

Bukhari Chancery Persian Textbook Development

The -dagi participle

Grammatical Explanation

The "participle-ization" of Central Asian Persian stands among the features that most distinguishes it from classical and modern Iranian Persian. It is also — not coincidentally — the grammatical logic that makes Central Asian Persian most similar to Turkic languages.

Modern Iranian Persian uses relative particles, much like English: که works much like "that" or "which." For instance: "The student read the book, which his teacher had given to him" (донишчӯ китоб-е-ро хонд ки устодаш онро ба ӯ додааст (دانشجو کتابی را خواند که استادش به او داده بود

The same idea could be expressed in Central Asian Persian (which retains the relative particle که as well) as follows: *lit.* "The student read the given-to-him-by-his-teacher book." Grammatically, استادش داده گي is functioning as an adjective modifying کتاب, just like a participle in English, and following logic more typical of Turkic languages. Note that the indirect object was explicit in the modern Tajik / Iranian Persian example ("to him," i.e., the student) but implied in this sentence — an ambiguity typical of both Turkic and Bukhari chancery Persian. Note also that the relative marker (nishāna-i mawṣūlī, i.e. the ی) used in the که construction is not used in the -dagi construction (i.e., کتاب داده گي, but کتابی داده گي).

This grammatical logic is foreign to modern Iranian Persian, but standard to Central Asian Turkic languages. For instance, the same sentence would be rendered as talaba o'qituvchisi bergan kitobni o'qidi / ئوقۇغۇچى ئوقۇتقۇچى بەرگەن / کتابنى ئوقىدى .

Examples

bukh: ترتیب نامه فرستاده گی نایب ایلچی بجانب عالیحضرت منظور نظر انور هماوین عالی موالیم شود

uzb: Elchining o'rinbosari tomonidan **yuborilgan** (ko'rsatmalar) hujjat Amir hazratga ma'qul bo'ladi, deb o'ylayman.

fars: این ترتیب نامه ای است که نایب ایلچی آن را به جناب عالی حضرت فرستاده است تا از نظر مبارک او بگذرد

eng: Let the instructional memo, **which was sent** by the assistant to the Political Agent, grace the radiant eyes of His Majesty (the Amir)

Comments:

- The participle in this example is both preceded and followed by an *izāfa* genitive connector (which is not marked in the original script): *tartīb-nāma-i firistāda-gī-yi nāyib*.
- *elchi* (ایلچی) is a Turki word for 'ambassador,' but always refers to the Russian Political Agent in this context.
- Readers of early modern documents must become accustomed for lofty euphemisms and honorifics. In this example, the language revolves around the royal gaze of the amir: the memo referenced at the beginning of the original sentence is 'seen' (*manzūr*, using an Arabic passive participle) by the radiant ('*anwar*'), 'august' (*humāyūn*) 'gaze' (*naẓar*, from the same Arabic root as the participle).
- Iranian Persian has euphemism similar in meaning, which appears in the translation: 'از نظر مبارک او بگذرد', 'to pass [before] his [referring to the sovereign] auspicious gaze'
- The question of document type and hierarchy in Perso-Islamic cultures of documentation is a challenging one, and it becomes even more so in the quasi-colonial context in which most Bukharan documents were written. This is partly because Perso-Islamic document types often imply a hierarchy (e.g., a *farmān* was a royal order from a superior to inferior, whereas an '*arẓa*' was a 'petition' from an inferior to superior): the Russian conquest distorted those hierarchies, and rendered them more ambiguous. *Tartīb-nāma* (lit. 'arrangement letter') seems to have been a novel document type

referring to official instructions circulated by Bukharan officials at the 'request' of the Russian Political Agent.

bukh: بمکتوب از وجه محافظت کردن بعضی نشانگاه اسباب قدیمی میبرامده گی توابعات بخارای شریف اعلام نموده اند

uzb: Maktub orqali Buxoroyi Sharifga tobe' hududlardan **chiqadigan** qadimiy arxeologik ashyolardan nishona ba'zi joylarni muhofazat qilishlarini ma'lum qilganlar.

fars: از طریق این نوشته، محافظت از بناهای توابع بخارای شریف را که از آنها اشیاء قدیمی استخراج شده است اعلام کرده اند

eng: This letter has informed (us) of preservation of the ruins, **which have been discovered** outside of Bukhara.

