

A Contrastive Analysis of Inflectional Markings of English and Lari Dialect Verbs: Morphosyntactic Properties vs. Phonological Clitics

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ABSTRACT

Dialect studies, being pursued systematically as subdivisions of a particular language, refer to varieties which are grammatically (and perhaps lexically) as well as phonologically different from other varieties. The present article attempts to give a descriptive-analytical account of English and Lari dialect (a dialect spoken in south part of Fars province) inflectional markings of verbs. The paper is organized around the inflectional verb affixes of Lari dialect and the range of constructions they occur in. Turning to subject-verb agreement in Lari dialect, it is shown that the differences in the distribution of the verbal (pro- and en-) clitics and the agreement affixes follow from phonological properties of these affixes. The basic operation involved in cliticization is a phonological one and the appearance of phonological clitics are to be sought in the properties of their representations to account for the person-number verb agreement.

KEYWORDS: inflectional marking, clitics, Persian, inflectional morphology, Lari dialect

1. INTRODUCTION

All human beings learn a native language as part of their early socialization in life. Each person learns a certain language variety called a “dialect”, the variety their ancestors have passed down to them. The study of dialect and dialects is called dialectology; but what exactly is dialect? Chambers and Trudgill (2004) define it as “dialect is also a term which is often applied to forms of language, particularly those spoken in more isolated parts of the world, which have no written form (p.3)”. The application of inflection any language indicates that each inflected word in a sentence carries a set of morphosyntactic properties. In English, for example, the verb form *is* in the sentence “*He is fine*” carries the properties ‘third-person singular (3sg) subject agreement’, ‘present tense’, and ‘indicative mood’. In fact, an inflected word’s morphosyntactic properties are associated with specific aspects of its morphology; that is, the properties of subject agreement, tense, and mood carried by the verb. In this regard, linguists and grammatical theorists have devoted considerable attention to the nature of these relations between an inflected word’s morphosyntactic properties and its morphology.

Chomsky (1965) believes that English is too poor to illustrate two ways of dealing with questions of inflectional morphology, namely the traditional method of paradigms and the descriptivist method of morphemic analysis.

Skjærvø (2006) states that “Iranian languages have been spoken for 3000 to 4000 years in various parts of southern Russia and the Caucasus, Central Asian republics, Xinjiang, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey, as well as in the diaspora. The language spoken by the largest number of people today is (Modern) Persian, or Farsi. Iranian languages are closely related to the Indo–Aryan languages, with which they constitute the Indo–Iranian subgroup of the Indo–European language family, to which most European languages also belong. (p. 537)”

2. Inflection vs. derivation

‘Affix’ is a bound morpheme that attaches to bases. One key distinction among morphemes is between derivational and inflectional morphemes. Derivational morphemes make fundamental changes to the meaning of the stem whereas inflectional morphemes are used to mark grammatical information.

3. Inflectional morphology

Inflectional morphemes are affixes which carry grammatical meaning (for example, the plural **-s** in **works** or progressive **-ing** in **working**). These forms of attachment do not change the part of speech or meaning of the word and they merely function to ensure that the word is in the appropriate form: hence, the sentence is grammatically correct.

- All inflectional morphemes in English are suffixes and are added after any derivational suffixes.
- The most common inflectional morphemes are used in verb inflection (for example, **-ed** in **worked**, **-ing** in **working**, **-s** in **works**)
- Distinguishing between morphemes in verbs:

Bound and free morphemes

- Free morphemes can occur on their own:

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work, teach, change, select, خواندن, رفتن, ...

- Bound morphemes can occur only if they are attached to other morphemes:
- English: *love, loves, loved* (past simple and pp.), *loving* / رفتن, رفتی, رفتم / ...
- BE has the largest number of realizations: هستم, هستی, هست ...
- *Be, am, are, is, was, were, been, being*

4. Statement of the problem

The inflectional markings in Lari dialect are more complex and diverse in comparison with English and even Persian. As a null subject dialect, the inflectional morphology in Lari dialect seems to involve a variety of affixal phonological inflectional behaviour comprising consonants and vowels.

5. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Indo-European languages refer to a family of several hundreds of languages and dialects, including most of the major languages of Europe, as well as many in Asian, English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Hindustani (i.e., Hindi and Urdu among other modern dialects), Persian and Russian are contemporary languages in this family. The language group of Indo-Iranian constitutes the easternmost extant branch of the Indo-European family of languages. It comprises of four language groups: the Indo-Aryan, Iranian, Nuristani, and Dardic. The term Aryan language is also traditionally used to refer to the Indo-Iranian languages. The contemporary Indo-Iranian languages constitute the largest sub-branch of Indo-European, with more than one billion speakers in total, stretching from Europe and the Caucasus to East India. A 2005 estimate counts a total of 308 varieties, the largest in terms of native speakers being Hindustani, Bengali, Punjabi, Marathi and Persian (ca. 70 million), Gujarati, Pashto, Oriya, Kurdish and Sindhi. Persian, as an Indo-European language distantly related to English and other European languages, is spoken by some 100 million people in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, and immigrant communities throughout the world. The three chief dialects of Persian are Farsi, Dari, and Tajik[i], spoken primarily in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, respectively. Historical proximity of Persian speakers and Arabic speakers caused Persian language to be significantly influenced by Arabic, especially with regard to vocabulary.

5.1. Properties of Persian

Analyzing the Persian dialects, i.e., Lari dialect undoubtedly necessitates firstly having a glance at Persian language. Persian is a member of the Iranian branch of the Indo-European languages, which has many features and properties in common with other members in term of morphology, syntax, the sound system, and the lexicon. Persian can be compared with Arabic; but Arabic is from the Semitic family which differs from Persian in many respects. The Persian alphabet is a modified version of the Arabic alphabet. The number of Persian letters is 32, but there are 28 ones in Arabic. Persian has four more letters than Arabic: گ, چ, پ, ژ. Persian alphabet is more appropriate to the Arabic sound system and less suitable for Persian. For instance 'ظ', 'ض', 'ذ', 'ز' are four 'z' alphabets both in Persian and Arabic, but all pronounced the same /z/ in Persian and differently in Arabic, i.e. there are different letters for a sound in Persian. It is also possible to have more than one sound in Persian for a letter; like 'و' in these examples / دو: do/ 'two', 'اوج': owj/ 'ruz/ 'day', and sometime it is written but not pronounced such as 'خواندن' /xāndæn/ 'read'. So there is a little correspondence between Persian letters and sounds. Although some alphabets are written differently and there is no difference in their pronunciations, they make differentiations in the meanings of words.

Persian letters have joiner or non-joiner forms. The joiner letters have two or four different forms; i.e. based on the position that these letters appear in a word, they have different forms. For instance / ع ' is a beginning joiner ' ع ' , the middle joiner ' ع ' , the end joiner, and ' ع ' the end non-joiner of the same letter / د ' ; d/ is the beginning or the end non-joiner, and ' د ' the end joiner of this letter. All letters in Persian are joined to the next letter, except / ر ' و ' /r/ , / ز ' , / ژ ' , / ذ ' , / د ' and / آ - ا ' ā/. The joiner letters have utmost four forms based on the position they appear; and non-joiners have two forms. Persian writing system is right to left; but quite contrary to the European languages that have a left to right writing system. The system should first process the words right to left and the numbers left to right.

The Persian vocabularies have been greatly influenced by Arabic and to some extent by French while a great amount of words are borrowed from these languages. Concerning Persian syntax, only verbs are inflected in the language. The number of inflections is six. The subjective mood is widely used in it. It is a *Subject Object Verb* (SOV) language, and also a free word order language. This language does not make use of gender; not even the third person of *he* or *she* distinctions that exists in English.

