

A Comparison among aspect markers in Balochi dialects of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Sistani Sarhadi, Granchin Sarhadi, Sarawani, and Koroshi

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Abstract

The present study is a comparison among aspect markers in Balochi dialects spoken in Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Sistan (Sarhadi), Granchin (Sarhadi), Sarawan, and Fars (Koroshi Balochi). The theoretical models used are Comrie (1976, 1985) and Bhat (1999). The oral texts used as language data, which made up the corpus for analysing aspect markers in Koroshi, were collected from different parts of Fars Province during several field journeys in the period between February 2008 to April 2009 and the oral texts used as language data for analysing aspect markers in Sistani Balochi were collected from different parts of Sistan during several field journeys in the period between February 2009 to May 2010. The main part of the material consists of folktales, life stories and procedural texts (how to cook, how to weave, etc.) told by male and female linguistic consultants (20 persons) of different ages (between the ages of 40 and 90) with different social backgrounds. After recording the linguistic data (in WAV format), the texts were reduced to written form by means of a phonological transcription. Language data and examples for this aim for other dialects were extracted from published papers and books. There are two aspects in all the dialects mentioned: perfective (unmarked) and imperfective (marked), and the verbal clitics = a and marginally k= markers of imperfective aspect. It is, however, very interesting to note that in Koroshi Balochi dialect there is a different structure in addition to the verbal clitic =a (which also appears attached to the verb as a proclitic a= in Koroshi) which also shows imperfective aspect, namely a construction with ma-. Both these constructions are parallel. In the present temporal field, Koroshi shows a structure for progressive aspect that is not found in any other

dialects of Balochi studied so far except in Koroshi and Lashari Balochi (Yusefian 1382). In some of the dialects studied in this research such as Sistani Balochi and Balochi of Granchin there are two different structures in imperfective progressive/ingressive aspect both in the past and present temporal field, which are used side by side by consultants. The second structure shows the influence of Persian. In Sarawani dialect there is one structure indicating imperfective progressive/ingressive aspect, which also shows the influence of Persian but in Balochi of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan there is only the inherent Balochi structure for this aspect. Perfective aspect in all these dialects is unmarked and is formed with the past stem plus personal endings or agent clitics.

Key words *aspect markers, perfective and imperfective aspects, Balochi dialects, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Sistani Sarhadi, Granchin Sarhadi, Sarawani, Koroshi.*

The present study is a comparison between aspect markers in the Balochi dialects spoken in Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Sistan (Sarhadi), Granchin (Sarhadi), Sarawan, and Fars (Koroshi Balochi). The mentioned dialects are spoken in the Sistan and Balochestan and Fars provinces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Afghanistan and in Turkmenistan. Each of these dialects are under influence from neighbouring and state languages such as Persian, Pashtu, Dari, Turkmen, Russian, Kashkai and Lori.

There has so far been no comparative study of aspect markers in these Balochi dialects.

Data collection

The oral texts used as language data and which make up the corpus for analysing of the aspect markers in Koroshi were collected in different parts of the Fars Province during several field journeys in the period between February 2008 to April 2009 and the oral texts used as language data for analysing aspect markers in Sistani Balochi were collected in different parts of Sistan during several field journeys in the period between February 2009 to May 2010. The main part of the

material consist of folktales, life stories and procedural texts (how to cook, how to weave etc.) told by male and female linguistic consultants (20 persons) of different ages (between the ages of 40 and 90) with different social backgrounds. After recording the linguistic data (in WAV format) the texts were reduced to written form by means of a phonological transcription. Language data and examples for this aim for other dialects were extracted from published papers and books.

Theoretical models

The theoretical models used are Comrie (1976), Bhat (1999). Aspect deal with the nature of the event. it marks such properties as perfectivity and imperfectivity of the event. Perfective aspect indicates the view of a situation as a single whole, without distinction of the various separate phases that make up that situation, while the imperfective aspect pays essential attention to the internal structure of the situation (Comrie 1976:19). Comrie also divides the imperfective aspect into the categories habitual and continuous, and finally, the continuous into non-progressive and progressive (Comrie 1976:25)

Bhat (1999:42) defines aspect as indicating the temporal structure of an event (ongoing or completed, beginning, continuing or ending, iterative, or semelfactive etc.)

The most important aspectual distinction that occurs in the grammars of natural languages is the one between perfective and imperfective. Perfective aspect provides the view of an event as a whole from the outside whereas imperfective provides the view from inside. The former views the situation as bounded and as forming a unified entity whereas the latter views it as ongoing or habitual (Bhat 1999:45-46).

Perfective and imperfective aspect in the dialects of Balochi under study

There are two main aspects in all these mentioned dialects, perfective and imperfective aspects, in past and present temporal fields.

