

The Comparison of the Prepositions /به:be/ in Persian and /په:pa/ in Balochi¹

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Abstract—One of the most widely-used prepositions, /be/ in Persian and /pa/ in Balochi, in the two Iranian languages of Persian and Balochi was phonologically and functionally (morphologically, syntactically, and semantically) studied in the present research. The methodology of research was based on a comparative-descriptive manner. It was found that Balochi, rather than Persian, has better preserved the older forms of the word by the retention of the phonemes /p/ and /a/. Functionally speaking, there were 24 cases of similarities against 10 cases of differences from a total of 34 cases in a synchronic study (almost 70% of similarities vs. 30% differences respectively). Not only can the results be used to provide a pattern for the comparison of other words of the two languages in order to provide language maps, educational comparative grammars, and teaching these languages; but they reveal that a revision is necessary in the typology system of Balochi dialects; especially for the dialects neighboring Persian. It means avoiding absolute classifying of all Balochi dialects as west-northern Iranian; since some of these dialects display many characteristics of west-southern Iranian languages as well.

Index Terms—grammar, Iranian languages, Persian, Balochi, preposition, language typology

I. INTRODUCTION

Typologically, both Persian and Balochi fall into the western group of Iranian languages in the primary classification. In the secondary classification, Persian is categorized under the west-southern and Balochi under the west-northern subgroups². Being close relatives, these two Iranian languages have similarities and differences which can be studied from different aspects.

Based on the premise that every word has its own history and a certain word might change into different forms and meanings through the passage of time, one of the most prominent Iranian prepositions, /be/ in Persian and /pa/ in Balochi, which originates from Proto-Iranian language, is compared in this article, from *phonemic* and *functional* aspects.

At the present time, Persian is the most well-known member of the Iranian languages. Many Iranian and non-Iranian languages have already been compared with Persian based on different aspects. Since the linguistic comparison of each Iranian language with Persian can contribute to the comparative study of other Iranian languages, the above mentioned common preposition is compared in these two Iranian languages, Persian being one of them, based on this certain purpose.

Abolghasemi (2008) argues about the prepositions in Proto-Iranian Languages as “Proto-Iranian prepositions have agentive functions and each can almost be the agents of more than one case; and they come either before or after their own complements”(p. 28). He adds “Prepositions appear either in attributive or predicative positions of their complements in Middle Persian. In Dari Persian, ‘رآ’³ is always in predicative position. Other prepositions come almost in attributive position” (ibid: 285).⁴

Regarding prepositions in Dari Persian, Meshkatoddini (1994) argues that “prepositions are special syntactic elements which usually appear only in front of the noun phrases in different syntactic cases except for the nouns in nominative, accusative, and predicative cases. These three syntactic cases define their syntactic structures with other syntactic elements. The grammatical relationship of the complement and the adverbial complement constituents are especially defined by the use of the prepositional phrases” (p. 221).

In what is observed today of such Iranian languages as Persian and Balochi, the legacy of the older Iranian languages seems to be much preserved, especially, in regards of prepositions. In other words, even today, each preposition, especially the above-mentioned one, is used in more than one case.

In new Persian and Balochi languages, the preposition ‘be/pa’ is a high-currently used preposition and appears as a complement agent or a part of a collocation with many other linguistic elements in initial or mid-positions.

¹ - Hereafter, through the article, only the transcribed forms of these two prepositions as /be/ and /pa/ are used.

² - The findings of this research and of some previous studies partly show that Balochi contains some of the characteristics of the Eastern and West-southern Iranian languages also. For more information, see (Jahani, 2001, p. 59).

³ - ‘rā’ as a postposition in Dari Persian is the agent of direct object.

⁴ - Persian language has passed three steps in its historical course as Old, Middle, and New(Dari) Persian.

It is not possible to compare this preposition between these two languages diachronically, since there is a wealth of historical documents for Persian from Old to New Persian; whereas, Balochi is deprived of such an advantage. Consequently, a synchronic and comparative study of New Persian and Balochi is conducted in this article⁵.

