

THE ASPECTS OF THE HOMONYMY IN PERSIAN

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АСПЕКТЫ ОМОНИМИИ НА ПЕРСИДСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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Abstract. The article studies the phenomenon of homophones, homographs and homoforms in Persian that has been paid less attention. The research comparatively analyzes the theories of linguists on homophones and discusses the appropriate ideas respectively.

Аннотация. В статье исследуется феномен омофонов, омографов и гомоформ в персидском языке, которому уделяется меньше внимания. В исследовании проводится сравнительный анализ теорий лингвистов об омофонах и обсуждаются соответствующие идеи.

Keywords: homophone, homograph, homoform, formation, sound, phonetic.

Ключевые слова: омофон, омограф, гомоформа, образование, звук, фонетика.

Introduction

There exists the concepts of homophone, homo-form and homograph along with homonym in linguistics. The work “O’zbek tili leksikologiyasi” (The lexicology of Uzbek) provides valuable information on the topic of discussion. It is possible for more than one word to share the same form. The form feature of the words that may share the same form is divided into three categories [1, p. 258–292]:

1. The share of graphics (homographs).
2. The relative share of pronunciation (homophones).
3. The share of the same pronunciation (homonymy).

There is also the term homoform in linguistics, which includes two words in two forms that are pronounced the same. The pronunciation of these words is the same. That is, they are words that are pronounced the same only within a certain speech. Accordingly, it is desirable to take it as a speech homonym, not as a homoform, and should be given in stylistic works. Homophony and homography are studied within homonymy in many works. Homophones and homographs are called semi-homonyms. However, there is no interrelated aspect to the occurrence of these three phenomena.

Homophone, homograph, homoforms are collectively called as half-homonyms by S. Usmanova. M. Mirojijev interprets her theory in his work as follows: “The choice of term cannot have been correct since there never exists half the same homonyms. In a language, more than one words should either be naming the same or they simply should not exist. It is impossible for the third phenomenon to be exist between the two opposite phenomenon” [2, 3].

Discussion

The word homophone is a Greek word meaning “homos” — the same and “phone” — sound. The same pronunciation of two words according to a certain phonetic law is homophony. This phenomenon only occurs when the two words have exactly the same pronunciations. However, this does not mean that the same pronunciation of more than two words is not considered as homophony. Perhaps the facts we have collected did not show that the same pronunciation according to a certain phonetic law occurs between more than two words.

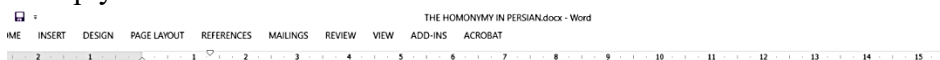
In our opinion, the formation of homophones in each language is due to the peculiarities of that language. In Uzbek, the word that creates homophony actually differs by a certain sound in its phonetic structure. However, they are pronounced the same according to a certain rule in the pronunciation process. The two words that form a homophony differ from each other only in sound, but the sound difference doesn't happen in any form. This difference may be due to the fact that they have the same place and method of articulation, differing in the presence of flour, or in the case of vowels, the upward movement of tongue and the same presence of the lip, and so on. For example, the words bob (chapter) and bop (suitable), bod (rheumatism) and bot (times as in three times), yod (iodine) and yot (extraneous), mard (brave) and mart (March) are some of the clear examples here.

In Russian, homophones are defined as words that have the same sound but different spellings, and in some places, they are also called “phonetic homonyms”. The role of Russian-specific phonetic processes in the emergence of this phenomenon in the Russian language is very large.

