

The Sandbox

Bukhari Chancery Persian Textbook Development

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Grammatical Explanation

In Turkic languages, Central Asian Persian, and Iranian Farsi alike, the verb for 'to put' has a secondary meaning of 'to allow.' For instance, "I let the child go": ()

In Farsi, māndan is only used for 'to remain'; in Tajik / Central Asian Persian, māndan is used both for 'to remain' and transitively for 'to put'. Guzāshtan is rarely used in in spoken Tajik, but appears in written texts.

In Uzbek and Uyghur, the verb qo'ymoq has a similar function to mean 'to let'. For instance: bolani ketishga qo'yib berdim, 'I let the children go.'

Examples

bukh:

uzb: Janobi oliylari, sizning fuqarolarga manzur bo'lgan muborak hukmingiz kabi yana bir muborak hukmingizni tayyorlab olib qo'ysinlar .

fars:

eng: A letter addressed to the representative of Maria Aleksandrovna - i.e., Nikolai Alekseevich Pravashin - was written, a seal was applied, we put it in an envelope and sent it.

Comments: In terms of form, serialized verbs (a style common in Central Asian Turki and Persian) is indistinguishable from auxiliary verb: the only way to distinguish them is by context.

Note that is in the causative, suggesting that someone else (e.g., a scribe) was tasked with writing the letter.

bukh:

uzb: Janobi oliylari, sizning fuqarolarga manzur bo'lgan muborak hukmingiz kabi yana bir muborak hukmingizni tayyorlab olib qo'ysinlar .

fars:

eng: Oh Refuge of Benevolence, let them (the chancery officials) prepare a royal decree similar to the one that had previously satisfied the people.

Comments: The language in this sentence is convoluted because of the implicit hierarchy that goes into drafting a mubārak-nāma. A mubārak-nāma is a royal decree that must, procedurally, come from the Amir. In practice, however, the Qushbegi's office implemented these directives to be rubber-stamped by the Amir's seal. Thus, in this document, lower-level officials are requesting that the Qushbegi submits a request () that the Amir authorize () the preparation of the royal decree; once the Qushbegi's office receives () that authorization, let him have is people draft the document.

The third person plural () in this sentence might be translated in the passive voice ('let it be prepared'), but the implication is that the scribal staff will draft the decree.

References

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