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SOME SPECIFICITIES OF WRITTEN TEHRANI COLLOQUIAL PERSIAN

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1. Topic of the talk

- Lesser-known spelling practices
- Colloquial Persian
 - Differs from standard Persian
 - Used in daily communication



- PhD dissertation: “Le persan du XXI^e siècle : Études de la langue vernaculaire”
- Supervised by DANIEL PETIT and AGNES KORN

2. Widespread popular practices

- Reflect several colloquial phonological particularities
- Used in social networks and messengers

(1)	colloquial	دردمونو غصه مونو گوش نمیده <i>dard=emun=o, ġose=mun=o guš nemi-d-e</i>
	standard	دردمان را غصه مان را گوش نمیدهد <i>dard=emån rå, ġose=mån rå guš nemi-dah-ad</i> 'He does not listen to our pain and sorrow.'

- Also in literature, e.g. Sadeq Chubak's (1916-1998) novels
 - in dialogues

2. Widespread popular practices

	colloquial	standard	
endings	میبینه <i>mibin-e</i>	میبیند <i>mibin-ad</i>	‘s/he sees’ (3SG)
	میبینین <i>mibin-in</i>	میبینید <i>mibin-id</i>	‘you see’ (2PL)
	میبینن <i>mibin-an</i>	میبینند <i>mibin-and</i>	‘they see’ (3PL)
°un / °um	نون <i>nun</i>	نان <i>nân</i>	‘bread’
	گرون <i>gerun</i>	گران <i>gerân</i>	‘expensive’
	کدوم <i>kodum</i>	کدام <i>kodâm</i>	‘which’
pron. clitics	مون <i>=(e)mun</i>	مان <i>=(e)mân</i>	1PL
	تون <i>=(e)tun</i>	تان <i>=(e)tân</i>	2PL
	شون <i>=(e)šun</i>	شان <i>=(e)šân</i>	3PL
DDO	رو <i>=(r)o</i>	را <i>râ</i>	

2. Widespread popular practices

colloquial	standard	
د - <i>d-</i>	ده - <i>dah-</i>	‘give’
گ - <i>g-</i>	گوی - <i>guy-</i>	‘say’
ر - <i>r-</i>	رو - <i>rav-</i>	‘go’
و - <i>š-</i>	شو - <i>šav-</i>	‘become’

(2)	colloquial	فردا آزاد می‌شوم <i>fardâ âzâd mi-š-am</i>
	standard	فردا آزاد می‌شوم <i>fardâ âzâd mi-šav-am</i> ‘Tomorrow I will be free.’

(3)	colloquial	بچم میره دانشگاه <i>bača=m mi-r-e dânešgâh</i>
	standard	بچه‌ام به دانشگاه می‌رود <i>bače=am be dânešgâh mi-rav-ad</i> ‘My child goes to university.’

3. Other popular practices

- Also used in social networks and messengers
 - But not as regular as, e.g., words in $^{\circ}un/^{\circ}um$
 - (a) The adverbs in $\overset{\sim}{\text{L}}$ (-an)
 - (b) The additional initial ʾ (alef)
 - (c) The additional initial ʿ (ʿayn)

3.1. Adverbs in لَّ

- Borrowed from Arabic
- Written as in Arabic, i.e.:
 - with *alef* marked with *tanwin* اً
 - e.g. *dagigan* ‘exactly’: دقيفاً
- *tanwin* is generally not used, e.g. دقيقا
- But...
 - instead of ا / اً possibility of the use of the letter ن (viz. *n*)
 - e.g. *dagigan*: دقيقن

3.1. Adverbs in لَّ

- The letter ن (*nun*): also used instead of the ligature لَّ (*lan*)
- e.g. اصلن *aslan* ‘absolutely’ for اصلاً
- the cluster *sl* is assimilated
 - e.g. *asan* for *aslan*
- also rendered in the popular spelling
 - e.g. اصن

3.1. Adverbs in لَّا

(4) *Kārmā dige čī=e?! Man tā xod=am
jer=eš nadam asan del=am xonak
nemiše. Hālā kārmā ham ye dōr=e
dige jer=eš dād ke behtar...*

“What is karma? I would not feel good
at all until I get back at him myself.

