არ არი *parq'i ar ari* 'there is no difference' #4078 فرق [farğ] 'difference'

ბეური ზაჰმათს ვეზიდე *beûri zahmats vezide* 'I took great pains' #4081 زحمت کشیدن [zahmat kešidan] 'to take pains' زحمت [zahmat] 'pains', کشیدن [kešidan] 'to pull'

ხეჯალათობა გაეზიდა შენთანდავ *xejhalatoba gajzida šentanyao* 'he was ashamed' #4093 خجلت [xejalat] 'shame'

მე ხოშად არ მამდის *me xošad ar mamdis* #4079 خوش آمدن [xoš āmadan] 'to like' خوش [xoš] 'pleasant' آمدن [āmadan] 'to come'

ჩონაც გული თანგი გოქ *čonac guli tangi gok* 'we miss' #4107 دلم تنگ است [delam tang ast] 'I miss' دل [del] 'heart', تنگ [tang] 'narrow', است [ast] 'is'

ზენდეგი უქნიათ *zendegi ukniat* 'they have lived' #4096 زندگی کردن [zendegi kardan] 'to live'

სოჰბათი ქნილა *sohbat i knila* 'they have talked' #4111 صحبت کردن [sohbat kardan] 'to talk' صحبت [sohbat] 'talk', کردن [kardan] 'to do'

ჰასაბი გოქონდა *hasabi gokonda* 'we had an account' #4111 حساب [hesāb] 'account'

მარიზობა აყე *marizoba aq'e* 'they are sick' #4092 مریض [mariz] 'sick'

რავაბეთი გავსხენით *ravabeti gavxsenit* 'we started a relationship' #4089 روابط [ravabet] 'relationship'

¹ The numbers here and below indicate the audio recording number cited in the Beridze and Bakuradze monograph.

დუნიაზე რო მოვიდოდა *duniazē ro movidoda* ‘when he was born’ #4081 به دنيا [be doniā āmadan] ‘to be born’ به [be] ‘-to, -on’, دنيا [doniā] ‘world’, آمدن [āmadan] ‘to come’

მარიზი რო შაიქნებოდა *marizi ro šaikneboda* ‘when he got sick’ #4081 مریز شدن [msriz šodan] ‘to get sick’

ნესპათი ქონდაყ *nesp’ati kondaq’e* ‘he had a connection’ #4093 نسبت [nesbat] ‘connection, relationship’

ფარყი არა გაქყყე *parq’i ara gaktq’e* ‘you do not differ’ #4079 فرق داشتن [farğ dāštan] ‘to differ’ فرق [farğ] ‘differ’ داشتن [dāštan] ‘to have’

ჩემთან აშნა იყო *čemtān ašna iq’o* ‘I knew him’ #4107 با من آشنا بود [bā man āšnā bud] ‘I knew him’

ჯორათი არა ექნა *žorati ara jkna* ‘didn’t dare’ #4107 جرأت [jor’āt] ‘to dare’

ჯავაბს მიძცემყე *žavabs mifcemq’e* ‘I will answer’ #4107 جواب دادن [javāb dādan] ‘to answer’

მაჯბური შაიქნა *mažburi šaikna* ‘was forced’ #4107 مجبور شدن [majbur šodan] ‘to be forced’ مجبور [majbur] ‘to force’, شدن [šodan] ‘to become’

ანდიშა გოქონდა *andiša gokonda* ‘we thought; we were afraid’ #4107 اندیشه [andiše] ‘thought’; ‘fear’

ბოხარი ადგაო *boxari adgao* ‘steamed over’ #4098 بخار [boxār] ‘fume’, ‘smoke’

წუხელის ფინაქი ვერა ჭკარო *c’uxelis pinaki vera fk’aro* ‘I didn’t close my eye’ #4103 پینکی [pinaki] ‘to fall asleep’

ჩაიმა უნდა დამი გაფხიდოსო *čaima unda dami gajzidoso* ‘the tea must be boiled’ #4103 دم کشیدن [dam kešidan] ‘to boil’ دم [dam] ‘to breath out’, کشیدن [kešidan] ‘to pull’

ხაში დაიჭირაო *xašmi daič’irao* ‘he got angry’ #4086 خشم [xašm] ‘anger’