The research can partly answer the following questions: 1) to what extent does this Iranian preposition in the two languages have functional similarities and have preserved the common legacy of the past? 2) How much functional differences does this Iranian preposition have in the two languages, and how wide is the gap left between them? 3) Does this study help providing independent or comparative grammar of Persian and Balochi languages, and the language typology maps of these two Iranian languages?

II. COMPARISON

A. Phonemic Comparison of 'be/pa' between Persian and Balochi

In some Old Iranian languages and the Sanskrit, the preposition appears in the following forms: “ *patiy* in Old Persian, *paityi* in Avestan, *pad* in Middle Persian, and *prāi* in Sanskrit ” (Hasandoost, 2004, p. 220).

As previously mentioned, this preposition is realized as /be/ in Persian and /pa/ in Balochi, respectively. A glance at the above documents reveals that Balochi has better preserved the Old Iranian phonemes of the word by the retention of the phonemes /p/ and /a/ than the existing Persian counterpart phonemes /b/ and /e/.

It is worth mentioning that in some of the Balochi dialects, especially those neighboring Persian, including Roodbari⁶, Bashagardi, Jaski, Lashari, Fanooji, Bazmani, and some others, the phoneme /p/ has also changed to /b/ and the preposition represents as /ba/. In addition, some rare cases of /pa/ forms can be heard as /par/, /bar/, and /be/ in some Balochi dialects.

B. Functional Comparison of 'be/pa' between Persian and Balochi

1. the application of /be/ in Persian Grammar

Here, firstly the applications of /be/ in three works on new Persian including *Persian Grammar* by M.J.Shari'at, *Persian Grammar* by M. Meshkatoddini, and *The Sokhan Great Dictionary* under the supervision of Hassan Anvari are presented.

Shari'at maintains that the preposition /be/ bears such meanings as *time, place, swear, arguing or causality, simile, companionship, helping, confrontation, quantity, direction, for, agreeing, purpose, order, a sign of object, and a start for talk* (a total of 15 cases) in New Persian. At times in the literature of the past, he adds, the preposition goes also hand in hand with such other words as /andar/ and /andarūn/ as in the example “ *be šokr andaraš mazīd-e ne'mat*⁷: With his thanks, benefits increase ” (Shari'at, 1992, p. 316-17).

Meshkatoddini (1994) states that the preposition /be/ denotes such grammatical relations as *complement and adverbial complement*, and the following meanings: *indirect object, swear, state, instead of, changing and exchanging, price, direction/side, amount/size, intention/aim, order, companionship, confrontation, result, destination*, (a total of 15 cases) in New Persian (p. 223-4). Some of these items are also exemplified by the author.

In *The Sokhan Great Dictionary* (2002), on pages 1071-2, a number of 29 cases along with examples are cited for the application of the preposition /be/ in New Persian which seems to be the most thorough of the three mentioned sources. It is considered, here, as the main source of comparison with Balochi for its comprehensiveness. Moreover, some out of the 29 uses of /be/ in this list are considered older or literary samples (18-29 cases). The 29 cases are as following:

- 1) arrival to a place/land, e.g. *be xāne rasīdam*: I reached home.
- 2) addressing someone, e.g. *be to mīgūyam bargard*: I tell you come back.
- 3) toward somewhere/something, e.g. *īn kūrerāh be deh mīrawad*: This byway goes toward the village.
- 4) costing the amount of/to be worth to, e.g. *īn qesse be yek bār xāndan namīarzad*: This book is worth to be read once.
- 5) a sign of swear, e.g. *be xodā qasam ...* : I swear God ...
- 6) to/for someone, e.g. *erādat-e man be ū rūz be rūz bīštar mīšawad*: My friendship to him is increasing daily.
- 7) on/upon, e.g. *bela 'xare be sandalī-ye rīyāsāt nešast*: Finally, he occupied the manager post⁸.
- 8) for/ for the sake of, e.g. *mā be tamāšā nešastaīm*: We were sitting here to watch [something].
- 9) getting help, e.g. *be nām-e xodā sāl-e tahsīlī rā āyāz mīkonīm*: We start the new school year, getting help the name of God.
- 10) /be/ placed between two consecutive words to state sequence or gradual performance, e.g. *hamī bord manzel be manzel be sar*: He/She passed the stages gradually.
- 11) according to/ in agreeable with, e.g. *be kāmetān bād*: I hope [everything] will be in agreeable with your desires.