Comments:

- Note that adjectives (and therefore participles) precede the modified noun in Turkic languages, but come after the noun in Persian. In this example, an izofa construction connects **اسباب قدیمی** to **میبرامده گی**
- The verb **برآمدن** is the standard verb for 'to leave,' 'to exit' in modern Tajik as well (**баромадан**), but not used in Iranian Persian.
- **asbāb** - which means 'reasons' in Arabic - may seem a curious word to refer broadly to objects (in this case, material remains). However, this usage is common to South Asia as well.

bukh: در قیشلاق سرای حادثه واقع شده در آنجا **استقامت داشته گی** رعیه روسیه عبد مؤمن ولد محمد حسین را بقتل رسانیداند

uzb: Qishloq joyida bir voqea sodir bo'lib, u yerda **yashaydigan** Rossiya (imperiya) fuqarosi Abdimo'min Muhammad Husayn o'g'lini o'ldirishdi.

fars: در "قیشلاق سرای" حادثه ای رخ داده است. عبد مؤمن ولد محمد حسین را که تبعه روسیه بوده و که در آنجا اقامت داشته به قتل رسانده اند

eng: In the village estate an incident occurred: a Russian subject, Abd al-Mumin ibn Muhammad Husayn, **who resided there**, was murdered.

Comments:

- Note the use of the gerund واقع شده ('taking place'): as discussed in chapter []: this style is acceptable in Iranian Persian, but more favored in Turkic languages (-ib) to break up parts of the sentence, which would usually be expressed with a conjunction (و) in classical Persian or a sentence break in modern Persian.
- ra'īya, alongside fuqarā' (which evolved to mean 'citizen' in the singular in modern Uzbek and Uyghur), is a ubiquitous term meaning 'subject' (and equivalent to the imperial category подданный / poddannyi in Russian). This example makes it clear that Abd al-Mumin was a Russian subject, though almost certainly not ethnically Russian. The term for subjecthood used in the Qajar context (تابع) was rarely, if ever, used with this specific legal meaning in Central Asia.
- In this context, qishlāq-sarāy is most likely a generic term referring to a village estate rather than a proper noun.

bukh: عرضه های تاتار ها بتوغریگی مایانرا حکومت بخارا بوقت شهر در آمدن اما دستگیر نموده حبس میکرده اند **گفته گی** دروغ بوده جماعه مذکور بعرض فاسد اینطریقه عرض را کرده اند

uzb: Tatarlarning da'wosiga ko'ra, haqiqatda Buxoro hukumati shaharga kirishda bizlarni shaharga kiraverishda ushlab qamab qo'ymoqda, **deganlari** yolg'on bo'lib, mazkur jamoa xato ariza bergan ekan.

fars: شکایتنامه تاتارها، که نوشته اند «ما را حکومت بخارا هنگام ورودمان به شهر دستگیر و حبس میکرده است»، **گفته ای** دروغ بوده است. گروه مورد اشاره با بیانی نادرست چنین شکایتی را نوشته اند

eng: The Tatars' **stated claim (which they submitted** as a petition), that actually the government of Bukhara arrested them when they entered the city, is a lie. The aforementioned group submitted an improper petition.