Regarding the study of Lari dialect there are a few cases of research done on the derivational system of verbs in Lari dialect (Kalbasi, 1988), some variations of Lari dialect in Larestan county with the emphasis on phonetic system, word formation and some grammatical points (Molchanova, 1982), collection of basic Lari words and expressions (Kamioka, 1979 & 1989), some historical findings along verb conjugations (Vosoughi, 1990), the comparative analysis of relativity of a couple of dialects as well as Lari dialect (Hajiani, 2009) and the comparative analysis of present perfect of Iranian dialects including Lari dialect (Kalbasi, 2004) while there has not been any research focusing on the classicization of verb in Lari dialect defining the importance of en- and pro- classicization.

5.2. Verbal morphology

In the case of simple verbs, the clitics typically appear directly after the verb, as in the example below:

didæm

see.past.1.sg(sub) and 3.sg.(obj)

I saw it.

The inflectional system for the Persian verbs consists of simple forms and compound forms; the latter are forms that require an auxiliary verb. The simple forms are divided into two groups according to the stem they use in their formation: the tenses that use the Present Stem and those formed on the Past Stem. The Present Stem needs to be specified in the lexicon since it cannot be derived, while the Past Stem is easily derivable from the infinitival form of the verb as exemplified in the following. The citation form for the verb is the infinitive.

Infinitival: *xæridæn* (to buy)

Present Stem: *xæridkærdæn*

Past Stem: *xæridkærdæm* or *xæridæm*

Imperative form: *bexær* or *xæridkon*

In addition to the verb stems, the following elements also participate in the formation of the verbal inflectional system in Persian:

- **Personal Inflections:** present, past and imperative personal inflections are used in conjugating the Persian verb. All verb forms are marked for person and number.

- **Suffixes:** the suffix *ande* marks the present participle ending (خورنده [khorande] = صفت فاعلی; sefat-e-faeli) which means: eating, corrosive) and *e* (written *h*) is used to form the past participle (خورده [khorde] = صفت مفعولی; sefat-e-mafooli) which means: eaten).

- **Causation morpheme:** causatives are made by adding the affix *ân* or *âni* to the end of the Present Stem of the verb. Personal inflections and suffixes can be attached to the Causative Present Stem to derive all verbal forms for the causative construction.

Clitics play an increasingly prominent role in phonology, morphology and syntax, though it has been a debate where to accommodate them, i.e. in one of the categories “word” or “affix”, and some propose creating a category “phrasal affix” to refer to clitics. Gerlach (2002) says “a clitic is generally understood to be a word that cannot stand on its own and “leans” on a host word. The term “clitic” originates from the Ancient Greek verb *klineîn* ‘to lean on’ (p.2).”

5.3. Lari Dialect

Fars Province, originally spelled *Pars* as one of the 32 provinces, is in the south of the country and its center is Shiraz. Persian, an official language of the Iran and a branch of Indo-European family is spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, as well as other areas. In southwestern Lori (Luri) (in several varieties) and Bakhtiari are spoken; and in southern Iran there are Fars dialects such as Larestani (in several dialects) in Larestan; dialects in the area from Bandar-e-Abbas (Bandari) and Hormoz to Minab and Bashkardi in Bashakerd.

The dialect in Larestan County and especially in its center Lar has been considered an outstanding language feature. The vocabulary of the Lari (also referred to as Achomi or Ajami) dialect holds many words in common with Persian, however; the syntax is considerably different from the current Persian language. Some believe that the Lari dialect is in fact derived from an older dialect that survived through the impact of Arabic on Old Persian language. Larestani or Lari is a group of southwestern Iranian dialects related to Persian. It is spoken in the Larestan (Lar) region of Fars province and in parts of Hormozgan province (including Bastak) in the south of Iran. Larestani has several dialects: Khonji, Lari, Gerashi, Evazi, Fedaghi, Aradi, Bastaki, Fishvari, and Khookherdi. Larestani is derived from the medieval Iranian language Pahlavi which is also mother to [Modern Persian] and all other existing dialects included in the southwest branch of the Iranian language group.

Dialects of Larestan district have kept lots of words from Pahlavi and grammatical peculiarities that distinguish it from their sister (Modern Persian). Less Arabic influence in the diction of Lari than Modern Persian suggests that Lari descends from a purer Iranian tongue. One can find some certain grammatical properties of Lari in other Iranian language such as “Luri” and also in more distanced related languages, such as “Gilaki” and “Kurdish”, both of which are included in the northwest branch of Iranian Languages.