⁵ - There are difficulties in the synchronic comparison of new Persian and Balochi as well, since a substantial volume of the written works of the New Persian is available older than 1200 years, while the written Balochi works hardly exceed to 150 years ago.

⁶ - Roodbar (locally called Ruəbār/Ruəbār Zamīn) is the general name for villages located alongside of Halil Rood River running into Hamun-e Jaz Murian, (an inland basin). Currently, a county called Islam Abad is the center of this area. The dialect of this area's people is one of the dialects placed on the isogloss separating the southern Persian dialects from the western Balochi. for further information, see (Motallebi, 2006, p. 3-4).

⁷ - A part of a poem composed by S'adi, a famous Persian poet.

⁸ - literally: He sat on the manager's seat.

12) conveying a contrast between two things, e.g. *tīm-e mā dar moqābel-e ānhā dah be yāzdah bāzī mikard*: Our team played with ten [players] in contrast eleven of them.

13) as a complement for some verbs in idiomatic meaning, e.g. *pardāxtan be ...* : to be busy with ...

14) collocating with some adjectives to form a complement, e.g. *monhaser be, mavkūl be, nazdīk be ...* : depended to, related to, Close to ...

15) before a noun to form an adverb, e.g. *be vīze, be garmī, be sor'at, ...*: especially, warmly, rapidly, ...

16) before a noun to form an adjective, e.g. *benīrū, bexrad⁹, ...* : powerful, wise, ...

17) /be/ placed between two nouns, mostly to form an adjective, e.g. *sar be zīr, pā be māh, ...* : shameful, ready to give birth a child, ...

18) indicating a location, e.g. *zabān borīde be konjī nešaste sommon bokm*: Sitting in a corner silently.

19) indicating part of a time, e.g. *dehqān be sahgāhān kaz xāne beyāyad, ...* : when in early morning the farmer comes out of the house, ...

20) by means of/with, e.g. *hadis az motreb o may gū o rāz-e dahr kamtar jūy¹⁰ ke kas nagšūd o nagšāyad be hekmat in mo'ammā rā*: Speak of the wine and the singer, and search for the secret of the world less; for nobody discovered and will discover this secret by wisdom.

21) to possess, e.g. *agar xāhī be āberū bāsi, āzarm piše kon*: If you want to possess dignity, observe modesty.

22) as/as a sign of, e.g. *kasī rā ke dānī ke xasm-e to ūst # na az aql bāšad gereftan be dūst*: If you find someone your enemy # it is not a sign of logic to choose him your friend.

23) from the aspect of, e.g. *ke degargūn šodand o dīgarsān # be nahād o be xūy o gūne o rang*: And that they transformed and changed their [characters] # from the aspect of essence, habit, and appearance.

24) in a manner, e.g. *be tāxtan az pas-e ū bešodand*: They followed him in the manner of [horse] running.

25) to the amount of/ with the scale of, e.g. *az bahr-e taskīn-e išān, be kolāh zar mībaxšīd o javāl jāme* : to mollify them, he gifted gems with the scale of hat and clothes with the scale of bag.

26) [going] to someone, e.g. *man baray-e in be to nayāmada'am*: I did not come to you for the sake of it.

27) the effect of, e.g. *āb gereftan lattaf afzūn konad # xār o xask rā be saman čūn konad*: We suppose the effect of water as softness # how will be the effect of thistle on flower garden?

28) of/with, e.g. *rāhhā be barf ākande būd*: The roads were covered with snow.

29) making a verb transitive and attribute complement to the verb rather than to 'rā', e.g. *be har yek az hayvānāt ke rasīdī, az rūy-e tahassor be ū didī o be sūyaš ešārat kardī*: When reaching to any of the animals, he observed it regretly and pointed toward it¹¹.