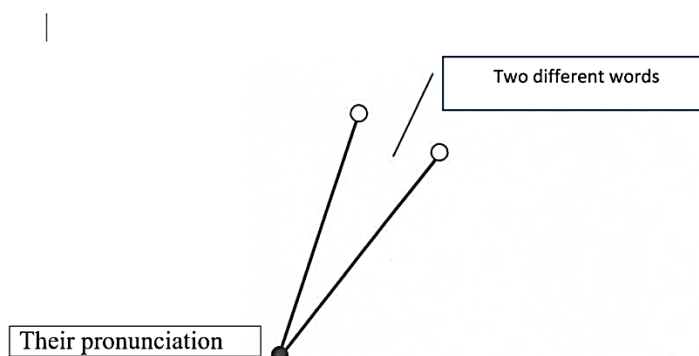
In a sense, some letters of the Persian alphabet can also be called mutually homophonic, because these letters, which appear in the text as *ث/س/ص*, phonetically make the sound [s], *ط/ت* - make the sound [t], *ذ/ز/ض/ظ* - make the sound [z], *غ/ق* - make the sound [ɣ]. Although the Persian alphabet is based on Arabic graphics, sounds like the ones above have completely lost their articulatory properties.

In addition, due to the unique traditional spelling features of each language, a letter combination consisting of several letters represents a single sound, which in turn forms a homophone with a single letter representing that sound.

Professor A. Kuronbekov describes Persian homophones as follows: words that have the same sound but are spelt differently [4, p. 12–13]. In O. R. Usmanova's view, different words with different morphological structures but the same pronunciation are homophones. In terms of content, their opinions are almost identical. For example, the following diagram will help us to understand the issue more deeply.



more deeply.



Homophones in Persian:

خار[xār] — thorn; خار[xār] — a humiliated person;
خان- [xān] — Khan; خان- [xān] — a tablecloth.

The number of homophones in Persian (words in Persian are borrowed not only from Arabic, but also from various European languages likes (English and French), but unlike Arabic, these words are adapted to Persian graphics in the process of adaptation to Persian, so they form a homonym with Persian words, for this reason, it is possible for them to form homonyms with words in Persian in the original layer, although words borrowed from Arabic retain their form in writing, they lose their properties in pronunciation) also increase due to the borrowings from Arabic:

زم[zam] — cold, freezing cold, frost (archaism)

ضم[zam(m)] — to unite, to join (the verb to collect or gather in Arabic)

بست[bast] — I a handle, bracket II a shelter (the meaning I and II of the word بست is clearly homonymous to each other here)

بسط[bast] — to spread, to expand, to popularize (the same meaning is also used in the Arabic)

زایر[zāyer] — a visitor to holy shrines

ضایر[zāyer] — a bully or mauler (a borrowing from Arabic)

زافر[zafar] — mouth, jaws (archaism)

ظفر[zafar] — victory, triumph (a borrowing from Arabic)

As can be seen from the above examples, homophones in Persian can be observed both within a certain part of speech and within different parts of speech.

Homographs

The word homograph is derived from the Greek word's "homos" — the same and "grapho" — to write and it the phenomenon of the same spelling of more than one word. These words occur when they have the same spelling according to a certain spelling rule, and they may disappear according to another spelling rule and new ones may appear. Homography is the product of certain spelling rules based on a particular graphic, and it is not a linguistic phenomenon. Although it is traditionally expressed in the context of lexicology, it cannot be the object of lexicological study, because homography does not occur and does not develop in connection with the development of lexicological enrichment of any language. It is a phenomenon associated with the lexicographic recording of lexical units, more precisely lexemes. Since lexicography has been studied alongside lexicology, it has been incorporated into the part of lexicology that deals with the study of lexical layers, where study has become a tradition. The occurrence of homography is not a coincidence related to graphics. It can occur due to the assignment of one letter to two of the phonemes available in a specific language.