Another important feature of Larestani is that it has kept stronger ties to its grandmother Old Persian compared to ties between old and modern Persian. That is perhaps due to the fact that being a local language there is less need to be dynamic, less need for development and less need for interaction towards other local languages. Larestani is an oral language and it has no much written literature. Written and official language has always been modern Persian. The Fars Dialects have first been studied by Western researchers in the beginning of the 20th century. However, a thorough research of these dialects still has to be done, as the available studies are either out-dated or fragmentary.

There is neither gender nor morphological clitics in subject-verb agreement; hence, the verbs conjugations are operated through phonological pro- and en- clitics in verbs. These clitics carry both the person-numbers of the verbs and the tenses. There is a set of affixes personal pronouns in the form of pro- and en- clitic pronouns. Neither of them is inflected for gender. The verbal inflection is based on a stem showing present and past tense and in several cases present tense conveys future too. Person and number are indicated personal affixes attached to the stem (e.g. muao = we brought; darem = I bring and I will bring).

Table 1. In Lari dialect, the clitics for the conjugation of the verb "buy" in Farsi "xæridan"

Lari	Proclitic	Farsi	enclitic	English	Subject form
?omse	?om	xæridam	am	I bought	I
?otse	?ot	xæridi	di	You bought	You
?ošse	?oš	xærid	-	He bought	He
?ošse	?oš	xærid	-	She bought	She
mose	mo	xæridim	im	We bought	We
tose	to	xæridid	id	You bought	You
šose	šo	xæridand	and	They bought	They

In Persian the subject clitic is placed after the verb, while in Lari the subject clitic is hitched at the beginning of the verbs as in the above cases. These proclitic are bound morphemes, while in English the number of the subject is manifested via free morphemes.

6. THE DISCUSSION

Inflectional languages of Indo-European type have sometimes been assumed to be rather a nightmare for those whose languages have a very limited variation and changes in verb conjugations. Verb inflection morphology (as it was clarified it is phonological) in Lari dialect tends to be more complex than English and Persian languages. Studies in this paper look into the structural complexity that verbal forms can exhibit on Lari dialect and into the phonological categories that have attracted researcher's attention to the inflectional morphology of spoken language. Subject-Verb criterion can be defined as the relation between the Subject-of a sentence and main-verb-of the Predicate-of the Sentence. A single word can encode more than one meaning; for instance, in English just 3rd person singular in simple present tense can be overtly shown by -s or -es, but in other tenses this is not the case.

I/You/ He/She/ It /We / You/ They walked.

He/ She /It walks.

walk + -ed = WALK + PASTNESS

Walk + -s = WALK + PRESENTNESS+ 3rd person singular

Verbs are base-generated with all their inflectional affixes within the theory we are assuming (Chomsky 1995).English simple present tense shows the most frequent verb types occurring in third person singular which denote number of subject, whereas in other tenses (past and future) there in no inflectional morphemes to show the number of subject.

7.Phonological Clitics and Classicization

In some languages like English, pronominal clitics (e.g. S/He) are marked for features like number and gender. Moreover, the case of contracted auxiliary verbs in English like 's, 'd as prosodically lexical variants of full word forms (is, has, had, would, etc.) display an obvious phonological dependency on the material to their left. However; in Lari dialect, the phonological clitics are not only reduced, but also an inseparable part of the conjugated verbs. The clitics in English as bound forms which are phonologically part of an adjoining word behave grammatically more like independent words than like affixes, such as -'ll in We'll go. Therefore, the reduced forms of English auxiliaries can be considered as phonological clitics, whereas the full forms are morphological markings. In fact there is no inflectional prefix in English. In Lari dialect, the verb "daem" meaning "I'll come" and "daem" meaning "we'll come", the distinction between singular form and the plural form is by changing a vowel sound /e/ to /æ/.