Now if karma gets back at him one more time,
even better...”

twitty_graphy, on Instagram

05/19/2023



3.1. Adverbs in لَ

Table 1. Popular spelling of commonly used adverbs in *-an*

	colloquial	standard	
	اصن اصلن	اصلاً	<i>as(l)an</i> ‘absolutely’
	مثن مثلن	مثلاً	<i>mas(al)an</i> ‘for example’
لَ	احتمالن	احتمالاً	<i>ehtemālan</i> ‘certainly’
	كلن	كلاً	<i>kollan</i> ‘generally’
	اتفاقن	اتفاقاً	<i>ettefāgan</i> ‘probably’
	دقيقن	دقيقاً	<i>dagigan</i> ‘exactly’
أ	جديدن	جديداً	<i>jadidan</i> ‘recently’
	لطفن	لطفاً	<i>lotfan</i> ‘please’
	موقتن	موقتاً	<i>movagġatan</i> ‘temporarily’

3.1. Adverbs in لَّ

- Simplification?
- Replacing لَّ with ن
 - لَّ reflects morphology
 - ن reflects phonology
- Two different principles of spelling

3.2. The additional initial ۱

- The COP3SG =*e*: colloquial
 - cf. Standard Persian *ast*, است
 - e.g. خوب است (*xub ast*) ‘it is good’
- Indicated with ۱ in written data
 - e.g. خوبه (*xub=e*) ‘it is good’

3.2. The additional initial ʾ

- No standard convention for =*e* following و (*o / u*) and ʾ (*ā*)
- In dialogues of contemporary novels:
 - The copula begins with *hamze ʾ*
 - after *o*: (5) خیلی تو دل بروئه
xeyli tu-del-borō =e
‘She is very cute.’ (FĀTIḤI NIKU 1999: 513)
 - after *u*: (6) کلفت جماعت پرروئه
kolfat-ǰamā ‘at porru =e
‘The cleaners are so rude.’ (MAXMALBĀF 2017: 45)
 - after *ā*: (7) آقا جون ریشهش اینجائه
āǰā-ǰun riše=š inǰā =e
‘(As for) grandpa, his roots are here.’ (MIQADIRI 2010: 51)

3.2. The additional initial ۱

- after words ending with و (*o / u*)
- but not used for words ending with alef ۱ (*ā*)
- after *u*: (8) همه چی مال تو اه
hame ċi māl=e to =e
‘Everything belongs to you.’
- after *o*: (9) خیلی هم شکمواه
xeyli ham šekamu =e
‘He is very fat.’
- Used to replace hamze ء before و
- Perhaps by analogy to words with an initial vowel (e.g. اون *un* ‘this’)

3.3. The additional initial ξ

- ξ before an initial vowel

for a small number of words

including the 3rd person singular copula = *e*

3.3. The additional initial ع

- Examples:

- (10) عاره من گفتم صداتو ضبط نکردم
âre, man goftam “sedât=o zabt nakardam”
‘Yes, I said (to him): “I did not record your voice”.’
- (11) رفتم دستشویی و عومدم بیرون
raftam dastšui va umadam birun
‘I went to the bathroom and came out.’

3.3. The additional initial ع

Table 2. Prothetic ع for some words

colloquial	standard		
عاره	آره	<i>āre</i>	‘yes’
عاهان	آهان	<i>āhān</i>	interjection
عاخ	آخ	<i>āx</i>	interjection
عه	ا	<i>e</i>	interjection
عوه	اوه	<i>o</i>	interjection
عاقا	آقا	<i>āgā</i>	‘sir; guy’
عومد	آمد	<i>umad-</i>	‘come (PST)’
عایا	آیا	<i>āyā</i>	Q

3.3. The additional initial ع

- With the COP3SG =*e*:
 - The copula begins with ع, viz. عه.
 - examples:
 - after *o*: (12) همه چیزم مال تو عه
hame čiz=am māl=e to =e
‘Everything I have belongs to you.’
 - after *u*: (13) مثل من شکمو عه
mesl=e man šekamu =e
‘He is fat like me.’
 - after *â*: (14) پرچم ایرانی ها همیشه بالا عه
parčam=e irāni hamiše bālâ =e
‘The Iranian flag is always flying.’

3.3. The additional initial ʕ

- Notably used for interjections (e.g. *ʔhʔn*)
- Also for words used as interjection (e.g. *ʔgʔ!* ‘guy!’)