შაფალაღი შამოგდვას *šapalayi šamojgdvas* ‘let him slap you’ #4109 شپلاق زدن [šaplāğ zadan] ‘to slap’

ნაჰარათი შაიქნა *narahati šaikna* ‘he became angry’ #4082 ناراحت [nārāhat] tense

2. Persian noun + Georgian auxiliary verb:

ზანგია *zangia* ‘there is a bell’ #4095 زنگ [zang] ‘bell’

მოალემია *moalemia* ‘he is a teacher’ #4095 معلم [mo’allem] ‘teacher’

ხასისია *xasisia* ‘he is mean’ #4078 خسیس [xasis] ‘mean’

ავვალი ხარ *avvali xar* ‘you are the first’ #4095 اول [avval] ‘first’

ბიდარ ერიო *bidar erio* ‘he is awake’ #4078 بیدار [bidār] ‘awake’

ამის თახსირიამ *amis taxsiriao* ‘this is his fault’ #4078 تقصير [tağšir] ‘fault’
 შირიამ *širiao* ‘this is a lion’ #4111 شیر [šir] ‘lion’
 შარმანდა ხარ *šarmanda xar* ‘you are shy’ #4111 شرمنده [šarmande] ‘shy’
 მითუნო *mitunio* ‘you can’ #4089 می توانی [mitavāni] ‘you can’
 ნარაათებია *naraatebia* ‘they are tense’ #4089 ناراحت [nārāhat] ‘tense’
 ყადიმებია *q’adimebia* ‘they are old’ #4081 قدیم [qadim] ‘old’
 არ იყო ემქანათი *ar iq’o emkanati* ‘there was no possibility’ #4107 امکانیت [emkāniat] ‘possibility’
 ხალდი ბადბახტობაჩი იყო *xalqi badbaxt’obači iq’o* ‘people were in trouble’ #4107 بدبختی [badbaxti] ‘trouble’
 რასთია, ჩაფია *rastia, čapia* ‘it is right, it is left’ #4107 راست [rāst] ‘right’ چپ [čap] ‘left’
 ზირინგიამ *ziringiao* ‘he is smart’ #4107 زرنگ [zerang] ‘smart’
 ფარყი არა აქ *farq’i ara ak* ‘there is no difference’ #4107 فرق [farg] ‘difference’
 აიბი არაა *aibi araa* ‘it is not shame’ #4084 عیب [eib] ‘blame, fault’

3. Georgian translation of a Persian construction (entirely Georgian):

ჯელი რო ვერ მიწდების *qeli ro ver mic’debis* ‘I can’t reach it’ #4087 دست نمی رسد [dast nemiresad] ‘I can’t reach it’ ჯელი دست ‘hand’, მიწდების ‘reach’
 ხელი არა აქ *xeli ara ak* ‘It has nothing to do with it’ #4078 دست داشتن [dast dāštan] ‘to have a connection’ ხელი دست ‘hand’, ქონა داشتن ‘to have’
 ხუმრობა გოუკეთოთ *xumroba gouk’etot* ‘let’s joke’ #4111 شوخی کردن [šuxi kardan] ‘to joke’ ხუმრობა شوخی ‘joke’, კეთება کردن ‘to do’
 ღმერთმა შაგინახოს *ymertma šaginaxos* be well #4081 خدا نگهدار [xodā negahdār] good-bye ღმერთი خدا ‘God’ შენახავდარ ‘protect’
 თარგმანი ქნას *targmani knas* ‘let him translate’ #4106 ترجمه کردن [tarjome kardan] ‘to translate’ თარგმანი ترجمه ‘translate’ კეთება کردن ‘to do’
 იმის გულს ადგილზე მოიტანო *imis guls adgilze moit’ano* ‘you will recognize his heart’ #4106 به جا آوردن [be jā āvardan] ცნობა ‘to recognize’ جا [jā] ადგილი ‘place’, آوردن [āvardan] მოტანა ‘to bring’
 ჩემ ცხირზე ვიყო *čem cxvirze viq’o* ‘to be on my mood’ #4079 سر دماغ بودن [sare damāg budan] ‘to be on mood’ سر [sar] -ზე ‘on’ دماغ [damāg] ცხირი ‘nose’, بودن [budan] ყოფნა ‘to be’
 ღმერთმა კარი ღია მოქცეს *ymertma k’ari yia mokces* ‘may God bless you’ #4079 خدا در را باز کند [xodā dar rā bāz konad] ‘May God bless you’ ღმერთი خدا ‘God’, კარი ‘door’, باز کردن ‘open’

