

Persian language

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Farsi)

Persian (locally known as فارسی *fārsī*, دری *darī*, and тоҷикӣ *tojikī*) is an Iranian language within the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European languages. It is primarily spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and countries which historically came under Persian influence. The Persian language is classified as a continuation of Middle Persian, the official religious and literary language of Sassanid Persia, itself a continuation of Old Persian, the language of the Persian Empire in the Achaemenid era.^[3]^[4]^[5] Persian is a pluricentric language and its grammar is similar to that of many contemporary European languages.^[6]

Persian has ca. 110 million native speakers, holding official status respectively in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. For centuries Persian has also been a prestigious cultural language in Central Asia, South Asia, and Western Asia.^[7]

Persian has had a considerable, mainly lexical influence on neighboring languages, particularly the Turkic languages in Central Asia, Caucasus, and Anatolia, neighboring Iranian languages, as well as Armenian, and Indo-Aryan languages, especially Urdu. It also exerted some influence on Arabic, while borrowing much vocabulary from it after the Muslim conquest of Persia.^[3]^[6]^[8]^[9]^[10]^[11]

With a long history of literature in the form of Middle Persian before Islam, Persian was the first language in Muslim civilization to break through Arabic's monopoly on writing, and the writing of poetry in Persian was established as a court tradition in many eastern courts.^[7] Some of the famous works of Persian literature are the *Shahnameh* of Ferdowsi, works of Rumi (Molana), Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, Divan of Hafiz and poems of Saadi.

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Persian

Farsi

فارسی, دری, تاجیکی



Farsi in Persian script (Nasta'liq style).

Pronunciation [fɒ:r'si:]

Spoken natively in Iran,^[1] Afghanistan,^[1] Tajikistan,^[1] Uzbekistan, Iraq, Pakistan,^[1] Bahrain, Azerbaijan^[2]

(See list of all countries)

Native speakers 60 million (2009)^[2]
(110 million total speakers)^[2]

Language family

- Indo-European
 - Indo-Iranian
 - Iranian
 - Western Iranian
 - Southwestern Iranian
 - **Persian**

Dialects

- Western Persian
- Eastern Persian
- Central Asian Persian
- Bukharic
- Pahlavani
- Hazaragi
- Aimaq
- Dzhidi
- Dehwari
- Juhuri^[2]
- Caucasian Tat^[2]
- Armeno-Tat^[2]

Writing system

- Persian alphabet (Arabic script)
- Tajik alphabet (Cyrillic script)

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Classification

Persian belongs to the Western branch of the Iranian family of Indo-European languages, which also includes Kurdish, Mazandarani, Gilaki, Talyshi, and Baluchi. The language is in the Southwestern Iranian group, along with the Larestani and Luri languages.^[12]

Nomenclature

Contemporary local nomenclature

The term Persian often refers to three groups of dialects:

- **Farsi** (فارسی^[13]) — translit.: *fārsi*) is the local name of the language in Iran, and is sometimes used in English instead of the word *Persian* when referring to the language;
- **Dari** (دری^[14]) — translit.: *darī*) is one of the two official languages of Afghanistan;^[15]
- **Tajik** (тоҷикӣ / تاجیکی — translit.: *tojikī*^[16]) is a group of dialects spoken in Central Asia.^[17]

English nomenclature

Hebrew script

Official status

Official language in  Iran
 Afghanistan
 Tajikistan

Regulated by

Academy of Persian Language and Literature (Iran)

Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan

Language codes

ISO 639-1 fa

ISO 639-2 per (B)
fas (T)

ISO 639-3 fas – inclusive code

Individual codes:

pes (<http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=pes>)

– Western Persian

prs (<http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=prs>)

– Eastern Persian

tgk (<http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=tgk>)

– Tajiki

aiq (<http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=aiq>)

– Aimaq

bhh (<http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=bhh>)

– Bukharic

haz (<http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=haz>)

– Hazaragi

jpr (<http://www.sil.org/iso639-3>)

Persian, the more widely used name of the language in English historically, is an anglicized form derived from Latin **Persianus* < Latin *Persia* < Greek Πέρσις *Pérsis*, a Hellenized form of Old Persian *Parsa*. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the term *Persian* as a language name is first attested in English in the mid-16th century.^[18] Native Iranian Persian speakers call it *Fârsi*.^[19] *Farsi* is the arabicized form of *Pârsi*, due to a lack of the 'p' phoneme in Standard Arabic (i.e., the 'p' was replaced with an 'f').^{[20][21]} In English, this language is historically known as "Persian", though some Persian speakers migrating to the West continued to use "Farsi" to identify their language in English and the word gained some currency in English-speaking countries.^[22] "Farsi" is encountered in some linguistic literature as a name for the language, used both by Iranian and by foreign authors.^[23] According to the OED, the term *Farsi* was first used in English in the mid-20th century.^[19] The Academy of Persian Language and Literature has declared that the name "Persian" is more appropriate, as it has the longer tradition in the western languages and better expresses the role of the language as a mark of cultural and national continuity.^[24] Most Persian language scholars such as Ehsan Yarshater, editor of *Encyclopædia Iranica*, and University of Arizona professor Kamran Talattof, have also rejected the usage of "Farsi" in their articles.^{[25][26]}