Perfective aspect in all these Balochi dialect consists of an unmarked verb form made up of the past stem with the personal endings or agent clitics see Ahangar (2007), Buddruss(1989) Branzahi (2003) Axnov(2006). The sentences below illustrate this aspect in the dialects studied:

1. enġe'lāb-ā 'mā de'ga 'raft-en ĵeb'hā
 revolution-OBL we other go.PT-1PL front
 at the (time of) the revolution, I (lit. we), you know, went
 to the warfront (koroshi Bal)

2 man 'gašt=om ta 'gōš=et ke
 I say.PT=PC.1SG you ear=PC.2SG do.PT
 Did you listen when I told you(koroshi Bal)

3. mni pīrok grančīn-e tehā zenđegi kō.
 my grand father granchin- GEN in life do.PT-3SG
 my grand father lived in granchin (IrBalSarh., ASG: 8)

4. duši wat-I nākozāht-ā dist-on
 last night self- GEN cousin-OBL see.PT.1SG
 I saw my cousin last night(IrBalSarh., ASG: 9)

5.ez ōda wāš harkate-ē ko.
 from here NP movement-PC.1PL do-PT.3SG
 we set out from there, from khash. (IrBalSarw., BSD: 91)

6. yaht ham-ōda nest nān=ī wārt o pada rapt.
 come-PT.3SG EMPH.there sit PT.3SG brad.PC.3SG
 eat.PT.3SG and go.PT.3SG
 he came there ,sat and ate and then went again.
 (IrBalSarw., BSD: 91)

7. mnī kō□ -ā čōn kurt-ay?
 I.GEN coat -OBJ how do.PT-2SG
 what did you do to my coat? (TBal., ABT: 187)

8. *dukāndār wat -ī ħinēn-ā zurt u padā bi gis-ā*
āwurt.

shopkeeper REFL-GEN wife -OBJ take. PT.3SG and
back to house-OBL bring.PT-3SG

the shopkeeper took his wife and broght (her) back home.
 (TBal., ABT: 187)

9. *e sardār arkat kurt.*

DEM leader move do.PT. SG

this leader moved. (AfBal.24)

10. *man gušt-un pa baloči ki ay gwār-□an ,*

I say.PT-1SG to balochi that oh sister-dear

i said to balochi that oh my dear sister (AfBal.28)

11. *zetūn-ī bras šā padā čī kurt.*

NP-GEN brother from back do.PT. SG

what did zetuns, brother afterthat. (Sis.Bal)

12. *pādešā.ey zāg sut pa alkk -ā*

king-GEN child go.PT:3SG to village-OBL

the king,s boy went to the village. (Sis.Bal)

The imperfective aspect in all these Balochi dialects is made of the verbal clitic =a plus past stem and past personal endings or agent clitics. The sentences below illustrate the imperfective aspect in all the Balochi dialects under study.

13. *ša wat-ī kopag-ā er=a na- kurt*
from self-3SG shoulder-OBL put=V.CL NEG-
do.PT.3SG

he didnot put down me from his shoulders(AfBal.20)

14. *man e mardum-ān-ā wa e bark-ān-ā wāš wāš*
sayl=a kurt-un

I DEM people-PL-OBJ and DEM light-PL-OBJ good
good see=V.CL do.PT-1SG

I watched people and light well. (AfBal.26)

15. *iškārī pa wat-ī kār-ā bāz-bāz pašōmānī-ā kašš-it*
hunter for REFL-GEN deed-OBL very-very regret=V.CL
pull.PT-3SG
the hunter was regretful of his deed (TBal., ABT: 190)

16. *ā šā pađišā-ay truss-ā čunt gašt=a murt u*
zindag=a būt
DEM from king-GEN fear-OBJ several time=V.CL
die.PT.3SG and alive=V.CL be.PT.3SG
several times he died and became alive because of fear of
the king (TBal., ABT: 189)

Sistani balochi

17. *pati golow har rōč ša rude sara mahi=a gept*
NP every day from river-EZ head-OBL fish =V.CL
catch .PT.3SG
pāti gōlow used to catch fish from river (Sis.Bal)

18. *baxš-ok ša zūl=ā pa man kapot=a jat.*
NP-DIM from jangle- OBL for I dave=V.CL
hit.PT.3SG
bakhshok hunted dave for me from jangle. (Sis.Bal)

Granchen

19. *ta pāri har mah mni brās mā-ra zarr=a dāt*
till last year every month my brother we-OM
money=V.CL give.PT.3SG
My brother ued to give us money until last year.
(IrBalSarh., ASG: 10)

