A grammar profile of English, Persian and Azari Turkish: A brief reference to L3 acquisition

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Abstract

Most Persian learners of English come to English classes with a second auxiliary language background, and among these a considerable majority of them are from Azari background. The present paper reviews how English, Persian and Azari languages are different and similar in syntactic terms. In other words, researchers, teachers and learners of this targeted community of speakers are encouraged to consider such variability in their practice. Also, the learnability of three different languages at the same time for Azari speakers of Persian attempting to learn English will be in perspective. Finally, the paper will close with some theoretical and practical considerations.

Key words: english language teaching; Persian; Azari; Iran.

1. Introduction

Syntax has been one of the major areas of research in second and foreign language acquisition. The prevalence of English among other foreign languages in Iran and the way learners with different L1 react to the new foreign language in academic settings as well as in ordinary conversation can be a source of variation in this regard. Different languages, dialects and accents are among the inevitable features of the Iranian community. Although the official and common language for all ethnic and linguistic groups is legally approved to be Persian (Farsi), linguistic variation is still considerable. However, the effect of their L1 is still traceable when speaking their formal language. This paper is intended to briefly survey the similarities and differences of three languages: English as the major foreign language taught in Iran, Farsi as the formal means of communication throughout the country, and Azeri Turkish with the biggest population of non-Farsi speakers in Iran. The results of this study can be used for further investigation of L2 and L3 learning. The idea can also be applied into teaching Farsi and English to Azari learners of Farsi and English to minimize the chances of transfer and interference.

2. Syntactic Considerations

Below, a brief reference will be made to the syntactic characteristics of the three languages.

2.1. English syntax

English is an SVO language in which the subject is obligatory (except in truncated diary-type sentences, in imperatives and in non-finite null subject sentences such as "Why worry?") (Radford, 2004). It is consistently a head-first language. In other words, all heads normally precede their complements. Unlike Persian and Azari, English allows wh-movement, i.e. wh-words can be fronted in English (Radford, 2004).

2.2. Persian syntax

Persian is the formal language for all ethnic groups and is a member of the Indo-Iranian language group. Typologically, Persian has SOV word order, and is considered to be an inflectional language. In Persian, null subjects are allowed and acceptable. It is considered as a head-first language except for the VP which behaves quite differently. Bateni (1995) describes Persian as a wh-in-situ language which does not allow wh-movement. Persian syntax becomes quite ambiguous in written form due to several factors which contribute to an ambiguity: although Persian is considered as a verb-final language, it does not adhere to a strict word order and the sentential constituents may occur in various positions in the clause; this is especially the case for preposition phrases and adverbials. In addition, there are no overt markers, such as case morphology, to indicate the function of a noun phrase or its boundary; in Persian, only specific direct objects receive an overt marker. However, in spoken language, the ezafe morpheme is used to link the elements within the noun phrase; this morpheme, which is a short vowel, is absent in the written texts.

Also, Farsi is a pro-drop language; accordingly, subject-verb agreement is not always present for inanimate subjects. Since short vowels are not graphologically transcribed, lexical ambiguity turns to manifest as another problem. Persian preposition phrases, however, are easily recognized and can be used to mark phrasal boundaries in the sentence. Additionally, the verb almost always occurs in the sentence-final position in written text.

2.3. Azari Syntax

Typologically, Azari is an agglutinative language with SOV word order, mainly spoken in the north western parts of Iran. It has borrowed many phonological, morphological, and

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syntactic elements from Persian. Azari is also a pro-drop language where null subjects are possible and common. As for the head parameter, it is considered as a head-first language. However, while wh-in-situ questions are the norm, wh-movement is common too (See Wikipedia entry for further details).

3. Syntactic Variability

Below, some of the important areas of difference and similarity will be investigated with examples from each language.

