

# Typology-Diachrony Interface

## (On Persian Language)

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Accepting the definition of a language as a system (preferably “open system”) in my previous studies, I tried to establish the correlations between homogenic (from one and the same linguistic level) and heterogenic (from different linguistic levels) linguistic units. I have been supposing that correlations between the heterogenic units can be established only when the common function of the units is found. I focused my study on presenting relationships between word boundary markers.

Word boundary markers are essential for determining the morphological and phonetic characteristics of the word. They mark the autonomous nature and internal coherence of the word. The word is a complex linguistic unit containing information about the phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic characteristics of a language. The word is a focus of the interaction between different linguistic levels. The delimitation of a word is achieved by the boundary markers existing on the different levels of a language: Phonological (final devoicing, consonant clusters, vowel harmony, fixed accent, etc.), morphological (the word basic form (lexeme) coincidence with the stem (lexical morpheme)), syntactic, etc.

I restricted my study by the morphological (segmental) and phonological (segmental and suprasegmental) word boundary markers. From morphological boundary markers I focused on the basic word form coincidence with the stem. From segmental phonological boundary markers I discussed: 1. Devoicing of final obstruents; 2. Distribution of consonant clusters at the word edges. From suprasegmental phonological markers- fixed accent. The study was carried out in fixed accent languages. The implicational relations between word boundary markers were formulated as follows:

**Universal 1.1.** In a language with the basic word form that coincides with stem, accent is on the final syllable.

**Universal 1.2.** In a language with the basic word form: stem+suffix, the accent is on the non-final syllable.

**Universal 2.1.** If the fixed accent is on the final syllable, devoicing of the final obstruents does not occur.

**Universal 2.2.** If the fixed accent is not on the final syllable, final obstruents are devoicing.

**Universal 3.1.** In a language with basic word form: stem+suffix, devoicing of final obstruents occur.

**Universal 3.2.** In a language with the basic word form that coincides with the stem, final obstruents are devoicing.

**Universal 4.1.** If a language has a basic word form coinciding with the stem and the fixed accent falls on the final syllable, obstruent clusters are likely to occur word finally rather than word initially.

**Universal 4.2.** If a language has a basic word form: stem+suffix and the fixed accent is not on the final syllable, obstruent clusters are more likely to occur word initially rather than word finally.

Two types of fixed accent languages were distinguished: Type 1: languages having the final fixed accent and Type 2- non-final fixed accent.

**Type 1 :**

Iranian ( Persian, Beluchi, Tadjik, Kurdish, Jazghulam, Ishkashim )  
 Lezgian (Lezg ); Manch-Tungus (Nanay, Itelmen, Oroch)  
 Armenian (Grabar, Modern Armenian); Turkic (Turkish, Karaim,  
 Turkmen,Uzbek, Gagauz,Kumukh,Tuva,Khakas); Ugric (Udmurt);  
 Romance (French)

**Type 2 :**

1. Fixed accent is on the first syllable:

Kartvelian (Georgian, Megrelian, Laz); Germanic (Jiddish, German, Icelandic); Jeniseyan (Ket); Finno-Baltic (Finish, Estonian, Karelian, Livonian); Ugric (Saam); Slavic (Czech);

2. Fixed accent is on the penultimate:

Slavic (Polish)

3. The placement is restricted by the third and second syllables from the end:

Indic (Sanskrit)

Iranian (Old Persian)

Universals 1.1; 2.1; 3.1; 4.1 were attested and confirmed by the Type 1 languages and universals 1.2; 2.2; 3.2; 4.2 - by the Type 2 languages.

It is always interesting to test how typological and universal evidences meet the diachrony. Historical changes that occur in the development of a language clearly show which processes are interrelated. Diachronic data from the Persian language show evidence for the great effect that was brought about by changes of the morphological structure of a word on the fixed accent placement and distribution of consonant clusters in a word. Old Persian meets the statement formulated in universals: 1.2.; 2.2; 3.2; 4.2. and belongs to the Type 2 languages. Modern Persian satisfies universals: 1.1; 2.1; 3.1; 4.1. and belongs to the Type 1 languages. The following pairs of word correspondences are evidence of the changes that occurred in the history of the development of Persian:

Old Persian ( type 2 )

Modern Persian ( type 1 )

<i>dasta-</i>	>	<i>dast</i> "hand"
<i>aspa-</i>	>	<i>asb</i> " horse"
<i>spadi-pati-</i>	>	<i>sipahbad</i> "general"
<i>bratar-</i>	>	<i>baradar</i> "brother"
<i>framana-</i>	>	<i>farman</i> "order"
<i>xsap-</i>	>	<i>sab</i> " night"

The deletion of the final suffixes (here nominative case markers) in Old Persian caused the shift of the word accent placement from the penultimate syllable to the final syllable of the word and this process was accompanied by changes in the distribution of consonant clusters (from the beginning towards the end of a word) and changes of the laryngeal feature of the stem final obstruents (from voiceless to voices).

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