International nomenclature

The international language encoding standard ISO 639-1 uses the code "fa", as its coding system is mostly based on the local names. The more detailed standard ISO 639-3 uses the name "Persian" (code "fas") for the dialect continuum spoken across Iran and Afghanistan. This consists of the individual languages Dari (Afghan Persian) and Iranian Persian.^{[27][28][29]}

A similar terminology, but with even more subdivisions, is also adopted by the LINGUIST List, where "Persian" appears as a sub-grouping under "Southwest Western Iranian".^[30] Currently, VOA, BBC, DW, and RFE/RL use "Persian Service" for their broadcasts in the language. RFE/RL also includes a Tajik service, and an Afghan (Dari) service. This is also the case for the American Association of Teachers of Persian, The Centre for Promotion of Persian Language and Literature, and many of the leading scholars of Persian language.^[31]

History

Persian is an Iranian language belonging to the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European family of languages. In general, Iranian languages are known from three periods, usually referred to as Old, Middle, and New

[/documentation.asp?id=jpr\)](#)

– Dzhidi

phv (<http://www.sil.org>

[/iso639-3](#)

[/documentation.asp?id=phv\)](#)

– Pahlavani

deh (<http://www.sil.org>

[/iso639-3](#)

[/documentation.asp?id=deh\)](#)

– Dehwari

jdt (<http://www.sil.org>

[/iso639-3](#)

[/documentation.asp?id=jdt\)](#)

– Juhuri

ttt (<http://www.sil.org>

[/iso639-3](#)

[/documentation.asp?id=ttt\)](#)

– Caucasian Tat

Linguasphere 58-AAC (Wider Persian) >
58-AAC-c (Central Persian)



Approximate extent of the Persian language area. Map includes all three dialects of Persian.

History of the Persian language

(Modern) periods. These correspond to three eras in Iranian history; Old era being the period from sometime before Achaemenids, the Achaemenid era and sometime after Achaemenids (that is to 400-300 BC), Middle era being the next period most officially Sassanid era and sometime in post-Sassanid era, and the New era being the period afterwards down to present day.^[32]

According to available documents, the Persian language is "the only Iranian language"^{[3][33]} for which close philological relationships between all of its three stages are established and so that Old, Middle, and New Persian represent^{[3][34]} one and the same language of Persian, that is New Persian is a direct descendent of Middle and Old Persian.^[34]

The known history of the Persian language can be divided into the following three distinct periods:

Old Persian

Main article: Old Persian

Old Persian evolved from Proto-Iranian as it evolved in the Iranian plateau's southwest. The earliest dateable example of the language is the Behistun Inscription of the Achaemenid Darius I (*r.* 522 BC – ca. 486 BC). Although purportedly older texts also exist (such as the inscription on the tomb of Cyrus II at Pasargadae), these are actually younger examples of the language. Old Persian was written in Old Persian cuneiform, a script unique to that language and is generally assumed to be an invention of Darius I's reign.

After Aramaic, or rather the Achaemenid form of it known as Imperial Aramaic, Old Persian is the most commonly attested language of the Achaemenid age. While examples of Old Persian have been found wherever the Achaemenids held territories, the language is attested primarily in the inscriptions of Western Iran, in particular in Parsa "Persia" in the southwest, the homeland of the tribes that the Achaemenids (and later the Sassanids) came from.

In contrast to later Persian, written Old Persian had an extensively inflected grammar, with eight cases, each declension subject to both gender (masculine, feminine, neuter) and number (singular, dual, plural).

Middle Persian

Main article: Middle Persian

In contrast to Old Persian, whose spoken and written forms must have been dramatically different from one another^[citation needed], written Middle Persian reflected oral use. The complex conjugation and declension of Old Persian yielded to the structure of Middle Persian in which the dual number disappeared, leaving only singular and plural, as did gender. Middle Persian used postpositions to indicate the different roles of words, for example an *-i* suffix to denote a possessive "from/of" rather than the multiple (subject to gender and number) genitive caseforms of a word.

Although the "middle period" of the Iranian languages formally begins with the fall of the Achaemenid Empire, the transition from Old- to Middle Persian had probably already begun before the 4th century. However, Middle Persian is not actually attested until 600 years later when it appears in Sassanid era (224–651) inscriptions, so any form of the language before this date cannot be described with any degree of certainty. Moreover, as a

Proto-Iranian (ca. 1500 BC)

Southwestern Iranian languages

Old Persian (c. 525 BC - 300 BC)

Old Persian cuneiform script

Middle Persian (c.300 BC-800 AD)

Pahlavi script • Manichaean script • Avestan script

Modern Persian (from 800 AD)

Perso-Arabic script

literary language, Middle Persian is not attested until much later, to the 6th or 7th century. And from the 8th century onwards, Middle Persian gradually began yielding to New Persian, with the middle-period form only continuing in the texts of Zoroastrian tradition.