2. the different applications of /be/ in Persian Grammar

The functional differences of /be/ in the three mentioned works are briefly as:

- Shari'at and Meshkatoddini don't distinguish the older uses from the current, while Anvari does it¹².
- Shari'at mentions 'similie' and gives the example *lotfaš be bahār-e šādemānī st*: His kindness is like the happiness of spring, while Anvari doesn't mention this item.
- Shari'at mentions 'companionship' and gives the example *be salāmat vāred šod*: He entered with safety, while Anvari doesn't mention this item.
- Shari'at mentions 'a start for speech' and gives the example *be nām-e xodāvand-e jān o xerad*: [We start with] In the name of God, the God of soul and wisdom, while Anvari doesn't mention this item.
- Meshkatoddini mentions 'result' and gives the example *nabāyad be dāneš-e xod mayrūr šod*: Knowledge should not result in vanity, while Anvari doesn't mention this item.
- Meshkatoddini mentions 'complement' in the form of *indirect object* and gives the example *man ketāb rā be ahmad dādam*: I gave the book to Ahmad, while Anvari doesn't mention this item.
- Meshkatoddini mentions 'companionship' and gives the example *ū be sedāy-e sāz āhang mīxānad*: He sings song in accompany with melody, while Anvari doesn't mention this item.
- Meshkatoddini mentions 'distinction and precision' and gives the example *tamām-e ketāb rā bāyad kalame be kakame xānd*: The whole book should be read word for word, while Anvari doesn't mention this item.
- Meshkatoddini mentions 'order' and gives the example *sarbāzān yek be yek az otāq bīrūn āmadand*: The soldiers came out of the room one by one, while Anvari doesn't mention this item in this meaning.

Generally, what are mentioned in the first two works, are not so different from that of Anvari's, except that some of the functions and meanings are differently named. For instance, in the first example of 29 cases *be xāne rasīdam*: I reached home, Anvari uses the title *attachment*, while Shari'at formulates it as *end* and Meshkatoddini prefers the title *destination*.

3. the application of /pal/ in Balochi Grammar in comparison with /be/ in Persian Grammar

A. Similarities

⁹ - In this certain case, /be-/ is written like a prefix in Persian spelling.

¹⁰ - the # marker in this article indicates the separating point between the two parts of a couplet in a poem.

¹¹ - *be ū didī* equals *ū rā didī* : He/She saw him/ her. Here, the verb / didī / is made transitive by using /be/.

¹² - Here, by Anvari, it is meant the supervisor of The Sokhan Great Dictionary.

Here, similar uses of /pa/ in modern Balochi with their counterparts in New Persian based on the 29 above cases are presented. Because of the lack of access to documents from the historical era of Balochi language, as well as a comprehensive and authentic source of the modern Balochi grammar, the examples are randomly collected using field research of common people's speech in the central parts of Iranian Balochistan¹³. It is evident that further and more comprehensive research gives more examples of the usage of preposition /pa/ in other parts of Iranian Balochistan and abroad.

The framework for the presenting examples is as follow:

Firstly two examples of Balochi language for any item in their phonemic transcriptions, and then their English translations are provided. The numerical order of the examples is based on the number of the 29 cases appeared in (Sokhan Great Dictionary, 2002, p. 1071-2).

After giving two examples and the necessary explanations for each case, other possible equivalents such as اى ay, چه ča, چه če, شه ša, گون guən, وته wate, هوره huəre, مه ma, ته tah, در dar, ته ta, واستا wāstā, ار er, از ez, اش eš, وده wahde, کدر kadare, پانگ pānag, کَر kerr, گور gwar (a total of 21 cases) which can be used instead of /pa/ in those special contexts, will be presented¹⁴.

1) arrival to a place/land, e.g. 1-a) *Pa har molkiə ke rasete, hamuədān bejall* : Stay whatever land you arrive. 1-b) *pa tehrānī šahrā ke rasete, gwānkiə bejan* : Make a phone call when you arrive Tehran.