Table 2:The conjugation of the verb "come" in Lari dialect which is "da" is as follows:

1 st p. sg.	2 nd p. sg.	3 rd p. sg.	1 st p. pl.	2 nd p.pl.	3 rd p. pl.
Lari					
daem	daee	da	daæm	daee	daen
Persian					
Miam (miayæm)	miaee	miad	miaeem	miaeed	miayænd
English					
I'll come	You'll come	S/He, it'll come	We'll come	You'll come	They'll come

As Karimi (2005) states "Persian has a rich inflectional system and is a Null-subject language. "Persian shows a stem alternation mainly related to tense-alternation: Persian uses a stem for the present tenses.

Table 3: The use of Persian stem in the present tense

English lexeme	Persian	Stem
To read	xandæn	xæn
To adore	arastæn	ara
To go	ræftæn	ro

The pronominal system of Persian is shown in the following table, and each of these full pronouns has a corresponding clitic form.

Full Pronouns in Persian

Singular	Plural
1 st mæn I ma	we

2nd to/shoma you shoma /shomaha you
 3rd u/(an) s/he(it) anha/ishan they

Clitic Pronouns in Persian

Singular Plural

1st - æm eman/emun
 2nd - æ/et etan/etun
 3rd - æesh/esh eshan/eshun

Table 4: English and Persian examples

English sentences	Persian Meaning
I am reading.	Mæn mixunæm.
You are reading a book.	Šoma ketab mixunid.
You didn't read the book.	Šoma ketabro næxundin.
I am not reading a book.	Mæn ketab nemixunæm.
I didn't read it.	Mæn næxundæmeš.
Did you read it?	Šoma xundineš?
You read it.	Šoma xundineš.

Traditional grammar seems to define such relations where there are selection restrictions governing the paired categories. The morphological marking of tense on the finite verb in English, Persian and Lari dialect manifest different subject-verb agreement and number. Modern Persian is a pro-drop, verb-final language. Inflectional suffixes attach the verb to mark subject-verb agreement and they agree with the subject in person and number and license *pro-drop* in subject position. In English the enclitic pronouns are not the same as Persian, that is, completely restricted, while in Persian the enclitic pronouns of من، تو، او، ما، شما، آنها، ایشان in simple present tense exactly show the number of subject and tense. These enclitic pronouns are in fact bound morphemes in Persian, while the inflectional markings in Lari dialect are more complex and diverse in comparison with English and even Persian. As a null subject dialect, the inflectional morphology in Lari dialect seems to involve a variety of affixal phonological inflectional behaviour comprising consonants and vowels like in the following present simple and simple past cases: (CV) (1st, 2nd and 3rdsg.) and CVV (1st, 2nd and 3rd pl.) insertions as the prefixes, infixes and suffixes. For instance,

Verbal person-number inflection

Simple present tense: Conjugation of the verb: "want"

(1st, 2nd and 3rdsg.) = Mævi – Tævi–Šævi

(1st, 2nd and 3rdpl.)= Moævi – Toævi–Šoævi

Simple past tense: Conjugation of the verb: "want"

(1st, 2nd and 3rdsg.)= Mæves – Tæves–Šæves(proclitic: Mæ-/Tæ-/Šæ-)

(1st, 2nd and 3rdpl.)= Moæves – Toæves–Šoæves(proclitic:Moæ-/Toæ-/Šoæ-)

In Persian the enclitic appears after its host as in:

(1st, 2nd and 3rdsg.) = mixastæm, mixasti, mixast(enclitic: -æm/-i/-∅)

(1st, 2nd and 3rdpl.) =mixastim, mixastid, mixastand (enclitic: -im/-id/-and)

Anderson (2005) defines clitic as "something that is not integrated into the sentence in the way "normal" words are, and/or not integrated into words in the way affixes are (p.1)." He says that the notions of *enclitic* and *proclitic* are basically grounded in grammatical description date back at least to the seventeenth century.

To create past tense we can use the verb root plus its proper prefix. For example, the root for the verb "to tell" is "got" ("gotæ" equals "tell").