3.1. Word Order

While English has the SVO word order, both Azari and Persian are SOV languages: the sentences appear in the word order Subject-Object-Verb. The verb is marked for tense and aspect and usually agrees with the subject in person and number. Azari and Persian are pro-drop languages, thus the subject is optional; while, in English subjects are obligatory. The object marker râ (in Persian) and Azari clitics "ni" or "i" are used to indicate specific direct objects in simple sentences. But in English, accusative cases are not morphologically and overtly marked

(1) Persian:
bache-hâ panjare râ shekast-and
child-Plur window Obj break-Past-3pl
Azari:
Ushagh-lar panjara-ni   sindir-dilar
child-Plur window-Obj break-Past-3pl
English: The children broke the window.

(2) Persian:
(mâ) kabâb mi-khor-im
(we) kabob Imp-eat-Present/2pl
Azari:
(biz) kabab yiyier-okh
(we) kabob eat-Present/2pl
English: We are eating kabab.

It is to be noted that that in Persian and Azari, if there is an oblique object or a Prepositional Phrase in the clause, it often precedes the indefinite direct object as shown in (3) below, but it usually follows the specific or definite object as in (4) below.

(3) Persian:
Ali be bache-hâ nân dâd
Ali to child-Plur bread gave/3sg
Azari:
Ali ushagh-lar-a churak Verdi
Ali child-Plur-to bread gave/3sg
English: Ali gave (some) bread to the children.

(4) Persian:
Ali nân râ be bache-hâ dâd
Ali bread Obj to child-Plur gave/3sg
Azari:
Ali churak-i ushagh-lar-a verdi
Ali bread-Obj child-plur-to gave/3sg
English:
Ali gave the bread to the children.

However, in English, direct objects either immediately follows the verb (5a) or the oblique object comes in between. But the latter often appears as an accusative pronoun (5c).

(5a) Ali gave the bread to the children.

(5b) Ali gave the children the bread.

(5c) Ali gave them the bread.

Although examples above describe the canonical word or-

der, Persian and Azari are considered as free word-order languages; accordingly, the sentential constituents can be flexibly moved around in the clause. These "scrambled" clauses often give rise to focused or topicalized readings. In the written form, although most elements may appear in a relatively free word order, the sentences often remain verb-final (except in poetic language). However, adverbs and prepositional phrases can appear in various floating positions quite freely. Apart from manner adverbs, which occur within the verb phrase (see example 6 below), other adverbs may appear almost anywhere in the clause - between the various constituents. Adverbs usually cannot occur following the verb (7). However, in English most adverbials follow the verb (except for frequency adverbs which normally precede the main verb).

(6) Manner adverbs
Persian:
Ali davan-davan amad
Ali running came/2sg
Azari:
Ali gacha-gacha galdi
Ali running came/2sg
English: Ali came up running.
(7) Other adverbs
Persian:
Ou hafte-i yek martabe be kharid mi-ravad
He week-every time to shopping Imp-go/pr-3sg
Azari:
O hafta-da bir yol kharid-a ged-ar
He week-in one time shopping-to go-pr/3sg
English: He goes shopping once a week.

Although Persian and Azari are verb-final at the sentential level, they behave quite differently in noun phrases (NP) and preposition phrases (PP). English and Persian follows a head-initial pattern in NPs (Persian resorting to Ezafe concept) while Azari is more head-last in this regard (8). Thus in Persian, the head noun in an NP is often followed by modifiers and possessives (8), and the preposition precedes the complement NP in Persian but not in Azari (10). English and Persian share the PP head-first feature while Azari is obviously a head-last PP.

(8) Persian:
ketâb-e man
book-Ezafe I
Azari:
Man-im kitab-im
I-possessive ketab-possessive
English: my book

(9) Persian:
yek khâne-ye bozorg
one house-Ezafe big
Azari:
Bir buyuk ev
One big house
English: A big house

(10) Persian:
mardom dar khyâbân-hâ tazâhorât mi-kard-and
people in street-Plur demonstrations Imp-do-3pl
Azari:
Adam-lar khyaban-lar-da tazahorat elir-dilar
Peson-plur street-plur-in demonstration do-3pl/past
English: People were demonstrating in the streets.