2) addressing someone, e.g. 2-a) *be taw-a šīn bergard* : I tell you to come back! 2-b) *be taw-a šīn buər* : I tell you to eat!

This is only seen, to some extent, in Sarhaddi dialect of Balochi language, with /p/ realized as /b/, the same as what is realized in Persian. In such cases, the preposition /be/ comes before the addressed pronoun, taking ‘-a’ as a suffix (see the two examples above). In Makkorani dialect of Balochi, the postposed ‘-ra’ is only added to the 2nd person singular pronoun ‘ta’ (you), e.g. *ta-ra gwašon bergard* : I tell you to come back.

3) toward somewhere/something, e.g. 3-a) *pa kaš bowaps* : Sleep on your side. 3-b) *pa gwarā gwast* : S/he passed by a corner.

*Some dialects use /a, ay, ča, če, ša, er, ez, eš/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

4) costing the amount of/to be worth to, e.g. 4-a) *man eiə ketāba pa panč hazār tomon zortag* : I bought this book for 5000 Tomans. 4-b) *ā zamānagān pasiə pa bākasīat* : Once, a sheep cost a matchbox.

*Some dialects use /huəre, guən, wate, kdar/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

5) a sign of swear, e.g. 5-a) *pa hodāyī nāmā kasam ke mā uədān nabūtāgīan* : I swear to God's name that we weren't there. 5-b) *kasam pa zāt e hodā ke šīya mayāriə niəst* : I swear to God's essence that s/he is not guilty.

*Some dialects use /huəre, guən, wate/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

6) to/for someone, e.g. 6-a) *mana pa to hečč bada nayayt* : I don't feel any hate for you. 6-b) *tara pa man hečč waššī ma delā niəst* : You don't have any favor toward me.

*Some dialects use /ay, ča, ša, če, er, eš, ez/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

7) on/upon, e.g. 7-a) *āyān pa sar dāra kaššant* : They carry firewood on their heads. 7-b) *āyān marīza pa galloka gardīanant* : They move the sick man on their backs.

*Some dialects use /huəre, guən, wate/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

8) for/for the sake of, e.g. 8-a) *šomā pa šāmā may mehmāniət* : You are our guests for dinner. 8-b) *pa hamīə neštāgant ke šomāra begendant* : They have stayed to see you.

*Some southern Balochi dialects, especially those in the Makkoran of Pakistan also use /wāstā/ as a postposed addposition instead of /pa/ in this sense¹⁵. Here are a couple of examples: *yak nāmāyīə manī wāstā ātkag* : There is a letter for me. *šomā šāmāy wāstā may mehmāniət* : You are my guests for dinner!

9) getting help, e.g. 9-a) *pa hodā tawakkal kan, kārān wat šarra bant* : Trust in God and everything will be all right on its own. 9-b) *pa hodāyī kodratā dožmen may diēmā nahuəšīt* : Getting help of God's side, the enemy cannot bear our attack.

10) stating sequence or gradual performance, e.g. 10-a) *hormāgī sondāna pa red nečīan de* : Put the date bags in regular rows near each other! 10-b) *pa may bārīyā pahk čīzān halās būtant* : When it came to our turn, everything ran out.

In the second example, /bārīyā/ meaning ‘time, turn’ collocates with /pa/.

11) according to/ in agreeable with, e.g. 11-a) *pa delkašš kozūr kandehāra nabīt* : Kozoor does not turn to Kandahar according to one's wish¹⁶. 11-b) *enšālāh pa morād bāte* : I hope your affairs will be according to your wishes.

*Some dialects use /huəre, guən, wate/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

¹³ - The author, himself, is a 54 years old speaker of this area. The farther from the central parts to the northern (Sarhadd) and southern (Makkoran) parts of Iranian Balochistan, the greater the data differences are. This study helps us know that if we are to take a step toward standardization of Balochi in future, it is better more attention should be paid to the data from the dialects of this area.