The native name of Middle Persian was *Parsig* or *Parsik*, after the name of the ethnic group of the southwest, that is, "of *Pars*", Old Persian *Parsa*, New Persian *Fars*. This is the origin of the name *Farsi* as it is today used to signify New Persian. Following the collapse of the Sassanid state, *Parsik* came to be applied exclusively to (either Middle or New) Persian that was written in Arabic script. From about the 9th century onwards, as Middle Persian was on the threshold of becoming New Persian, the older form of the language came to be erroneously called *Pahlavi*, which was actually but one of the *writing systems* used to render both Middle Persian as well as various other Middle Iranian languages. That writing system had previously been adopted by the Sassanids (who were Persians, i.e. from the southwest) from the preceding Arsacids (who were Parthians, i.e. from the northeast). While Rouzbeh (Abdullah Ibn al-Muqaffa, 8th century) still distinguished between *Pahlavi* (i.e. Parthian) and *Farsi* (i.e. Middle Persian), this distinction is not evident in Arab commentaries written after that date.

Gernot Windfuhr considers new Persian as an evolution of the Old Persian language and the Middle Persian language^[2] but also states that none of the known Middle Persian dialects is the direct predecessor of the [New] Persian^{[35][36]} Professor. Ludwig Paul states: "The language of the *Shahnameh* should be seen as one instance of continuous historical development from Middle to New Persian"^[37]

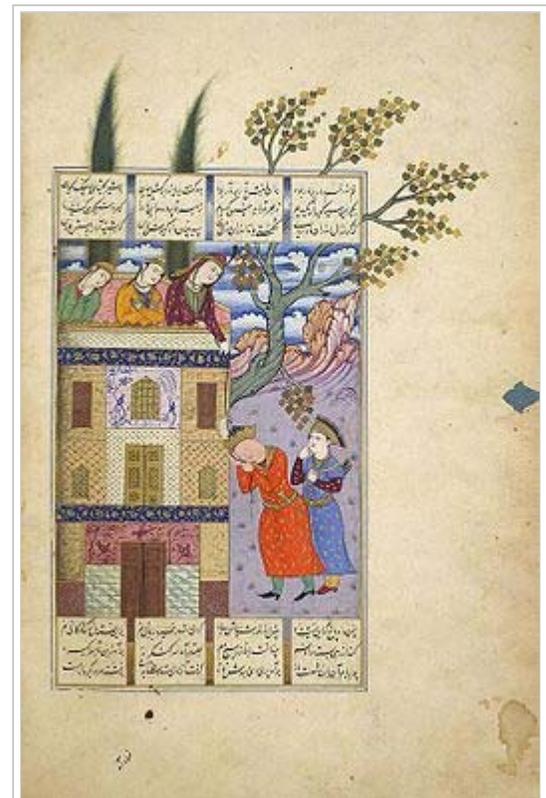
New Persian

The history of New Persian itself spans more than 1,000–1,200 years. The development of the language in its last period is often divided into three stages dubbed early, classical, and contemporary. Native speakers of the language can in fact understand early texts in Persian with minimal adjustment, because the morphology and, to a lesser extent, the lexicon of the language have remained relatively stable for the most part of a millennium.^[38]

Early New Persian

New Persian developed from the 8th century on as an independent literary language.^[39] Upon the decline of the Caliphate at Baghdad in the ninth century a.d. began the re-establishment of Persian national life and Persians laid the foundations for a renaissance in the realm of letters. New Persian was born in Bactria through the adaptation of the spoken form of Sassanian Middle Persian court language called Dari. The cradle of the Persian literary renaissance lay in the Greater Khorasan region of Afghanistan.^[40]

The mastery of the newer speech having now been transformed from Middle- into New Persian was already complete during three princely dynasties of Iranian origin Tahirid (820-872), Saffarid (860-903) and Samanid (874-999), and could develop only in range and power of expression.^[40]



from Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*.