Table 5: Lari verb conjugation of the verb "tell"

omgot (om+got) = I told ...
otgot (ot+got) = You told...
ošgot (oš+got) = He told...
mogot (mo+got) = We told...
togot(to+got) = You(pl.) told
šogot(šo+got) = They told

In their English equivalents, the verb form is fixed and nothing has been added, while in Lari dialect the proclitics indicate the number of subjects along its tense.

Another example: The verb "dedæ" means "see," is the root verb.

Table 6: The past forms of the verb "see" in Lari dialect

?omdi = I saw
?otdi = you saw
?ošdi= He saw
?ošdi= She saw
?ošdi= It saw
modi= We saw
todi = You saw
šodi= They saw

Table 7: To make present continuous tense

ægota'em (a+got+aem): I am telling...
ægota'eš (a+got+aeš): You are telling...
ægotay (a+got+ay): He is telling...
ægota'am (a+got+a'am): We are telling...
ægotay (a+got+ay): You(pl.) are telling...
ægota'en (a+got+a'en): They are telling...

Here it shows that there is an enclitic phonological part for each pro-dropped subject and the duration is shown by the presence of a vowel ("æ") as a proclitic in the beginning and each corresponding vowel-consonant and vowel-vowel-consonant as the enclitic phonological person-number at the end of the verbs in conjugation. In English the "to-infinitive" is in the form of to+stem and in Persian this form is made by stem+ن such as دین, whereas in Lari dialect it is stem+æ like:dedæ".

For the verb "see" ("dedæ"):
ædead?em, ædeda?eš, ædeday,...

While in Larestani "c'ede": 'go-PAST-PERF.3RD.SING'= 'he has gone,'
butc'essem [c'e-d-s-e-m] 'go-PAST.PERF-1ST.SING'= 'I have gone,'
Larestaniæ-kerda-em = 'a-doing I am, I am doing';

8. Interim summary

Windfuhr (2009) says "a distinct feature of the Iranian languages is the set of personal enclitics inherited from Old Iranian (p. 23)". There are a number of different clitics depending on their position in relation to the word that they are connected to. A clitic is a morpheme that has syntactic characteristics of a word, but depends phonologically on another word or phrase. Anderson (2005) states "clitics appear to live at the interfaces between morphology, syntax and prosody (p.8)." Anderson (2005) believes that "...a (**pro-** or **en-**)clitic is a stress less "little" word that lacks independent accent, and that (as a result) depends prosodically on anadjacent word (p.1)."

Table 8: The pro-, en-,meso- and endo- clitics in Lari dialect

Proclitic: A proclitic appears before its host.	Lari dialect: I want = Mævi ; You want = Tævi etc.
Enclitic: An enclitic appears after its host.	Lari dialect: daem /daee /da /daem/daee/daen
Mesoclitic: A mesoclitic appears between the stem of the host and other affixes.	Lari dialect: Dedæ= see;past tense: ?omdi/?oddi/?ošdi/?omdi/ todi/ shodi
Endoclititic: The endoclitic splits apart the root and is inserted between the two pieces.	Lari dialect: ægoem : I tell (or say) (from the stem "gotæ" meaning "tell" or "say")

Heggie and Ordóñez (2005) believe that"clitics can exhibit a low degree of selection with respect to their host, while affixes exhibit a high degree of selection with respect to their stem. Clitics are more restricted in their distribution(p.3)". However, in Lari dialect the opposite case is true meaning that clitics have a high degree of selection with respect to their stems.