¹⁴ - Hereafter through the article, we only use the transcribed forms of these prepositions as /a, ay, ča, če, ša, guən, wate, huəre, ma, tah, dar, ta, wāstā, er, ez, eš, wahde, kadare, pānag, kerr, gwar/.

¹⁵ - It seems that the Balochi /wāstā/ is the equivalent for the Persian /vāse/ which is colloquially used to convey the same meaning (Sokhan Great Dictionary, 2002, p. 8148).

¹⁶ - Kozoor is an old well-known village in the central district of Sarbaz, Balochistan, Iran. The dates grown in this village are especially famous among the people of Balochistan. One of the most prominent figures of the village was a poet called Haj Karimdad Kozoori.

12) conveying a contrast between two things, e.g. 12-a) *čār paseš pa čār mačč dāt* : They exchanged four sheep for four date palms. 12-b) *Yakkia pa lakkia* : One for one thousand¹⁷!

13) /pa/ is used as a complement for some certain verbs in an idiomatic meaning, e.g. 13-a) *mā pa omiat e hodā edān neštāgīan* : We stay here in the hope of God[’s help]. 13-b) *ā janiān pa sar e čokkia kaptag* : That woman gave birth to a child.

*Some dialects use /huəre, guən, wate/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

14) collocating with some adjectives to form a complement,

The preposition is not used in this sense in Balochi. For more information, see 2.2.3.B.1.

15) /pa/ is placed before a noun to form an adverb of manner, e.g. 15-a) *āyān pa rozwāyī zenda gwāziānant* : They live disgracefully. 15-b) *rayīs pa lahmī watī kārāna kant* : The head [of the office] deals with his affairs slowly .

*Some dialects use /huəre, guən, wate/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

16) /pa/ is placed before a noun to form an adjective, e.g. 16-a) *āyī pa sār nahent* : He is not aware/conscious. 16-b) *may brāhondag pa rāh nahent* : Our friend is not wise.

17) /pa/ is placed between two nouns, mostly to form an adjective, e.g. 17-a) *plānī dast pa kaš huštātāg* : Some guy is standing with folded arms. 17-b) *tay duast sar pa salāhiān mardia* : Your friend is a meek and mild man.

18) indicating a location, e.g. 18-a) *pa ed o uada gardiān, balkia darī giājiān* : We search here and there; we may find him. 18-b) *pa īngo āngo bečār, balkia dar kapūt* : Look for him/her/it here and there; he/she/it may be found.

*Some dialects use /ma, ta/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

19) indicating part of a time, e.g. 19-a) *Pa šap e tahāriān ay eiā molkā rapt/ra* : He left here in a very the dark night. 19-b) *pa zend e wat ruāč e waššī nadīt* : He/she didn’t have even one happy day in his/her lifetime.

*Some dialects use /ma, wahde, tah/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

20) by means of/with, e.g. 20-a) *tehrān rawag pa māšīn sahtent*: It is difficult to go to Tehran by a car. 20-b) *dārānī pa tapar pruāšt* : He broke the firewood with an ax.

*Some dialects use /guən, huəre, wate/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

21) to possess, e.g. 21-a) *māl pa sāhob waššent* : A property is valuable when it has an owner. 21-b) *mardom pa ābrū waššent, na pa biābrūyī* : A man possessing dignity (an honored man) is valuable, not a dishonored one.

*Some dialects use /guən, huəre, wate/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

22) of / a sign of, e.g. 22-a) *pa janiānī jāhā, čokkānī zabr dāštāg* : Although she was a woman, but she brought up her children well. 22-b) *pa brātia, hamenka ham bāzent* : As a brother, the same amount[of favor] is enough.

23) by/from the aspect of, e.g. 23-a) *pa rang o sūrat hečč kammī niāst* : She lacks nothing from the aspect of facial beauty. 23-b) *mardom pa hiāl o tab jāh yāraga bīt* : One is known by his/her habits and nature.