Abbas of Merv is mentioned as being the earliest minstrel to chant verse in the newer Persian tongue and after him the poems of Hanzala Badghisi were among the most famous between the Persian-speakers of the time.^[41]

The first poems of the Persian Language, a language historically called Dari, have emerged in Khorasan.^[42] The first significant Persian poet was Rudaki. He flourished in the 10th century, when the Sāmānids were at the height of their power. His reputation as a court poet and as an accomplished musician and singer has survived, although little of his poetry has been preserved. Among his lost works is versified fables collected in *Kalilah wa Dimnah*.^[7]

The language spread geographically from the 11th century on and was the medium through which among others, Central Asian Turks became familiar with Islam and urban culture. New Persian was widely used as a transregional lingua franca, a task for which it was particularly suitable due to its relatively simple morphological structure and this situation persisted till at least 19th century.^[39] In the late Middle Ages, new Islamic literary languages were created on the Persian model: Ottoman, Chaghatay and Urdu, which are regarded as "structural daughter languages" of Persian.^[39]

Classic Persian

See also: List of Persian poets and authors

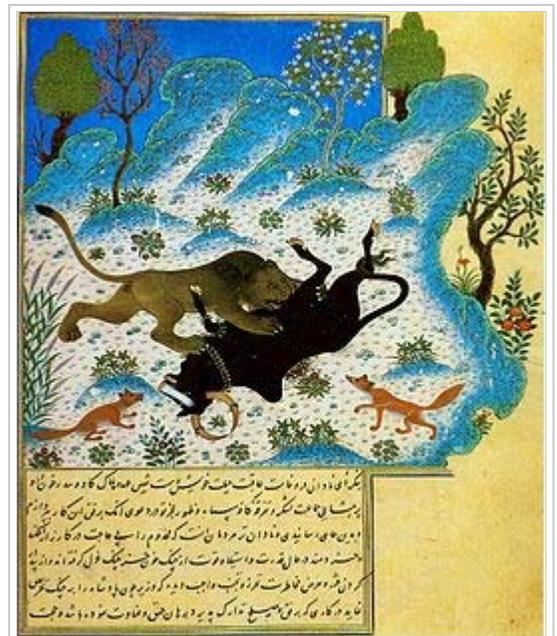
The Islamic conquest of Persia marks the beginning of the new history of Persian language and literature. This period produced world class Persian language poets and the language served, for a long span of time, as the lingua franca of the eastern parts of Islamic world and South Asia. It was also the official and cultural language of many Islamic dynasties, including Samanids, Buyids, Tahirids, Ziyarids, the Mughal Empire, Timurids, Ghaznavid, Seljuq, Khwarezmid, Safavid, Afsharids, Zand, Qajar, Ottomans and also many Mughal successor states such as the Nizams etc. For example, Persian was the only oriental language known and used by Marco Polo at the Court of Kublai Khan and in his journeys through China.^[43] The heavy influence of Persian on other languages can still be witnessed across the Islamic world, especially, and it is still appreciated as a literary and prestigious language among the educated elite, especially in fields of music (for example Qawwali) and art (Persian literature). After the Arab invasion of Persia, Persian began to adopt many words from Arabic and as time went by, a few words were even taken from Turko-Mongol languages under the Mongol Empire and Turco-Persian society.

Use in South Asia

Main article: Persian language in South Asia

See also: Persian and Urdu

For five centuries prior to the British colonization, Persian was widely used as a second language on the Indian subcontinent^[citation needed]. It took prominence as the language of culture and education in several Muslim



Kalilah wa Dimna, an influential work in Persian literature.

courts on the subcontinent and became the sole "official language" under the Mughal emperors. Beginning in 1843, though, English gradually replaced Persian in importance on the subcontinent.^[44] Evidence of Persian's historical influence there can be seen in the extent of its influence on the languages of the Indian subcontinent, as well as the popularity that Persian literature still enjoys in that region. Words borrowed from Persian are still commonly used in Indo-Aryan languages, especially Urdu.

Contemporary Persian

Since the nineteenth century, Russian, French and English and many other languages have contributed to the technical vocabulary of Persian. The Iranian National Academy of Persian Language and Literature is responsible for evaluating these new words in order to initiate and advise their Persian equivalents. The language itself has greatly developed during the centuries.

Varieties

There are three modern varieties of standard Persian:

- **Western Persian (Persian, Iranian Persian, or Farsi)** is spoken in Iran, and by minorities in Iraq and the Persian Gulf states.
- **Eastern Persian (Dari Persian, Afghan Persian, or Dari)** is spoken in Afghanistan.
- **Tajiki (Tajik Persian)** is spoken in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It is written in the Cyrillic script.

All these three varieties are based on the classic Persian literature and its literary tradition. There are also several local dialects from Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan which slightly differ from the standard Persian. Hazaragi (in Central Afghanistan and Pakistan), Herati (in Western Afghanistan), Darwazi (in Afghanistan and Tajikistan), Tehrani (in Iran) and Dehwari (in Pakistan) are examples of these dialects. Persian-speaking peoples of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan can understand one another with a relatively high degree of mutual intelligibility, give or take minor differences in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar – much in the same relationship as shared between British and American English.

