Nominal system in Buzābādi, one of the north-eastern dialects of central Iran

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Abstract: The article is intended to have a systematic study on the nominal system and conjugation of nominals in Buzābādi dialect. Since Buzābādi is a dialect of central Iran and is considered as a western Iranian language, its nominal system is studied from three aspects: numerals (singular – plural), definite – indefinite nouns and gender (masculine- feminine). The research was carried out through synchronic methodology (describing language in a specific period). Having studied the results of the researches done on the dialects of cenral Iran, the researcher started her field study in Buzābād area. The data were basically gathered through observation, experience, questionnaires and interviews. Findings: _ As in all ancient Persian – rooted languages, nouns in this dialect are conjugated. _ Adjectives are conjugated based on the gender (feminine-masculine). _ Pronouns are conjugated based on the gender.Numerals (singular – plural) are conjugated based on the gender _ Based on the gender, some verbs are conjugated differently. _ Definite / indefinite indicators are specific characteristic of the dialect.
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Introduction

In central parts of Iran, Persian has gradually replaced local dialects even though local languages are still spoken in certain areas. This group of Northeastern languages is known as Central dialects. Based on the phonological systems of these dialects, some Iranologists classify them as: Northwestern, Northeastern, Southwestern and Southeastern dialects.

North eastern dialects1, which are rather numerous, are spoken in the areas between Kashan and Natanz. Kashani dialects, which are spoken in Kashan, and its neighboring dialect, Arani, are considered the most Northern dialects. In the mountains located in the west of Kashan-Natanz road, people speak the following dialects: to the east of the road Gohrudi, Jwšaqāni, Abyānei, Farizandi, Yarani, Meymei, Kešei, Tari, Natanzi are spoken and at the edge of the desert (Kavir) Buzābādi and Bādrudi are spoken.

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Buzābād:

Buzābādi /(Abuzeydābād) is located in southeastern Kashan, with a distance of 30 kilometers to Kashan, in a low land desert. It is one of Aran & Bidgol's towns located in the province of Esfahan.

The town functions as the population centre of the following villages: Hosein Abad, Kaqazi, Muhammad Abad, Yazdelan. Concerning the geographical location of Buzābād (a desert dead-end), the dialect could survive changes and events. However, with recent language changes, this dialect, as any other local dialect, is exposed to extinction. Also, since Buzābādi is not a written language, extinction threatens it most. In this regard, to enrich and to keep Iranian culture, describing the structure and the grammar of this dialect, preparing a lexicon of the language as well as doing a comparative study on this language and other Persian Languages seem inevitable. Buzābād as the documents and discoveries- historical and linguistic- indicate is a very old town.

Some of the Conjugational Characteristics:

1. Nominal Conjugations in different cases: merda (addressing), merdä (with indefinite suffix), merde (in noun as modifier and in plural form)
2. Having commonalities with certain eastern languages- Soqdi and Karazmi- such as lack of /e/ (sound) after a noun in possessive and certain adjectival structures (noun as modifier): ketāb man / ketāb-m/ (my book).
3. Gendered conjugation of adjectives describing masculine or feminine nouns: žange gorde (big woman), merda gorda (big man) .

4. Compared to other dialects, in Buzabadi, pronouns _ and demonstrative adjectives_ have always kept their masculine and feminine aspects.

	Singular			Plural		
	First person	Second person	Third person	First person	Second person	Third person
Buzābādi	Ma	te	na,nön	hama	šama	nönü

Nominal system in Buzābādi:

Despite similarities, there are linguistic differences between north-eastern dialects of central accents and Buzābādi. Hence, studying structural particularities of the linguistic system of Buzābādi is of great importance. One of the specific characteristics of this dialect is the conjugation of nouns, which has been studied from the following aspects:
a. gender (masculine – feminine)
b. definite-indefinite
c. numerals (singular-plural)

Gender (masculine – feminine):

- Demonstratives are used both as adjectives and personal pronouns. They also show the gender of the noun: na pür (that boy) ,   nēm döt (this girl)
- The noun itself does not show the gender. The gender is given to a noun through the addition of the prefix –a for a masculine noun esbä (dog) and the suffix –e for a feminine noun lāse (feminine dog). (Lecoq, 1976:18)
- The word for water ,ow , is feminine.
- The names of the animals whose sex is not clear are always considered feminine: mōljī (cat)
- Gender can also be shown through the suffixes indicating the small size: espa-ja (a small masculine dog), easpe-je (small feminine dog)
- The indicator connecting a noun to its adjective or to its determiner is -e. That is, a at the end of a noun will change to –e when it comes with an adjective or noun determiner: kara (butter) Kare tāze (fresh butter).

- The past form of third person singular shows the gender itself bešā (he went)   büšta (she went)
- In present perfect and past perfect tenses, the gender is clear in the first and second person verbs. The past participle used in these two tenses are –e for the feminine and –a for the masculine:
   beˋtätä ebˊädōy   I have run (masc.)
   beˋtäte ebˋōyäd   I have run (fem.)
   boˋrejovä yō   I have been seen (masc.)
   boˋrejove yō   I have been seen (fem.)

Definite-Indefinite

In middle Persian languages, a noun would become indefinite by ēw, which is left from aiwa- in ancient Iran. Today also, in some dialects as in Zoroastrian middle Persian and in Buzābādi it is used instead of ē and ēw.

- To make a noun definite, the suffix –a (-ya after a vowel) is used šü-ya (your husband)
- The suffix –a, in non-subject position, changes into –e: püre ma   my son pürä boy
- The suffix ey is the same as ham in Persian, which is used in Bizooiy dialect quite often: nemuney   these too
   nemey these   asp-ey   the hourse already talked about.
- Dfinite noun indicators are   i (meaning one) , -e suffix or both: i pürē one boy   pürē   a boy

Numerals (singular-plural)

- In Buzābādi Dialect, when the concept of plurality is already in the utterance, singular form is preferred:
   ma pōwam tar än   my feet are wet

To stress the concept of plurality they use the word pāk before a noun.

            pāk šev   all the nights

        pāk gerē   all the knots
Only the nouns ended with the vowel –a will be pluralized with the –e indicator: esbä̱   dogs
➔   esbē̱   the dog

- The plural indicator for both genders is (stressed) –e. Some times –on as a plural indicator is equally used :
    dote-doton girls
- In this dialect singular form is preferred over the plural one.
- The plural indicator –ē is Buzābādi has a lot of similarities with the dialects of central Iran- concerning used stressed for both genders as well as adjectives and nouns.

 Therefore, since their nominal, verbal, pronominal and adjectival systems- it has its own special characteristics. In this essay "nouns" have been studied from the point of singular-plural, definite-indefinite, and gender aspects.

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