20. *āwān dah sāl sarāwāni-e tehā zendegi=a kort-ant o*
pada pa xwāš bergašt-ant
they ten year saravan-GEN in life=V.CL do.PT-3PL and then
to khāsh return.PT-3PL

they lived in saravan for ten years and then returned to Khash(IrBalSarh., ASG: 9)

sarawani

21. *ostād-ān ez tehrān=a yaht-ent*
teacher-PL from NP=V.CL come-PT-3PL
the teacher were from Tehran(IrBalSarw., BSD: 93)

22. *dars=on-a want dabīrestān ā-wahd-ī ke pānzdah sāl=on-at.*

lesson=PC 1SG=V.CL read-PT.3SG high school that time -REL CL. fifteen year =PC.1SG COP.PT.3SG

I was studying at high school when I was 15 years of age. (IrBalSarw., BSD: 92)

Koroshi

In Koroshi, there are two constructions, one with the verbal clitic =a and one with the imperfective morpheme ma- in past and present temporal field the

Below examples presents imperfective construction in past temporal field.

23. *a='raft=ad-en ba 'ī*
mar'dom-ā hammā'l-ī
V.CL=go.PT=COP.PT-1PL for DEM people-OBL
coolie-NMZR
ka'n-ag=o čobā'n-ī ka'n-ag=o
ē'sāndo.PR-INF=and shepherd-NMZR
do.PR-INF=and DEM.PL

we (thus) went to labour for these people, to be shepherds and things like that(koroshi Bal)

24. *masa'lan ā'sān-ī ke 'na-ma-zān-ey=ad-an*
for.example DEM.PL-IND CLM NEG-IMP-
know.PR-INF=COP.PT-3PL

for example they did not understand. (koroshi Bal)

Below examples presents imperfective construction in present temporal field.

25. kam 'kam 'howr=a ħan-t=o
 little little rain=V.CL hit.PR-3SG=and
 it is raining and, little by little,
 (koroshi Bal)

26. ke ham oš'tor-ā a= 'gīt=o
 ham ka 'r-ā
 CLM also camel-OBJ V.CL=take.PR.3SG=and also
 donkey-OBJ
 and takes both the camel and the donkey
 (koroshi Bal)

27. ke 'ey gō 'lī ī ham 'mo mar 'dom
 CLM oh NP DEM all people
 ma-ra 'v-a sow 'zā 'āḡa 'īḡa
 IMP-go.PR-3SG green.vegetable there here
 Goli, all this people are going (to pick) greens here and there
 (koroshi Bal)

28. mā 'ē čā 'h-ā 'ē 'če-ē
 in DEM well-OBL DEM what -IND
 what is this (thing) in this well

'barġ ma- ħa 'n-a
 light IMP-hit.PR-3SG
 it is shining(koroshi Bal)

In Koroshi =a can also be proclitic a=, which it cannot in other dialects. In some contexts it attaches as a proclitic to the verb but in other contexts it appears on the pre-verbal element and acts like enclitic. In the some other contexts it is very difficult for one to determine whether it attaches to the verb or the element preceding the verb. It seems that the motion from

the verb to the pre-verbal element is a new change in this dialect, that is, this moving was completed in other dialects. As a result, in the other Balochi dialects it only appears on the pre-verbal element as an enclitic, and when there is no such element, there is no =a either

According to Comrie, imperfective aspect is subdivided into the categories habitual and continuous, and finally, the latter into non-progressive and progressive

In Balochi of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan according to (Axnov 2006) and (Buddrus1998) the above presented construction with the verbal clitic =a is used both for continuous, progressive, durative and habitual imperfective aspect. But in the other dialects under study, pragmatically strengthened constructions are found to denote progressive aspect.

Turkmenistan

25. *yarib pa šex-sadī akk-ā bāz duā-a kurt.*

poor for NP-GEN right –OBL much prayer- IMPF do.PT.3SG
the poor man was praying a long time for sheykh shadi (TBal., ABT: 517)

Afghanistan

26. *be me hālay ta ki man go sardār-ā habar=a dātun āi zag āt.*

with DEM mood into CL I with leader-OBL
word=V.CL give.PT.1SG DEM-GEN child come.PT.3SG
when I am speaking to the leader, his boy came. (AfgBL22)

According to Baranzahi (2003:90.93) In Central Sarawani, present progressive is formed with *golāyīš* + copula present + present indicative of the main verb and

past progressive is formed with *golāyīš* + copula past + main verb in the present indicative.