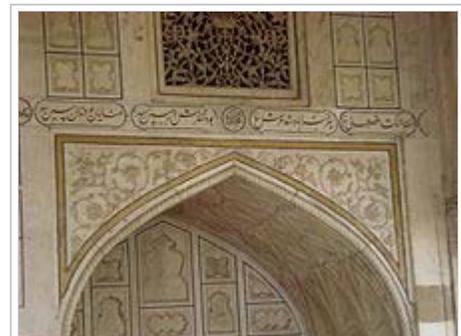
ISO 639-3 lists ten dialects of Persian, the three main literary dialects listed above and seven regional dialects: Hazaragi, Aimaq, Bukharic, Dzhidi, Dehwari, Darwazi, Pahlavani.^[45]

The following are some languages closely related to Persian:

- Luri (or *Lori*), spoken mainly in the southwestern Iranian provinces of Lorestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, some western parts of Fars Province and some parts of Khuzestan.



Persian poem, Agra castle, India, 18th century



Persian poem, Takht-e Shah Jahan, Agra castle, India



A variant of the Iranian standard ISIRI 9147 (http://www.farsiweb.ir/wiki/Free_Products#ISIRI_9147) keyboard layout for Persian.

Persian language

Regional and social varieties:

- **Modern Persian**
 - Western variant (*Farsi*)
 - Eastern variant (*Dari*)
 - Central Asian variant (*Tajik*)
 - Hazara dialects (*Hazaragi*)
 - Judeo-Persian (*Dzhidi*)
 - Judeo-Tajik (*Bukhori*)
- Middle Persian
- Old Persian

- Tat, spoken in parts of Azerbaijan, Russia, etc. It includes Judæo-Tat & Christian-Tat.
- Lari (in southern Iran)

Phonology

Main article: Persian phonology

Iranian Persian has six vowels and twenty-three consonants.

Vowels

Historically, Persian has distinguished length: Early New Persian possessed a series of five long vowels (/iː/, /uː/, /ɒː/, /oː/ and /eː/) along with three short vowels /æ/, /i/ and /u/. At some point prior to the sixteenth century within the general area that is today encompassed by modern Iran, /eː/ and /iː/ merged into /iː/, and /oː/ and /uː/ merged into /uː/. Thus, the older contrasts such as *shēr* "lion" vs. *shīr* "milk," and *rūd* "river" vs *rōd* "bow-string" were lost. There are exceptions to this rule and in some words, "ē" and "ō" are preserved or merged into the diphthongs [eɪ] and [oʊ] (which are descendents of the diphthongs [æɪ] and [æʊ] in Early New Persian), instead of merging into /iː/ and /uː/. Examples of this exception can be found in words such as [rouʃæn] (bright).

However, in the eastern varieties, the archaic distinction of /eː/ and /iː/ (respectively known as *Yā-ye majhūl* and *Yā-ye ma'rūf*) is still preserved, as well as the distinction of /oː/ and /uː/ (known as *Wāw-e majhūl* and *Wāw-e ma'rūf*). On the other hand, in standard Tajik, the length distinction has disappeared and /iː/ merged with /i/, and /uː/ with /u/.^[46] Therefore, contemporary Afghan dialects are the closest one can get to the vowel inventory of Early New Persian.

According to most studies on the subject (e.g. Samareh 1977, Pisowicz 1985, Najafi 2001), the three vowels which are traditionally considered long (/iː/, /uː/, /ɒː/) are currently distinguished from their short counterparts (/e/, /o/, /æ/) by position of articulation, rather than by length. However, there are studies (e.g. Hayes 1979, Windfuhr 1979) which consider vowel-length to be the active feature of this system, i.e. /ɒː/, /iː/, and /uː/ are phonologically long or bimoraic whereas /æ/, /e/, and /o/ are phonologically short or monomoraic.

There are also some studies which consider quality and quantity to be both active in the Iranian system (e.g. Toosarvandani 2004). This view offers a synthetic analysis which includes both quality and quantity, often suggesting that modern Persian vowels are in a transition state between the quantitative system of classical Persian and a hypothetical future Persian which will eliminate all traces of quantity, and retain quality as the only active feature.

Suffice it to say that the length-distinction is strictly observed by careful reciters of classic-style poetry, for all varieties (including the Tajik).

Grammar:

- Standard New Persian
- Central Asian Persian

Language features:

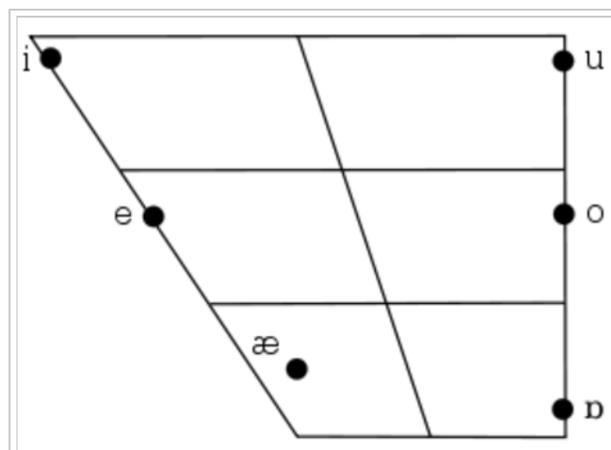
- Vocabulary
 - Nouns
 - Verbs
- Phonology