Comments:

- This Central Asian Persian example features the direct adoption of a Turki loan word: to'g'ri. The basic meaning of the word is 'correct' or 'straight' (similar to راست in Persian). Adopted into Persian in this example, بتوغریگی means 'actually' or 'in fact,' similar to واقع در in Farsi.
- This sentence features quoted speech, i.e., the claim that "we" were detained is designated as direct speech by گفته گی / degan. This is confusing because the first instance of the first person plural (مایانرا) refers to the Bukharan government officials investigating the claim,

whereas the second instance (در آمدن اما) refers to the Tatars making the false claim.

- In both modern Farsi and Tajik, the extra alif in در آمدن اما is superfluous and would be در آمدن ما, but is a common convention in document writing — perhaps simply for readability.

bukh: ایلجی اعلحضرات ایمپراطور معظم روس به بخارای نو بوده گی کار استفسار در قشلاق سرای مکر **بقتل رسیده گی** رعیه روسیه عبد المؤمن اوف را حقیقت کرده قرار کرداست

uzb: Yangi Buxorodagi rus elchisi Saroyi Makr qishlog'idagi **qatl qilingan** Rossiya fuqorasi Abd al-Muminov ishi yuzasidan taftish qildi.

fars: سفیر روس در بخارای نو دستور داد که تابع روسی عبد المؤمن را، **که در ده سرای مکر قتل شده بود**، تحقیق بکند

eng: The Political Agent in New Bukhara ordered that an investigation be carried out about the Russian subject Abd al-Mumin, **who was murdered** in the village of Saray-Makr.

Comments:

- In Turki, both the -dagi ending, and the -gan participle, can approximate the -dagi idea in Persian.
- In this context, term رعیه corresponded to the Russian подданный ('subject'), and was often used synonymously with فقراء (the same word as fuqaro, which means 'citizen' in modern Uzbek).

bukh: معلوم است که از روی شرطنامه دوستی بین دولتین علیتین شده گی از هر طریقه اموال تجارتی از مملکت رسی به بخارای شریف **میآمده گی** اینچنین اموال تجارتی از مملکت بخارا خرید شده بمملکت رسی **میرفت گی** دو نیم پرسنت زکوة دادن مقرر شده گی میباشد

uzb: Ma'lumki, ikki buyuk davlat o'rtaida imzolangan do'stlik-hamkorlik shartnomasiga ko'ra, Rossiya hududining har qayeridan Buxoroyi sharifga olib **kiriladigan** tijorat mollaridan, shuningdek, Buxoro hukumatidan sotib olingan va Rossiya hududiga **yuboriladigan** tijorat mollari uchun 2,5 (ikki yarim) foiz miqdorda zakot (solig'ini) berish tayinlab qo'yilgan.

fars: مبرهن است که طبق معاهده دوستی میان دو دولت بلندمرتبه گشته، بر اموال تجاری ای **که** به هر طریق از کشور روسیه به بخارای شریف **می آید** / متقابلاً / همینطور بر اموال تجاری ای که از مملکت بخارا خریده شده به مملکت روسیه می رود دو و نیم درصد زکات تعیین شده است

eng: Let it be known that -- with regard to the treaty of friendship between the two countries -- trade goods **that come from** Russia to Bukhara and, likewise, trade goods **which are purchased** in Bukhara and go to Russia, have been established at two-and-a-half percent [tariff].

Comments:

- This example is especially participle-heavy — but not in a way that is atypical for these kinds of documents. Note that there are even more participles than the English translation suggests (e.g., the first شده گى, which clarifies that the treaty was sealed in the past.
- Note the Russian loan word for 'percent' (процент). Modern Uzbek and Tajik use an Arabic loan word (foiz / فائز, lit. 'excess') for 'percent'.

References

- Chaghatay: Schluessel (58-60).
- Uyghur: De Jong (ch. XVII) treats these constructions as "verbal adjectives."
- Farsi: Perry (398-407) offers a detailed discussion of the relative particle kih (i.e., as used in modern Iranian Persian and Tajik)
- Central Asian Persian: Perry, 411-413 also offers a briefer discussion of the nominalized participles typical of Bukharan chancery Persian.