- ʕ possibly indicates emphasis
- where speakers figure an initial glottal stop
 - the glottal stop gives “additional emphasis” (JAHANI 2005: 85)

- But used in other words
 - e.g. *ʔomdam*, *umadam* ‘I arrived’
 - not interjective
 - perhaps an alternative to ʔ, e.g. *ʔomd* for *ʔomd*

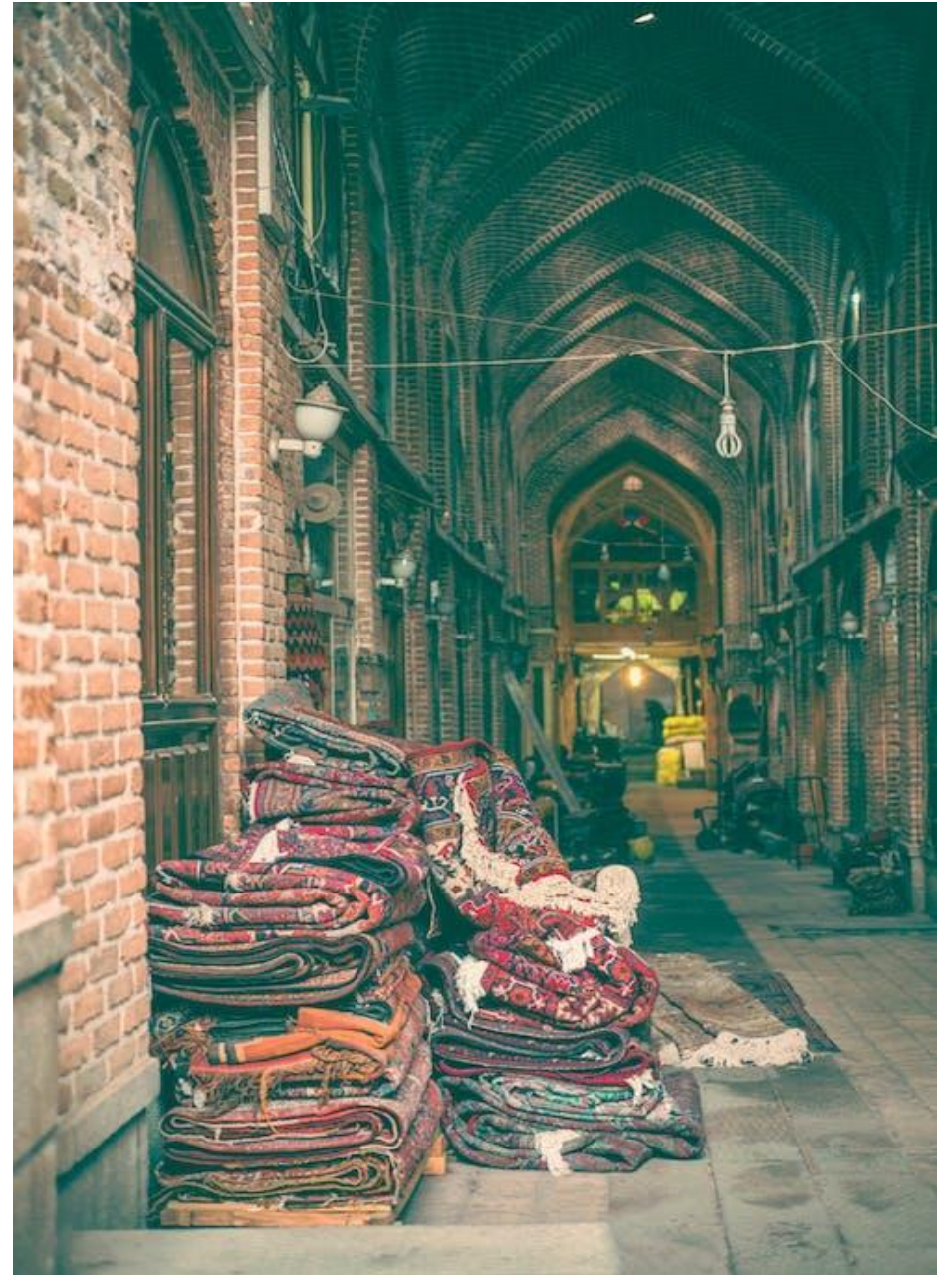
3.3. The additional initial ξ

- As for the COP3SG:
 - Used to replace *hamze* ء before و or ل
 - Reminiscent of the additional initial ل
 - Shows another principle of spelling

4. Conclusion

- 3 spelling practices
 - (a) ʊ for the adverbs in *-an*
 - (b) the additional initial ʌ
 - (c) the additional initial ɛ
- Indicative of two developments
 - (1) Different principles of spelling:
 - the adverbs in *-an*;
 - the additional initial ʌ and ɛ;
for the 3SG copula
 - the additional ɛ for words with an initial vowel other than *â* (e.g. *umad-*)
 - (2) marking an expressive function: additional ɛ for interjections

Thank you for your attention!



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