Writing systems:

- Perso-Arabic script
- Cyrillic alphabet
- Romanized Persian alphabet

Geographic distribution:

- Persian by country



The vowel phonemes of modern Tehran Persian

Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Nasal	m	n			(ŋ)		
Plosive	p b	t d			k ɡ	(q ɢ)	ʔ
Affricate			tʃ dʒ				
Fricative	f v	s z	ʃ ʒ		x ɣ		h
Tap		ɾ					
Trill		(r)					
Approximant		l		j			

(Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Allophones are in parentheses.)

Grammar

Main article: Persian grammar

Morphology

Suffixes predominate Persian morphology, though there is a small number of prefixes.^[47] Verbs can express tense and aspect, and they agree with the subject in person and number.^[48] There is no grammatical gender in Persian, nor are pronouns marked for natural gender.

Syntax

Normal declarative sentences are structured as "(S) (PP) (O) V". This means sentences can comprise optional subjects, prepositional phrases, and objects, followed by a required verb. If the object is specific, then the object is followed by the word *rā* and precedes prepositional phrases: "(S) (O + *rā*) (PP) V".^[48]

Vocabulary

Main article: Persian vocabulary

Native word formation

Persian makes extensive use of word building and combining affixes, stems, nouns and adjectives. Persian frequently uses derivational agglutination to form new words from nouns, adjectives, and verbal stems. New words are extensively formed by compounding – two existing words combining into a new one, as is common in German. Professor Mahmoud Hessaby demonstrated that Persian can derive 226 million words.^[49]

Influences

See also: List of English words of Persian origin, List of French loanwords in Persian, and Iranian

languages#Comparison table of the Iranian languages

While having a lesser influence on Arabic^[9] and other languages of Mesopotamia and its core vocabulary being of Middle Persian origin,^[6] New Persian contains a considerable amount of Arabic lexical items,^{[3][8][10]} which were Persianized^[11] and often took a different meaning and usage than the Arabic original. The Arabic vocabulary in other Iranian, Turkic and Indic languages are generally understood to be have been copied from New Persian.^[50]

John R. Perry in his article "Areas and Semantic Fields of Arabic" indicates his belief that the overall range of Arabic synonyms vocabulary used along or interchangeable with their equivalents Persian words varies from 2% frequency in the *Shahnama*,^[51] 14% in material culture,^[52] 24% in intellectual life^[52] to 40% of everyday literary activity.^[52] Most of the Arabic words used in Persian are either synonyms of native terms^[52] or could be (and often have been) glossed in Persian.^[52] The Arabic vocabulary in Persian is thus suppletive,^[52] rather than basic and has enriched New Persian.

The inclusion of Mongolian and Turkic elements in the Persian language should also be mentioned,^[53] not only because of the political role a succession of Turkic dynasties played in Iranian history, but also because of the immense prestige Persian language and literature enjoyed in the wider (non-Arab) Islamic world, which was often ruled by sultans and emirs with a Turkic background. The Turkish and Mongolian vocabulary in Persian is minor in comparison to that of Arabic and these words were mainly confined to military, pastoral terms and political sector (titles, administration, etc.).^[54] New military and political titles were coined based partially on Middle Persian (e.g. *Artesh* for army instead of *Qoshun*, *Sarlashkar*, *DaryaBaan*, etc.) in the 20th century. Persian has likewise influenced the vocabularies of other languages, especially other Indo-Iranian languages like Urdu and to a lesser extent Hindi, etc., as well as Turkic languages like Ottoman Turkish, Chagatai language, Tatar language, Turkish,^[55] Turkmen, Azeri^[56] and Uzbek, Afro-Asiatic languages like Assyrian and Arabic,^[57] and even Dravidian languages especially Telugu and Brahui. Persian has also had a significant lexical influence, via Turkish, on Bosnian, especially as spoken in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Use of occasional foreign synonyms instead of Persian words can be a common practice in everyday communications as an alternative expression. In some instances in addition to the Persian vocabulary, the equivalent synonyms from multiple foreign languages can be used. For example, in Iranian colloquial Persian (but not in Afghanistan or Tajikistan), the phrase "thank you" may be expressed using the French word *merci* (stressed however on the first syllable), the hybrid Persian-Arabic word *motešakkeram* (*motešakker* being merciful in Arabic and *-am* meaning *I am* in Persian), or by the pure Persian word *sepāsgozāram*.