In English, Persian and Azari, certain prepositional phras-

es, such as locative and directional PPs, can follow the verb as shown in (11) and (12). The preposition is sometimes optional in Persian (as in 11) but never in Azari. These constructions, however, often occur in speech.

(11) Persian:
bache-hâ raft-and (be) manzel
child-Plur go-Past-3pl (to) home
Azari:
Ushagh-lar ged-dilar ev-a
Child-plur go-past-3pl home-to
English: The children went home.

(12) Persian:
pâkat râ gozâsht ru-ye miz
Envelope Obj put-Past-3sg on-Ezafe table
Azari:
Pakat-i ghoydu miz-usta
Envelope-Obj put-past-3sg table-on
English: He/she put the envelope on the table.

In all three languages, subordinate clauses follow the main clause as illustrated in (13). Persian complementizer ke (that) and Azari ki mark both subordinate constructions and relative clauses as in English; it is often optional.

(13) Persian:
mardom ne-mi-khâst-and (ke) shomoossi dar in entekhâbât barande shavad
people neg-Imp-want-Past/3pl (that) shomoossi in this election winner become-Subj/3sg
Azari:
Millat ista-mir-dialr (ki) shomoossi bu intikhabat-da baranda ulsun
People want-neg-past/3plu (that) shomoossi this election-in winner become-subj/3sg
English: People didn't want shomoossi to win in these elections.

Unlike English, questions in Persian and Azari are usually formed in-situ, i.e., the element being questioned is replaced by the interrogative form without changing the word order (as in 14 and 15). However, in spoken language, it is possible to raise the question word to the initial position (as in 15).

(14) Persian:
bache-hâ chi-o shekast-and?
 bache-hâ che-chizi râ shekast-and?
child-Plur what Obj break-Past-3pl
Azari:
Ushagh-lar namana-ni sindir-dilar?
child-Plur what-Obj break-Past/3pl
English: What did the children break?

(15) Persain:
ki panjare râ shekast?
who window Obj break-Past-3sg
Azari:
Kim panjara-ni sindir-di?
who window-Obj break-Past/3sg
English: Who broke the window?

(16) Persian:
chi-o bache-hâ shekast-and?
 che-chiz râ bache-hâ shekast-and?
What-Obj child-Plur break-Past-3pl
Azari:
namana-ni ushagh-lar sindir-dilar?
what-Obj child-Plur break-Past/3pl

English: What did the children break?

3.2. Noun Phrases

Simple Noun Phrases: Despite the apparent similarities of English and Azari in NP construction, noun phrases in Persian are different and their heads could be a noun or an infinitival verb. Pronouns and proper names may also head noun phrases, functioning as genitives in complex noun phrases (17). In Azari, however, NP constructions are much like English.

(17) Persian:
ketâb-e hushing
book-Ez Ali
Ali's book
ketâb-e oo
book-Ez he
his book
Azari:
hushing-in kitab-i
Ali-Poss book-Poss
Ali's book
o-nun kitab-i
he-Poss book-Poss
his book

Also in Persian, the head noun is preceded by the determiner, the numeral constructions and the quantifiers, and it is followed by the modifiers, which usually consist of an adjectival phrase (AP) as in (18).

(18) Persian:
Yek khane-ye jaded
One house-Ez new
A new house
Azari:
Bir taza ev
One new house
A new house
English: A new house
Persian:
Chandin khane-ye ziba
Several house-Ez beautiful
Several beautiful houses
Azari:
Necha gozal ev
Several beautiful houses
English: Several beautiful houses

While English and Azari allow the stacking (determiners, numeral expressions, quantifiers and modifiers) before the head noun, Persian postpones the occurrence of modifiers after the head noun (as in 18) except for literary styles where APs can precede the head noun too (as in 19).