*Some dialects use /ay, ča, če, ša, er, ez, eš, guən/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

24) in a manner, e.g. 24-a) *yak apsswāriā ay ?edān pa tāč gwast* : A galloping horseman passed here. 24-b) *warnā pa maydān ?uādān rapt* : The young man went there on running.

*Some dialects use /huəre, guən, wate/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

25) to the amount of/with the scale of, e.g. 25-a) *hormāgāneš pa šāhiām sar bahr kort* : They divided the dates using scalepan. *dānāna pa čank bahr kaniāt* : Divide the grain with the scale of chank!¹⁸

*Some dialects use /huəre, guən, wate/ instead of /pa/ in this sense.

B. Differences

In short, functional differences are used here to say that the use of this preposition in the two languages of Persian and Balochi is not the same in *certain contexts*. In other words, it might be possible that Persian uses the preposition /be/ in a certain context while Balochi, in the same context, does not use /pa/ which is actually the identical preposition, and vice versa. Nine examples are provided here to clarify this subject into two separate categories as:

B.1. Persian uses /be/, while Balochi uses other prepositions rather than /pa/.

14) collocating with some certain adjectives to form complements. For the Persian examples see the case No. 14 of the 29 items above.

In Balochi, the genitive case marker /-e-/ is used instead of /pa/ to convey the meaning approximation, e.g. *nazzik e sad dawāreš paym kortag*: They have nearly built a hundred houses.

26) going to someone,

/pa/ is not used in this sense in Balochi. The prepositions /gwar, pānag, pahnāt, kerr/ are used instead of /pa/ in this sense, e.g. *man pa hečč kāriā pāng e tawa nayāyon*: I don’t/ won’t come to you for anything.

27) changing into/ transform

/pa/ is not used in this sense in Balochi. /pa/ has no equivalent preposition or adverb in this sense, so the verbs *badal kanag/bayag, tagaliānag* meaning ‘ to turn into, to change’ are used along with the preposition /pa/, e.g. *āpā ke bāz bejuāšāne, pa bāp badala bīt* : Water changes into steam if it boils too much.

28) of/with

¹⁷ - This rhymed expression is mostly used by religious preachers who say that if one does a right deed in this world, s/he receives a reward 1000 times greater than that in the Hereafter.

¹⁸ A unit of measurement equal to a volume of the two stretched hand palms attached together.

/pa/ is not used in this sense in Balochi. The prepositions */ay, ča, če, ša, eš, er, ez/* are used instead of */pa/*, e.g. *hambārān ay čiz porrant* : The storehouses are full of goods.

29) making a verb transitive and attribute complement to the verb rather than with */rā/*

/pa/ is not used in this sense in Balochi. */pa/* has no equivalent preposition or adverb in this sense. In this sense, the inflectional suffix ‘-a’ which is a sign of object, attaches to the object as an inflectional suffix, e.g. *har čiz-a ke gendīt, zūrītī*: S/he takes (=buys) whatever s/he sees.

B.2. Balochi uses */pa/*, while Persian uses other prepositions rather than */be/*.

30) a sign for the originating of something

Persian uses the preposition */az/* instead of */pa/* in Balochi in this sense, e.g. *drahčān pa beh hošk būtant*: The trees were dried from the roots up.

31) by means of/through

Persian uses the compound preposition */az tarīq-e/az rāh-e/* instead of the Balochi preposition */pa/* in this sense, e.g. *ay bam, pa yārānšahr, sarāwāna rawant* : From Bam, they go to Saravan through Iranshahr.

32) expressing the aim

Persian uses the preposition */barāy-e/* instead of the Balochi preposition */pa/* in this sense, e.g. *menī brāt pa kārwanī gwādar rapt*: My brother went to Gwādar for a caravan.

33) indicating place

Persian mostly uses the preposition */dar/* instead of the Balochi preposition */pa/* in this sense, e.g. *raption pa rāhiā, dīton balāhiā ...*¹⁹. I step into a road, and saw a monster... . However, there is a line in Persian poetry containing */be/* in the same sense: *be rāhī dar solayman dīd mūrī # ke bā pāy-e malax mīkard zūrī*²⁰.

