

First notes on the syntax of Kholosi as a heritage language in the south of Iran

Tahereh Rezaei

Ph.D. in Linguistics

Cultural heritage, handicraft, and tourism organization of Hormozgan(hchto)

According to Valdés (2000) “individuals raised in homes where a language other than English is spoken and who are to some degree bilingual in English and the heritage language.” In this definition, we can substitute English with Farsi. In Iran, Farsi is the dominant language, an “official” language that used in government, education, and public communication; thus, any language other than Farsi can be considered a “heritage language” for speakers of that language and the term “heritage” language can be used to describe any of these connections between a non-dominant language and a person, a family, or a community.

Hormozgan province is located in the south of Iran. These areas are multicultural and multilingual society. In Iran Farsi is the official and instruction language, this language has prestige and the written system that is used in government and media. Nevertheless, in many cases, Farsi is not a home language. These minority languages no official status; speakers of these minority languages do not use their language beyond restricted contexts; Children don’t use their home language outside of the home and their language doesn’t use in a new domain thus these languages that are endangered.

This paper is the first attempt to give some initial syntax notes of a heritage language in two small villages in the west of Hormozgan province with 1600 population. According to Movahed(1384) indigenous people of Kholus and Gotaw, have come here as the servant of some merchants from Sindh long ago. Anonby and Mohebbi consider two hypotheses to answer the main origin of the Kholosi language. First is that this community could be descended from one of the pre-colonial merchant communities from India that were active in past centuries in Iran (see Hājiānpur & Dehqān 2008/1387), and the second is that predecessors of this community could have been brought to this area to serve regional khans. from both hypotheses, it can be figured out that India is their origin and that they have come to this area to settle centuries ago. They have kept their language during these centuries, but their language influence to Farsi and other local languages has changed during centuries. Here we can see some feature of this language:

1. Kholosi, the same Iranian and other Indo-Aryan languages is a verb-final language with SOV word order. as in the sentence below:

kelam gahro kal Benvio
pencil red yesterday disappear.3sg.Pst
'Red pencil disappeared yesterday.'

2. The direct object follows the indirect object as illustrated in the sentence below:

yunos man-as-ke namo Nevisay
yunes mather-his-ACC letter Write.3sg.PST
'Yunes wrote a letter to his mother.'

3. In this Indo-Aryan heritage language, attributive adjectives follow the head noun same Farsi or Bandari and unlike Hindi for example *čurki sundi*: beautiful girl, Farsi: *doxtær-e zibâ*, But in Hindi adjective precede the head noun, for example, *sundar lerki*: beautiful girl.

4. Modern Iranian languages don't have grammatical gender, but this language has gender and noun and adjective both show gender for example čurki sundi: beautiful girl and čurko sundo : 'Beautiful boy.

5. Kholosi has postpositions. Farsi is a preposition language but Kholosi has post position structure. Comparative, superlative and equative structures are formed by adding certain morphological forms with the head noun. Persian has a genitive marker ezafe "e" but in this language genitive case has a different construction.

may madresa-te na-vios
I school-DAT Neg-1sg.Pst
'I didn't go to school.'

Postpositional Phrases are defined as a noun phrase followed by an oblique case marker and a postposition.

6. The Adverb occurs before the verb in the language.

maryam čoft kamkard-io
maryam quickly Work,3sg.PST
'Maryam worked quickly.'

7. Position of numerals

In Kholosi, the numerals precede the head noun.

bahro kelam
two pencil
'Two pencils.'

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