(19) Persian:
Ziba negah-i
Beautiful look-one
A beautiful look

Superlative adjectives, however, do not appear in the postponed AP; instead, they precede the head noun (20). Azari and English share the same feature.

(20) Persian:
behtarin ketâb-e hushing
best book-Ez Ali
Ali's best book
Azari:

hushing-in behtarin kitab-i
hushing-Poss best book-Poss
Ali's best book
English: Ali's best book

In Persian, numeral constructions, quantifiers and superlative adjectives are in complementary distribution, i.e., if one of these elements is present, the others cannot occur within the NP. The relative ordering of the constituents of a simple Persian NP is given below in (21):

(21) NP determiner specifier head modifier

In (21) the head is a Noun and the parts of speech or phrases that can appear in each of the other categories are as shown below (22). Note that all the constituents, with the exception of the head noun, are optional.

(22)
Determiner:
Determiner: e.g. in (this, these)
Specifier:
Numeral (Unit) (Classifier): e.g. do milion nafar (two million person)
Ordinal_Numeral: e.g. dovomin ((the) second)
Superlative_Adjective: e.g. bozorgtarin ((the) biggest)
Quantifier: e.g. ba'zi (some)
Modifier:
(Adverb) Adjective: e.g. kheyli kohne (very old) (Note: Modifiers may be recursive)

In English and Azari, as mentioned earlier in (19), all numeral expressions, quantifiers and modifiers (APs) precede the head nouns (23):

(23) English: Those two beautiful houses
Azari;
O iki dana gozal ev-lar
That two CL beautiful house-Plur
Those two beautiful houses

In Persian, the modifiers are linked to the head noun with the ezafe morpheme. The following example represents a simple Noun Phrase where CL stands for Classifier and Ez for the ezafe morpheme. Classifiers indicate the class or type of the noun. Thus, for instance, tâ is used with count inanimate nouns, nafar indicates people, qalâde (=collar) can be used when giving a count for dogs, etc. While English has used these two and plural –s for the indication of plurality of books, both Persian and Azari keep the nouns singular in this case and assign the plurality indication to number classifiers (as in 24). Note that in Azari, when classifiers are absent, the plural morpheme comes to indicate the plurality of the head noun. However, in English, plurality morpheme "(e)s" is always present.

(24) Persian:
in do tâ ketâb-e kohne
this two CL book-Ez old
Azari:
Bu iki dana kuhna kitab
This two CL old book
Bu kitab-lar
This book-Plur
These books
English: These two old books.'

In both Persian and Azari, the infinitival constructions are very similar to the English gerundive. The only difference appears in the word order, where Azari seems to behave like English more than Persian does. The infinitive head can appear in a predicate construction or with an adverbial. The objects of the verb become arguments of a possessive construction as exemplified in (25 and 26).

(25) Persian:
zan budan-ash
woman be-her
Azari:
(O-nun) arvad ulmak-i
(She-Poss) woman be-Poss
English: her being a woman.

(26) Persian:
koshtan-e shir
kill-Ez lion
Azari:
Shir-in uldurmak-i
Lion-Obj kill-Poss
English: the killing of a lion.

3.3. Possessive Constructions

These constructions are the equivalent of the genitive or possessive constructions in English, such as "John's red book", "his mother's hat" or "the syntax of verb phrases". In English, the link between the two nouns is marked by "'s" (e.g., John's) or by the preposition "of". In the case of pronouns, the latter appears in the genitive form (e.g. his). The element joining the Persian noun phrase constituents to each other is the ezafe suffix. The ezafe, however, is usually pronounced as the short vowel /e/ and is therefore not symbolized in written text. The result, in Persian written text, is a series of consecutive nouns without any overt links or boundaries as shown in the example in (27) transcribed as it appears in Persian text (i.e. without short vowels). The actual pronunciation for this example is given in (28) where the ezafe morpheme is represented by the -e following the first three nouns, linking each one to the following constituent. Note that the last constituent in the NP does not carry the ezafe suffix, thus marking the end boundary of the noun phrase. In this example, each noun forms a simple NP which then join together to form the complex NP given in (27). However, there is no such tacit marking in Azari and every element is overtly marked and symbolized. The interesting phenomenon is again the word order and repeated possession markers with each word, which appears to be similar in English and Azari, but not in Persian.