See also

- Persian alphabet
- Persian braille

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- [^]^a^b^c^d^e^f^g Windfuhr, Gernot. *The Iranian Languages*. Routledge. 2009. p. 418.
- [^]^a^b^c^d^e Lazard, Gilbert 1975, "The Rise of the New Persian Language" in Frye, R. N., *The Cambridge History of Iran*, Vol. 4, pp. 595–632, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. "The language known as New Persian, which usually is called at this period (early Islamic times) by the name of Dari or Farsi-Dari, can be classified

linguistically as a continuation of Middle Persian, the official religious and literary language of Sassanian Iran, itself a continuation of Old Persian, the language of the Achaemenids. Unlike the other languages and dialects, ancient and modern, of the Iranian group such as Avestan, Parthian, Soghdian, Kurdish, Balochi, Pashto, etc., Old Middle and New Persian represent one and the same language at three states of its history. It had its origin in Fars (the true Persian country from the historical point of view) and is differentiated by dialectal features, still easily recognizable from the dialect prevailing in north-western and eastern Iran."

4. ^ Ulrich Ammon, Norbert Dittmar, Klaus J. Mattheier, Peter Trudgill, "Sociolinguistics Hsk 3/3 Series Volume 3 of Sociolinguistics: An International Handbook of the Science of Language and Society", Walter de Gruyter, 2006. 2nd edition. pg 1912. Excerpt: "Middle Persian, also called Pahlavi is a direct continuation of old Persian, and was used as the written official language of the country." "However, after the Moslem conquest and the collapse of the Sassanids, the Pahlavi language was gradually replaced by Dari, a variety of Middle Persian, with considerable loan elements from Arabic and Parthian."
5. ^ Skjærvø, Prods Oktor (2006). Encyclopedia Iranica, "Iran, vi. Iranian languages and scripts, "new Persian, is "the descendant of Middle Persian" and has been "official language of Iranian states for centuries", whereas for other non-Persian Iranian languages "close genetic relationships are difficult to establish" between their different (Middle and Modern) stages. Modern Yaǧnōbi belongs to the same dialect group as Sogdian, but is not a direct descendant; Bactrian may be closely related to modern Yidǧa and Munji (Munjāni); and Wakhi (Wākī) belongs with Khotanese."
6. ^ ^a ^b ^c Richard Davis, "Persian" in Josef W. Meri, Jere L. Bacharach, "Medieval Islamic Civilization", Taylor & Francis, 2006. pp. 602–603. "The grammar of New Persian is similar to many contemporary European languages." "Similarly, the core vocabulary of Persian continued to be derived from Pahlavi."
7. ^ ^a ^b ^c Encyclopædia Britannica: Persian literature (<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/452843/Persian-literature/277134/The-proliferation-of-court-patronage?anchor=ref997402>), retrieved Sept. 2011.
8. ^ ^a ^b Lazard, Gilbert, "Pahlavi, Pârsi, dari: Les langues d'Iran d'après Ibn al-Muqaffa" in R.N. Frye, *Iran and Islam. In Memory of the late Vladimir Minorsky*, Edinburgh University Press, 1971.
9. ^ ^a ^b Nushin Namazi (2008-11-24). "Persian Loan Words in Arabic" (<http://cgi.stanford.edu/group/wais/cgi-bin/?p=24327>). <http://cgi.stanford.edu/group/wais/cgi-bin/?p=24327>. Retrieved 2009-06-01.
10. ^ ^a ^b Classe, Olive (2000). *Encyclopedia of literary translation into English* (<http://books.google.com/?id=C1uXah12nHgC&pg=PA1057>). Taylor & Francis. p. 1057. ISBN 1-884964-36-2, ISBN 978-1-884964-36-7. <http://books.google.com/?id=C1uXah12nHgC&pg=PA1057>. "Since the Arab conquest of the country in 7th century AD, many loan words have entered the language (which from this time has been written with a slightly modified version of the Arabic script) and the literature has been heavily influenced by the conventions of Arabic literature."
11. ^ ^a ^b Ann K. S. Lambton, *Persian grammar*, Cambridge University Press 1953. "The Arabic words incorporated into the Persian language have become Persianized".
12. ^ Windfuhr, Gernot (1987). Bernard Comrie. ed. *The World's Major Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 523–546. ISBN 978-0-19-506511-4.
13. ^ Or (زبان فارسی — translit.: *zabān-e fārsi*)
14. ^ Or (فارسی دری \ فارسی دری — translit.: *fārsi-ye dari*)
15. ^ See Dari - Geographical distribution
16. ^ Or (забони тоҷикӣ / فارسی تاجیکی — translit.: *zabon-i tojiki*)
17. ^ See Tajik language - Geographical distribution
18. ^ *Oxford English Dictionary online*, s.v. "Persian", draft revision June 2007.
19. ^ ^a ^b *Oxford English Dictionary online*, s.v. "Pârsi".