ჰმა ქნა *qma kna* 'he called him' #4107 صدا کردن [sedā kardan] 'to call' صدا bმა 'voice', کردن კეთება 'to do'

ლაქა დაფარდებისო *laka dajvardebiso* 'it will be covered with stains' #4107 لک افتادن [lak oftādan] 'to be covered with stains'; لک ლაქა 'stain' افتادن 'to fall'

ცხვირზეგ არიო *cxvirzeg ario* 'he is well' #4086 سر دماغ بودن [sare damāg budan] 'to be on a good mood' غاغ ცხვირი 'nose'

Besides compound verbs, the following types of interference are also identified.

4. The verb form is derived from a Persian root but follows the Georgian verb inflection system:

არ იყაბულეს *ar i-q'abul-es* 'they did not agree' #4078 قبول نکردند [ğabul nakardand] 'they did not agree' قبول [ğabul] 'agree'

იკლიტებოდა *i-k'lit'-eboda* 'it was closing' #4100 کلید [kelid] 'key'

მოურანგირებია *mou-rang-irebia* 'he has colored it' #4111 رنگ [rang] 'color'

გოუზახმოს *gou-zaxm-os* 'will hurt him' #4108 زخم [zaxm] 'hurt'

ჩაქორავდეს *ča-kor-avdes* 'to go blind' #4093 کور [kur] 'blind'

დანარმისყედა *da-narm-isq'eṃa* 'will soften' #4107 نرم [narm] 'soft'

დავფაბილოთ *dav-pabil-ot* 'let's dig' #4077 پارو [pāru] 'paddle', بیل [bil] 'shovel'

გაიშერიქოთყედა *gai-šerik-otq'eṃa* 'to be a partner' #4107 شریک [šerik] 'partner'

ფაქდების, გაფაქდეს *pak-debis, ga-pak-des* 'gets clean' #4107 پاک [pāk] 'clean'

გოოჯუფტოთ *goo-župt'-ot* 'let's pair up' #4107 جفت [joft] 'pair'

დაჰყონადვენ *dah-q'onay-ven* 'they will invite them' #4107 قنق [q'onoq] seldom: 'guest, traveller'

თირზანაობდითყე *tir-zan-aobditq'e* 'a kind of play' #4101 تیر [tir] 'arrow, shot'; زد-زن [zadan - zan] 'beat, strike'

აჯუშეფს *a-žuš-eps* 'is boiling' #4109 جوشیدن [jušidan] 'boil'

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that the Fereydnian dialect exhibits direct, full, and partial verb borrowings from Persian, reflecting extensive linguistic influence resulting from centuries of close contact. Such borrowings are particularly evident in the domain of compound verbs, highlighting the deep structural impact Persian has had on this Georgian dialect.

The prolonged coexistence of the Fereydnian Georgian community within an Iranian linguistic environment has not only altered specific lexical and grammatical features but has also shaped the cognitive and communicative patterns of its speakers. From a

typological standpoint, this phenomenon aligns with well-documented cases of language interference and contact-induced change observed globally. For example, English exhibits extensive borrowings and structural influences from French and Scandinavian languages following historical contact; similarly, the Balkan *Sprachbund* illustrates how geographically proximate yet genetically unrelated languages share grammatical features through sustained interaction. Comparable patterns are also found among the diverse Caucasian language families.

Thus, the Fereydanian dialect exemplifies how long-term bilingualism and language contact can lead to significant typological shifts. Speakers effectively “think” within one linguistic framework – in this case, Iranian - while expressing themselves in another – Georgian. The adaptation and borrowing of verbs, especially complex ones, provide compelling evidence of this cognitive and linguistic integration.

Future research may further explore how these contact phenomena affect other linguistic levels such as phonology, syntax, and pragmatics, contributing to our broader understanding of language change under contact conditions.