(27) Persian:
ketâb doost pedar dâryush
book friend father Dariush
Azari:
Dâryush-un dada-si-nin yodlash-i-nin kitab-i
Dariush-Poss father-his friend-Poss-Obj book-Poss
English: Dariush's father's friend's book

(28) Persian (written with Ezafe symbols): ktâb-e dust-e pedar-e dâryush

When pronouns are used as the possessor, the constructions are also the same (as in 29):

(29) Persian:
ktâb-e man
book-Ez 1sg-pronoun
Azari:
Man-im kitab-im
I-Poss book-Poss
English: My book.

3.4. NP Boundaries and disambiguation in Persian

Certain morphological and syntactic elements can help resolve some of the ambiguities arising in parsing of Persian written text. As already mentioned, the ezafe suffix can mark boundaries within Noun Phrases. Unfortunately, this morpheme is often absent from written form. It does occur, however, after the vowels â and u as exemplified below.

(30) zan zybay daryush vard shod (written transcription)

zan-e zibâ-ye dâryush vâred shod (the same sentence uttered)

wife beautiful-Ez Dariush entered

Dariush's beautiful wife entered.

(31) [wife beautiful Dariush] NP entered

In (30), the adjective zyba is followed by the ezafe suffix y, which indicates that the adjective is linked to the following element daryush. Thus, the absence of the ezafe after the adjective zyba will mark a noun phrase boundary as illustrated in the examples below.

(32)

zn zyba daryush ra shnakht (written transcription)

zan-e zibâ dâryush râ shenakht (the same sentence uttered)

woman beautiful Dariush Obj recognized

The beautiful woman recognized Dariush.

(33) [woman beautiful] NP [Dariush OBJ] NP recognized

Certain morphemes, such as the pronominal clitics, the indefinite article and the enclitic used to link NPs to relative clauses, can only occur as the last element in the NP. The detection of any of these morphemes indicates that the boundary of the noun phrase has been reached. In addition, proper names and pronouns often mark the boundary of the noun phrase (31 and 33).

3.5. Relative Clauses

Persian relative clauses are usually introduced by the relativizer ke (that), which is used regardless of the animacy, gender or function of the head noun. In nonrestrictive relative clauses, the head noun often carries an enclitic morpheme (Encl) which links the noun to the following relative clause (34). If the relativized noun is the object of the main sentence, then it may appear with the object marker râ as illustrated in (35). Azari relative clauses are also of the same type introduced by Azari "ki" (borrowed and adapted from Persian ke) which is obligatorily spelled out with no variations regarding animacy, gebder and the function of the antecedent.

(34) Persian:

zan-i ke injâ neshaste ast hamsar-e Nâder ast

woman-Encl that here sit-Part is spouse-Ez Nader is

Azari:

(o)-khanem ki burda otoor-up Nader-in arvad-idi

(Encl)-woman that here sit-Part Nader-Poss wife-is

English: The woman that is sitting here is Nader's wife.

(35) Persian:

ktâb-i râ ke diruz kharide budam emruz sobh tamâm kard-am

book-Encl Obj that yesterday bought was today morning finish did-1sg

Azari:

(o)-kitab-i ki dunan almish-dim bogon subh ghootar-dim

(Encl)-book-Poss that yesterday buy-past/1sg today morning finish-past/1sg

English: This morning, I finished the book that I had

bought yesterday.