Table 9: Lari dialect as a branch of pro-drop Persian(the examples given here are not along with their overt subjects)

English	Persian	Lari Dialect
Past Tense		
I bought.	(man)xaridam.	?omse
You bought.	(to)xaridi.	?otse
He bought.	(?oo)xarid.	?ošse
She bought.	(?oo)xarid.	?ošse
We bought.	(ma)xarimid.	mose
You bought.	(šoma)xaidid.	tose
They bought.	(anha)xaridand.	šose
Present Tense		
I want...	Persian mixahæm	Lari Dialect mævi
You want...	mixahi	tævi
He wants...	mixahæd	šævi
She wants...	mixahæd	šævi
It wants...	mixahæd	šævi
We want...	mixahim	moævi
You want...	mixahid	toævi
They want...	mixahænd	šoævi
Past Tense		
I wanted...	Persian mixastæm	Lari Dialect mæves
You wanted...	mixasti	tæves

He wanted...	mixast	šæves
She wanted...	mixast	šæves
It wanted...	mixast	šæves
We wanted...	mixastim	moæves
You wanted...	mixstid	toæves
They wanted...	mixastand	šoæves
Present Tense	Persian	Lari Dialect
I eat food.	Ghazamixoram.	ghæzaæxorem.
You eat food.	Ghazamixori.	ghæzaæxoreš.
He eats food.	Ghazamixorad.	ghæzaæxoy.
She eats food.	Ghazamixorad.	ghæzaæxoy.
It eats food.	Ghazamixorad.	ghæzaæxoy.
We eat food.	Ghazamixorim.	ghæzaæxoram.
You eat food.	Ghazamixorid.	ghæzaæxori.
They eat food.	Ghazamixorand.	ghæzaæxoren.
Past Tense	Persian	Lari Dialect
I ate...	xordam	?omxæ
You ate...	xordi	?otxæ
He ate...	xord	?ošxæ
She ate...	xord	?ošxæ
It ate...	xord	?ošxæ
We ate...	xordim	moxa
You ate...	xordid	toxæ
They ate...	xordand	šoxæ
Present Tense	Persian	Lari Dialect
I am happy.	xoš-halam(hastam)	xošalem (xoš-essem)
You are happy.	xoš-hali(hasi)	xošalesh(xošal-esseš)
He is happy.	xoš-hale(hast or hasseš)	xošalessi
She is happy.	xoš-hale(hast or hasseš)	xošalessi
We are happy.	xoš-halim(hastim)	xošalesæm(xošalæm)
You are happy.	xoš-halid(hastid)	xošalessi(xošali)
They are happy.	xoš-halan(hastand)	xošalessen(xošalen)
Present Tense	Persian	Lari Dialect
I buy...	Mixaram	æsaem
You buy...	Mixari	æsaēš
He buys...	Mixarad	æsi
She buys...	Mixarad	æsi
We buy...	Mixarim	æsyam
You buy...	Mixarid	æsaii
They buy...	Mixarand	æsæen
Present continuous	Persian	Lari Dialect
I am bringing	daræmmiaræm	dardaem
You are bringing	darimiari	dardaee
He is bringing	dare miare	dardai
She is bringing	dare miare	dardai
It is bringing	dare miare	dardai
We are bringing	darimmiarim	dardaæm
You are bringing	daridmiarid	dardaee
They are bringing	daranmiaran	dardaen (ædardaen)

9. Conclusion

The goal of this paper was to explore the application of subject-verb agreement in Lari dialect, focusing on the analysis of pronominal clitics as inflectional formatives. It is shown that pronominal clitics can evolve into agreement morphology in six forms in Persian and quite different phonological forms in Lari dialect using phonological proclitic and enclitic features to convey the person-number and in some cases the continuation of action in progressive aspects. The enclitics in English are those of -ed, -s or -es and -ing which are more responsible for representing the tense (along with 3rd person singular form in simple present tense). They are morphological enclitics like Persian whereas in Persian the enclitic pronouns stand for the person-number in verbs. In Lari dialect, the clitics are phonological, sometimes enclitics and in some certain verbs proclitics are used which display the numbers and tenses of the verbs. In fact morphosyntactic clitics are manifested in the form of phonological clitics. More specifically, it was demonstrated that the use of subject clitics is triggered by phonological affixes. The verb inflections in Lari dialect are fully productive and are not always suffixational like English. The function of affixes in this dialect is clearly to indicate the relationships of person-number and the tense; meaning that inflection in this dialect marks person specifications. Therefore, clitics are a notable topic of phonological research and their prosodic structure can be an interesting area to probe for further topics.

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