If we take the example of the word "tok (vine)" in our mother tongue — Uzbek, according to modern spelling rules, the word "tok (vine)" (grape bush) and the word "tok" (flow of electricity charges) form a mutual homograph. That is, the fact that they are written in the same letters in the text creates a homograph, but in pronunciation, they are completely different from each other. These words did not form a homograph according to the spelling of the Uzbek language based on Latin script. That is, the word vine in the sense of a grape bush was written in the Latin script as "tak", and the second word in the sense of vine was written as "tok" [1, p. 258–292] (Latin script here refers to the one that was introduced before the years of independence, because if these words are written based on modern Latin script, they form homographs, just like in Cyrillic script). These

words had a different spelling according to the orthographic rule based on Arabic letters and naturally they did not create cross-homography. That is, the word “tok”, which means a vine, was written in the Arabic letters as تاک, and the word “tok”, which means a current of electricity charges, is written as توك according to this graph. Here, too, they differ according to what letter their vowels are represented by.

There are many examples of such words in Russian and English, as well as in Uzbek, and in Russian homographs differ mainly in the place of stress. However, when we talk about homographs in Persian, the issue takes on a slightly different shape. This is because the short vowels in Persian [a, e, o] are represented in the text (except for the sound [e] at the end of the word) by diacritical marks [a] — [zabar]: [dar] در — *door, preposition*, [tars] ترس — *fear*, کاغذ[kāḡaz] — *paper*, ترف [taraf] — *side, site*, [e] — [zir]: افتخار [eftexār] — *fame, honor*, پسر [pesar] — *a boy, a son*, دل [del] — *the heart, soul*, کلاس[kelās] — *a class, a classroom*, [o] — [piš]: برنز [bronz] — *bronze*, تهمت [tohmat] — *slender*, مترجم [motarjem] — *translator*, فروهر [foruhar] — *angel*, essence or Furuhar as a name for girls, that is, in graphics they may not be represented by a single letter, and in addition the existing diacritical marks may in most cases not be reflected in words in works of art and science, newspapers and magazines. This means that in such cases, the words expressed only through the consonant sounds in the text form a mutual homograph, and naturally, if such words are assimilated from Persian into other languages, they lose their homographic character. This arises the question, what if long vowels [a, i, u] were present in the words? If words contain long vowels, these long vowels are represented in the text by independent letters (آ, اِ, اُ) and if these words are the same in pronunciation, they form mutual homonyms.

As mentioned above, homographs in Persian have not yet been divided into a separate group. However, in general linguistics, according to the definition given to homographs, and taking into account the peculiarities of each language, it would not be wrong to divide them into an independent group in the Persian language as well.

In Persian, homographs can be formed based on borrowings along with words that belong to the original layer of Persian. For example:

Homographs in pure Persian language,

تکه[takke] — the donkey that leads the herd by walking in the frontline

تکه[takke] — a piece, an article, a section, a slice

زرق[zary] — hypocrisy, forgery, artificiality (in literary language)

زرق[zery] — (for injection) piercing, subcutaneous, intravenous drug delivery (archaism)

قد[yad(d)] — height, body, structure of a human body

قد[yad(d)] — stubborn, obstinate, arrogant

Homographs created by words with pure Persian origin and loan words:

گل[gel] — soil [gol] — goal (a loan word from English)

کلیک[kalik] — I an owl II skew-eyed, wall-eyed

کلیک[kelik] — a little finger

In turn the word کلیک[kelik] with Persian origin meaning the index finger makes the mutual homonymy with کلیک[kelik] meaning to click with is also borrowed from English. مال[maāl] — the limit, the end, the edge, the termination (in literary language) مال[māl] — the estate, the wealth, a cow, an animal, a cattle, math. The square of a number; vernacularly money (a loan word from Arabic)

In Persian, homographs, like homophones, can be observed within a certain part of speech or among different parts of speech. In our view, there is no need to group them as complete homographs and partial homographs as homonyms and to illustrate them by dividing them into separate groups, because it confuses the issue, and in the present place of our work we are limited to emphasizing that this phenomenon can occur within the same or different parts of speech.

Homoforms

In linguistics, homo-forms are defined as words that are in different grammatical forms, mainly belonging to different parts of speech, which can form mutual homonyms. As interpreted by V. V. Vinogradov the homoformy is [5]:

- a) the match of different forms of a single word.
- b) the match of different words that are derived from one root in different forms.
- c) the match of different forms of words that belong to one or different part of speech.