Examples:

27. *golāyīš-ē zapt-a kan-ē*

PROG-COP.PR.1P recording-V.EL do.PR.SBJ-1P

'we are busy recording'. (IrBalSarw., BSD: 90)

28. *ma golāyīš-ē ūtūbūs-a swar-a bē rē bāzār*
we PROG-COP.PR.1PL bus –OBL mounted –V.CL be –
PR.1PL go –PR.1PL market
we are entering the bus to go to the bazaar. (IrBalSarw.,
BSD: 90)

29. *golāyīš-at-ē dar-a yāy-ē*
PROG-COP.PT-1P out-V.EL come.PR-1P
 'we were coming out'. (IrBalSarw., BSD: 93)

30. *golāyīš-at pat=a gwap-et*
PROGR-COP.PT.3SG basket=V.CL weave-PR.3SG
he was busy waving a basket. (IrBalSarw., BSD: 93)

According to Ahangar (2007.8.10) in Granchin, present progressive form of the verb is formed with the present stem of *dāšten* plus the present stem of the main verb, both taking the same personal endings. this form may also be used together with the verbal clitic =a.

Examples:

31. *kessa dār-īt gehter o gehter=a bīt*
story hold.PR-3S better and better=V.CL become.PR.3S
 'the story is getting better and better'. (IrBalSarh., ASG:
 7)

32. *dār-ant čāšt=a war-an*
have.PR.3PL lunch=VCL eat.PR-3PL
they are eating lunch (IrBalSarh., ASG: 7)

But past progressive form of the verb is formed with the past stem of *dāšten* plus the past stem of the main verb with or without the verbal element =A, both taking the same personal endings.

33. *dāšt-on rapt-on ke ta yaht-e*

hold.PT-1S go.PT-1S CLM you.S come.PT-2S
 ‘I was about to go when you came’. (IrBalSarh., ASG: 10)

34. *āxtā ke Amin mān bū*
dāšt-in habar=a
 when CL.LINK Amin in become PT.3SG have PT-1PL talk=
dāt-in
V.CL give.PT-1PL
 when Amin entered we were speaking. (IrBalSarh., ASG: 11)

In Sistani Balochi there are two form for present and past progressive that both are used side by side. The first form is exactly like Afghani and Turkmenistan-Balochi, that is, formed with the verbal clitic =a + present and past stem plus personal endings.

examples. Note, however, the addition of *deden* as a marker of progressive aspect (cf. Axenov 2006:218).

35. *man de de nan =a war-tun ke man-i bras*
āt
I PROG bread=V.CL eat-PT.1SG CLM I-
GENbrother come.PT.3SG
I was eating when my brother came (SisBal)

36. *man deden a=gwap-īn ta b-ra*
bazaar -a
I PROG V.CL=weave.PR-1SG you SUBJ-go.PR.
shopping-OBL
I am busy waving you go to bazaar(sisBal)

The other form that is showed progressive is like Granchin balochi.

examples:

37. *dār-īn zar ĥam =a kan.in*
have-PR.1SG money gather=V.CL do.PR.1SG
I am gathering money (sisBal)

38. *dašt-un šut-un pa ges-a ke morg-g*
dist-un
have-PT.1SG go- PT - 1SG with house.OBL CLM
hen-INDEF.see-PT-1SG
I was going to house that I saw a hen.
 The second form is used by educated people. (*sisBal*)

In the Koroshi dialect there is a progressive structure which in is formed in the present by the prefix *ma* + infinitive + present copula and in the past by *ma* + infinitive + past copula. Previous studies of Balochi has only reported this construction in Lashari (Yousefian 1382)

39. *'rōč pā 'rōč-ī oš'tor-ok lā'gār*
oštor-o'bār la'gār ma-bī-yag=en day for day-
IND camel-DIM thin camel-PL thin IMP-be.PR-
INF=COP.PR.3SG the camels are getting thin(ner and thinner)
day by day (koroshi Bal)

40. *'ba če 'čo ma-kan-ag=enfor what*
like.this
IMP-do.PR-INF=COP.PR.3SG
why she is doing like this(koroshi Bal)

41. *hī'lō ma-kan-*
ag=enkind.of.music
IMP-do.PR-INF=COP.PR.3SG
she is playing(koroshi Bal)

There are no examples for past progressive in the Koroshi dialect in our data. Maybe there will be such a construction attested if more data is analysed.

Conclusion

According to the examples were discussed we can conclude that the imperfective aspect markert in all these

dialects expect the second form in the Koroshi dialect is the verbal clitic =a, which in all dialects except Koroshi only appear as an enclitic to the word preceding the verb, but in Koroshi also proclitic to the verb. Also the progressive aspect is marked only by =a in Balochi of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan balochi. But in other Balochi dialects we see new structures influenced by Persian.

The progressive in Koroshi Balochi is very different from the other dialect studied here, but the same as that found in the Lashari dialect.

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