20. ^ Cannon, Garland Hampton and Kaye, Alan S. (1994) *The Arabic contributions to the English language: an historical dictionary* Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden, Germany, page 106, ISBN 3-447-03491-2
21. ^ Odisho, Edward Y. (2005) *Techniques of teaching comparative pronunciation in Arabic and English* Gorgias Press, Piscataway, New Jersey, page 23 (<http://books.google.com/books?id=ySxspOtM26gC&pg=PA23>) ISBN 1-59333-272-6
22. ^ Pejman Akbarzadeh (2005). ""Farsi" or "Persian"?" (<http://heritage.chn.ir/en/Article/?id=88>). <http://heritage.chn.ir/en/Article/?id=88>. Retrieved 2007-02-20.
23. ^ For example: A. Gharib, M. Bahar, B. Fooroozanfar, J. Homaii, and R. Yasami. *Farsi Grammar*. Jahane Danesh, 2nd edition, 2001.
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30. ^ "Tree for Southwest Western Iranian" (<http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/get-familyid.cfm?CFTREEITEMKEY=IEIBCB>) . Linguist List. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/get-familyid.cfm?CFTREEITEMKEY=IEIBCB>. Retrieved 2010-07-13.
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32. ^ (Skjaervo 2006) vi(2). Documentation.
33. ^ cf. (Skjaervo 2006) vi(2). Documentation. Excerpt: *Modern Yaḡnōbi belongs to the same dialect group as Sogdian, but is not a direct descendant; Bac-trian may be closely related to modern Yidḡa and Munji (Munjāni); and Wakhi (Wāki) belongs with Khotanese.*
34. ^ ^{a b} cf. (Skjaervo 2006) vi(2). Documentation. Excerpt 1: *Only the official languages Old, Middle, and New Persian represent three stages of one and the same language, whereas close genetic relationships are difficult to establish between other Middle and Modern Iranian languages. Modern Yaḡnōbi belongs to the same dialect group as Sogdian, but is not a direct descendant; Bac-trian may be closely related to modern Yidḡa and Munji (Munjāni); and Wakhi (Wāki) belongs with Khotanese.* Excerpt 2: *New Persian, the descendant of Middle Persian and official language of Iranian states for centuries..*
35. ^ Comrie, Bernard (1990) *The major languages of South Asia, the Middle East and Africa*, Taylor & Francis,p. 82
36. ^ Barbara M. Horvath, Paul Vaughan, *Community languages*, 1991, 276 p.
37. ^ L. Paul (2005), "The Language of the Shahnameh in historical and dialectical perspective" pg 150:"The language of the Shahnameh should be seen as one instance of continuous historical development from Middle to New Persian" in Dieter Weber, D. N. MacKenzie, *Languages of Iran: past and present: Iranian studies in memoriam David Neil MacKenzie*, Volume 8 of Iranica Series, Otto Harrassowitz Verlag. [1] (http://books.google.com/books?id=4sz3YuyMJ5gC&dq=modern+persian+language+parthian+influence&source=gbs_navlinks_s)
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- dq=Mahootian+Shahrazad+1997) . London: Routledge. ISBN 0-415-02311-4. http://books.google.com/?id=DHqUjnN2_YwC&pg=PR1&dq=Mahootian+Shahrazad+1997.
49. ^ Fareiran.com / فرایران (<http://web.archive.org/web/20071011181656/http://fareiran.com/no26/1.htm>)
 50. ^ John R. Perry, "Lexical Areas and Semantic Fields of Arabic" in Éva Ágnes Csató, Eva Agnes Csato, Bo Isaksson, Carina Jahani, *Linguistic convergence and areal diffusion: case studies from Iranian, Semitic and Turkic*, Routledge, 2005. pg 97: "It is generally understood that the bulk of the Arabic vocabulary in the central, contiguous [sic?] Iranic, Turkic and Indic languages was originally borrowed into literary Persian between the ninth and thirteenth century"
 51. ^ John Perry, *Encyclopedia Iranica*, "Arabic Words in ŠĀH-NĀMA "
 52. ^ *a b c d e f* John R. Perry, "Lexical Areas and Semantic Fields of Arabic" in Éva Ágnes Csató, Eva Agnes Csato, Bo Isaksson, Carina Jahani, *Linguistic convergence and areal diffusion: case studies from Iranian, Semitic and Turkic*, Routledge, 2005. excerpt: "A dictionary based sample yields an inventory of approximately 8000 Arabic loanwords in current standard Persian or about forty percent of an everyday literary vocabulary of 20,000 words, not counting compounds and derivatives." excerpt: "In a random experiment, the Arabic Vocabulary of material culture was 14% while that of intellectual life was 24% percent in Persian." excerpt: "Most of the Arabic loans in Persian are either synonyms of attested native terms (as Arabic Mariz; Persian Bimar 'sick') or could be (and often have been) glossed in Persian native morphs (as Arabic ta'lim va tarbiyat 'education' was later replaced by Amuzesh o Parvaresh). Arabic vocabulary in Persian is thus suppletive, rather than basic."
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