However, in English, relative pronouns can bear cases: accusative (36-39), nominative (40) and genitive (41). Moreover, they differentiate between animate (as in 36, 37 and 40) and inanimate antecedents (as in 38 and 39). The relative pronoun which, used for inanimate nouns is used for nominative and accusative cases with morphological variation (as in 38 accusative and 30 nominative cases). In (37), the preposition to is pied-piped along with the relative pronoun whom. Also in (41), car is preposed along with the relative genitive pronoun whose due to pied-piping. In English, which, who and whom can be substituted in most cases by that – a general relative pronoun.

(36) It's hard to find someone who you can relate to.

(37) It's hard to find someone to whom you can relate.

(38) Can you think of things she might need?

(39) This is the bus which goes to Shiraz.

(40) He is the man who can help you.

(41) Is there anybody whose car I can borrow?

In Persian and Azari, relative clause may be separated from the head noun by the main verb as illustrated below (42). In addition, several relative clauses could follow a head noun.

(42) Persian:

mâ pesar-ân-i râ entekhâb mi-kon-im ke dar mosabeghe barande shode-bashand

we boy-Plur-Encl Obj choosing Imp-do-1pl that in competition winner become-Pefect/3pl

Azari:

Biz o-oghlan-lari entekhab eli-rukh ki mosabegha-da baranda olmosh ola-lar

We the-boy-plur-Encl choose do-present/1pl that competition-in winner become perfect-3pl

English: We choose (the) boys that have won the competition.

If the head noun is the subject or direct object of the relative clause, it is often left as a gap as shown in examples (34) and (35). However, even in such cases, the relativized noun may be replaced by a resumptive pronoun in the clause it originated from. Thus, in (43), the head noun *plâk-e kuchak* (small plaque) is the subject of the relative clause; it is substituted by the resumptive pronoun ân (it). The use of the resumptive pronoun usually occurs when the head noun is separated from the relative clause by an intervening VP. In this example, the verb pey borde-and (have found) precedes the relative clause. Azari and English follow the same rule too.

(43) Persian:

dâneshmandân be plâk-e kuchak-i dar maqz pey borde-and ke ân niz tâkonun nâshenâxte mânde bud.

scientist-Plur to plaque-Ez small-Encl in brain found-3pl that it also until now unknown remained was

Azari:

Daneshmand-lar magz-da bir kichik plak-a al tapip-lar ki india-ja tannin-ma-mish ghalmish-imish

Scientist-plur brain-in one small plaque-Encl hand find-perfect/3pl that now-until discover-un-past/3sg remain-perfect/3sg

English: Scientists have found a small plaque in the brain that had remained undiscovered until now.

In Persian and Azari, when the head noun is the indirect object or is extracted from a Prepositional Phrase adjunct in the clause, a resumptive pronoun is used. In other words, the position in which the head noun originates is substituted by a

pronoun that agrees with the head noun. However, in English no such pronouns are allowed .This is exemplified in the three NP cases below:

(44) Persian:

in bache-hâ ke az ânhâ âdres mi-porsid-i...

this kid-Plur that from them address Imp-ask-2sg

Azari:

Bu ushagh-lar ki u-lar-dan adres sorosh-or-dun …

This kid-plur that this-plur-from address ask-imp-2sg…

English:

Grammatical: These kids from whom you asked for the address...

Ungrammatical: These kids from whom you asked them for the address...

(45) Persian:

shahr-i ke dar ân tazâhorât shode bud ...

city-Encl that in it demonstrations become was

Azari:

(o)-shahr-i ki orda tazahorat ulmush-di…

(Encl)-city-Encl that in-which demonstrations become-past/3sg

English:

Grammatical: The city in which demonstrations took place...

Ungrammatical: The city in which demonstrations took place there...

(46) Persian:

zan-i ke barây-ash ketâb kharid-i ...

woman-Encl that for-Clitic(3sg) book buy-Past-2sg

Azari:

(o)-kahnom ki bila-sina kitab al-din…

(Encl)-woman that for-her/him book buy-past/2sg

English:

Grammatical: The woman for whom you bought a book...