34) based on

Persian mostly uses */az rūy-e/* instead of Balochi */pa/* in this sense, e.g. *man tara pa brātiya gwašon* : I tell you this based on the brotherhood relationship. Note that this structure is very common in Balochi.

III. CONCLUSION

Studying the above cases resulted in the following findings:

1) Syntactically, the preposition in both languages comes in attributive and middle positions, not appearing in predicative position.

2) Based on 34 compared cases, 10 cases of difference (30% difference vs. 70% similarities).

3) Being a function word, the preposition does not convey a clear definable meaning as a dependent word. As a result, in collocation with content words and according to its agentivity, it mostly designates its complement as an adverb such as the adverbs of *manner, place, time, degree*; giving such meanings as *causality, similarity, instrument*, etc.

4) It is evident that each linguistic element limits the meaning of another in collocation with it. This preposition is a high-currently used word and limits some of its collocated words either from the aspect of structure and meaning. The occurrence frequency of the preposition shows that it is one of the most widely-used prepositions both in Persian and Balochi. See the three sources mentioned in this study, and (Mahmoodzahi, 1998, p. 295-8) for the statistics.

5) Some of the expressions which come in collocation with this preposition in Balochi or Persian are idiomatic and some others are non-idiomatic. As an example, the idiomatic expression *pa lāp janag* literally means *to hit with stomach*, refers to a situation in which a guest eats too much and the host is harassed.

6) Today's Persian equivalents of the preposition */be/* include: */bā, be vasīlay-e, barāy-e, bar rūy-e, az, az rūy-e, tā, dar, dar moqābl-e, be xāter-e, be bahāy-e, be hengām-e, dāxel-e, az tariq-e, be ellat-e/*.

7) Today's Balochi equivalents of the preposition */pa/* include: */a, ay, ča, če, ša, guān, wate, huāre, ma, tah, dar, ta, wāstā, er, ez, eš, wahde, kadare, pānag, kerr, gwar/*.

8) The preposition */pa/* is used in all of the cases above except that, in southern dialects (i.e. Makkorani), it is not used for the indirect object, rather the inflectional affix */-a/* is used which might be a remnant of the inflectional suffix from the ancient Iranian languages, e.g. *man hasan-a gwašt* : I told Hassan.

9) Being a remnant of inflectional cases of the old Iranian, the inflectional affix */-a/* is in cases used instead of */pa/* in some certain southern Balochi dialects including Chabahari, Nikshahri, Sarbazi, and Pakistani Makkorani, e.g. *luāg-ā ke rasete, dam kan* : Take a rest when you get home.

10) The effect of Persian on some Balochi dialects, specially those neighboring Persian borders are seen like Roobari, Fannoochi, Dalgani,

11) Based on the dialectic linguistics, see (Oranskii, 1999, p. 34), languages and dialects are in constant interchanging into each other under the certain effects. The results show that there should be a revision in the Balochi dialect classification, especially for the dialects close to Persian; avoiding the absolute classifying them as west-northern Iranian languages, since these dialects display many characteristics of west-southern Iranian languages as well.

¹⁹ - It is a part of a rhyme saying: *raption pa rāhiā # dīton balāhiā # gwaštī waronet # man gwašt košonet # heštī manārā # geptī konārā* : I step into a road # and saw a monster # It told "I'll eat you" # I answered "I'll kill you" # It left me # and grabbed the konar (ziziphus) tree.

²⁰ - composed by Parvin E'tesami a famous Persian poet.

The considerable similarities seen in the use of the preposition between Persian and Balochi indicate that Balochi can be included in both classes, at least in some parts of Iranian Balochistan.

12) The present study can be of use in providing isoglosses for Iranian languages and dialects and the dialects of the area under study. It can, for example, be an index for the dialects placed at the isoglosses of Persian and Balochi such as the Roodbari dialect.

13) The difference in the use of the preposition in the two languages possesses contrastive mistakes for those attempting to learn or translate either of the languages or compile a dictionary. The greater the differences, the more the mistakes.

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