Let us compare V. V. Vinogradov's classification of homo-forms with A. I. Smirnitsky's classification of homonyms. A. I. Smirnitsky divides homonyms into grammatical, lexical (complete and partial) and lexical-grammatical (simple and complex) homonyms [6, p. 70]. According to him, the correspondence of a word in different forms a homo-form, for example: the English word lights in possessive case and lights in plural form. Full homonyms are words that correspond exactly to each other in all grammatical forms just like the English words mass as a weight and mass public, while partial homonyms are lie as in the horizontal position of a human's body to the bed and lie to speak falsehood (these two verbs in the base form constitute mutual homonyms). The correspondence of different word forms in a system is lexical-grammatical homonyms, if the words belong to the same part of speech — simple (found in English "to lay the foundation" and found "the past form of find") and if the words belong to different parts of speech — complex (rose "a flower" and rose "the past form of rise, (the sun) rose"). Since only certain forms of words are compatible in lexical-grammatical homonyms, A. I. Smirnitsky classifies them as partial homonyms. Some of the points made by these two professors in the classification of homo-forms are interrelated:

- a) the match of different forms of a word-grammatical homonymy
- b) the match of different words with the same root belonging to one part of speech-grammatical homonymy
- c) the match of different forms of words that belong to one part of speech – partial lexical homonymy; the match of different forms of words that belong to different parts of speech – complex lexical-grammatical homonymy.

We have observed the term homo-form in Persian only in O. R. Usmanova's work, and since we have encountered the term homo-form in linguistics as an independent term along with the term's homonymy, homophony, and homography, we have found it worthwhile to study it as part of this section. However, the indication by O. R. Usmanova on the verb خوان[xān] — خواندن "to read" in the present form in Persian to be the homo-form with the word خان[xān] — khan really intrigued us. However, خوان[xān] — the base form of the verb "to read" in present tense, in other words, one or one of the forms of the verb should share the same spelling with the word خان[xān] — khan which is an independent lexeme to form a homo-form. It would be better to call them homophones here as they share the same pronunciation. The pair of words in Persian mentioned above does not make up homo-forms, but homophones (partial homophones) which belong to different parts of speech.

One of the peculiarities of homo-forms in Persian is that they are considered in the context of different parts of speech such as, noun and adjective, noun and verb, noun and adverb, noun and preposition, and other parts of speech. We prove our point with examples:

Noun and adjective:

ساهر[sāher] — bot. The name of a plant, the crested dog's tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*)

ساهر[sāher] — healthy, robust

سر[ser] — Sir (a loan word)

سر[ser(r)] — secret

سر[ser] — numb, anesthetized

Verb and noun:

انداز[andāz] — the base form of the verb to throw in Present tense

انداز[andāz] — assumption, suspicion, guess [7, p. 63–64]

بر[bar] - بردن the base form of the verb to bring in Present tense

بر[bar] — 1. Fruit, 2. Benefit.

دوز[duz] — دوختن the base form of the verb to sew in Present tense.

دوز[duz] — دوختن a kind of game.

Noun and particle, conjunction:

در[dar] — a door, a gate.

در[dar] — prefix, the preposition “in”.

بر [bar] — 1. Crop, fruit, 2. Benefit.

بر [bar] — preposition, indication to a person or a thing.

Noun and participle:

سفته[softe/sefte] — promissory note (on a loan).

سفته[softe] — سفتن the past participle of the verb to drill.

Conclusion

The same pronunciation of two independent words according to a certain phonetic law constitutes homophony. The reason for the formation of homophones in Persian is that the Persian alphabet has 32 letters and 23 sounds, i. e. some letters phonetically represent a single sound.

Homo-forms are the intertwining of words in different grammatical forms, mainly in different parts of speech. For Persian, this phenomenon is also not stranger, and unlike other languages, this phenomenon is divided into several word groups: verb and noun; noun and particle, conjuncture; noun and adjective.

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