Ungrammatical: The woman for whom you bought her a book...

Grammatical: The woman that you bought a book for...

Ungrammatical: The woman that you bought a book for her...

3.6. Verb Phrases

As already discussed, verbs in both Persian and Azari usually occur in the sentence-final position, with objects, adverbials and adjuncts all preceding it. The relative order of the direct object and the indirect object or PP may be modified based on the specificity of the direct object. In English, PPs the immediate object position but if they are placed after the direct object, the sentence will be grammatical.

(47) Persian:

Ali be bache-hâ nân dâd

Ali to child-Plur bread gave/3sg

Azari:

Ali ushagh-lar-a churak ver-di

Ali child-plur-to bread give-past/3dg

English: Ali gave the bread to the children.

(48) Pesian;

Ali nân râ be bache-hâ dâd

Ali bread Obj to child-Plur gave/3sg

Azari:

Ali churag-i ushagh-lar-a ver-di

Ali bread-Obj shild-plur-to give-past/3dg

English:

Grammatical: Ali gave the bread to the children.

Ungrammatical: Ali gave to the children the bread.

Grammatical: Ali gave the children the bread.

Grammatical: Ali gave them the bread.

In English, the only subject-verb agreement is manifested in the third person singular present verbs; in other cases, it is not morphologically manifested. However, in both Persian and Azari, the verb agrees in number and person with the subject of the clause. However, if the subject is inanimate, the agreement may default to the third person singular. This is illustrated in the examples below (49) and (50), taken from the same newspaper article, both containing an inanimate plural subject but giving rise to different agreements on the verb:

(49) Persian:

jangande-hâ-ye esraili jonub-e lobnân râ bombârân kard-and

fighter plane-Plur-Ez Israeli south-Ez Lebanon Obj bombing did-3pl

Azari:

Esrail-in janganda-lar-i lobnan-in jonub-in-i bombaran ela-dilar

Israel-Poss Fighter-plane-plur-Encl south-Poss-Encl bombardment do-past/3pl

English: Israeli fighter planes bombed the south of Lebanon.

(50) Persian:

bombârân-hâ-ye esrail ma'mulan motevajeh-e manâteq-e maskuni-e jonub-e lobnân ast

bombardment-Plur-Ez Israel usually directed-Ez regions-Ez residential-Ez south-Ez Lebanon is(3sg)

Azari:

Esrail-in bombaran-lar-i mamulan marboot oloor jonoob-e lobnan-in maskooni mantagha-lar-in-a.

Israel-Poss bombardment-Plur-Encl usually directed is(3sg) south-Poss Lebanon-Poss residential area-Plur-Encl-to

English: Israel's bombardments are usually directed towards the residential regions of the south of Lebanon.

4. Concluding remarks

This review is encouraged by Megerdoomian's (n.d.) article on Persian-English grammar profile, and is intended to portray a comparison of English, Persian and Azari languages. Clarifying the similarities and differences between these three languages is of importance in the Iranian context since English is the dominant foreign language taught in Iran, while Persian is the formal language and Azari Turkish is widely dominant in a vast geographical area. This paper can be considered as the starting point for further rigorously tuned studies especially under the current minimalist approach (Cook and Newson, 1996) to help foreign language learners as well Azari speakers who have to learn Persian as the official language of their society. Furthermore, updated versions of the theories of access to UG or L1 in learning L2 or L3 can be considered for enhancing the research (See Hawkins & Chan, 1997; White, 2003). In addition to the syntactic focus, phonological differences are suggested for further studies.

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Abbreviations

1. CL: classifiers
2. Ez = ezafe morpheme discussed in the section on Noun Phrases.
3. Imp=imperfective marker,
4. Neg=negation,
5. Obj=object marker,
6. Past = past tense,
7. Present = present tense,
8. Subj=subjunctive.
9. Person is marked by 1, 2 or 3;
10. Number is either pl=plural or sg=singular.
11. POSS = possessive