Phonetic Processes in Ruini Dialect

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Abstract: The article, after introducing the consonants and vowels, discusses the impacts of them on each other as a result of collocation and subsequent changes. The research not only introduces a vanishing dialect, but also it is surely a step forward to protect the cultural heritage of the Persian language. The research method is field-library, in which the researcher has done conversations with different native speakers and residents of Ruyin village. The language corpus consists of native morphemes belonging to the dialect and those items with different pronunciation in contrast to standard Persian.

Keywords: Ruyin; consonant; vowel; phonetic process

1. Introduction

Ruyin is located in a valley 24 km north of Esferayen-57°, 29´ longitude 37°, 12´ latitude, and 1650 m [1] average altitude .A river passes through the village. There are three quarters (Barzan in Persian): Bala Deh (the upper quarter) Miyan Deh (the middle quarter), and Payin Deh (the lower quarter). The native language is Ruyini-one of the dialects of Khorasani Persian. There has been no research available on the dialect so far, whether by the native or foreign scholars.

2. Ruyini Phonemes

A. Consonants
1. Plosives: These sounds are articulated through a closure in a closed mechanism [2].
1.1. /b/: pulmonic, exgresive, voiced, plosive, bilabial
1.2. /p/: pulmonic, exgressive, tense, voiceless, aspirated, plosive
1.3. /d/: pulmonic, exgressive, lax, voiced, plosive, oral, dental
1.4. /t/: pulmonic, exgressive, tense, voiceless, aspirated, plosive
1.5. /k/: pulmonic, exgressive, tense, voiceless, aspirated, plosive
1.6. /g/: pulmonic, exgressive, lax, voiced, plosive, palatal
1.7. /q/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiced, plosive, uvular
1.8. /ʔ/: pulmonic, exgressive, tense, voiceless, plosive, glottal
1.9. /z/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiced, plosive, fricative
1.10. /s/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiceless, fricative
1.11. /ž/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiced, fricative
1.12. /š/: pulmonic, exgressive, tense, voiceless, fricative
1.13. /f/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiceless, fricative, labio-dental

1.14. /v/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiced, fricative, labio-dental
1.15. /x/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiceless, fricative, uvular
1.16. /h/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiceless, fricative, glottal
1.17. /č/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiceless, fricative, alveo-palatal
1.18. /r/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiced, alveolar, trill [3]
1.19. /m/: pulmonic, lax, voiced, bilabial, nasal
1.20. /n/: pulmonic, exgressive, lax, voiced, alveolar, nasal
1.21. /l/: pulmonic, exgressive, voiced, alveolar, lateral
1.22. /y/: pulmonic, exgressive, lax, voiced, glide, palatal

B. Semi-vowels
There is no stop, friction, or trill once these kinds of sounds are articulated. Thus, they are labeled as semi-vowel s (glides).The only example is [W]- a bilabial voiced sound with parallels in English and Kurdish.

C. Vowels [4]
1. /i/: front, closed, long, non-labial
2. /e/: front, half-open, half-extended, non-labial
3. /a/: front, open, open-extended, short
4. /u/: back, closed, round, long, labial
5. /o/: back, half-open, half-round, short, labial
6. /â/: back, open, round, long, labial

D. Diphthongs [5]
The phonetic structure of these sounds will be treated prior to describing each sound. /âo/ consists of two components: a vowel- /â/ and a non-syllabic vowel- /u/ which is labialized and changes into /w/.

Therefore it is distinguished from the vowel /u/ in terms of sonority. The first component is articulated in a more sonorant manner. The dialect's diphthongs are composed of two vowels inside a syllable, while they have their own characteristics. The second component is not a vowel at all, yet similar to /i/ and /u/ with no tenseness. Thus, they are called semi-vowels in a right sense. They change into /y/ and /v/ before vowels, eg, pay–pey.

/ey/ in genitive phrases is divided into two syllables, eg, pâ.ye kuh (foot of the mountain)- /y/ is accompanied by–e genitive marker [6].

/âw/ as in je.lâ.ve panjere (in front of the window)- cf. jelow (front) is seen in Persian, eg,   de.ro.ve gandom (harvesting)- cf.derow kardan (to harvest).

E. Description of Diphthongs
1. /âw/: consists of two simple vowels-/â/ and /u/.
2. /âo/: consists of two simple vowels- /â/ and /o/: back, half-open, half-round.
3. /oe/: consists of two simple vowels- /o/ and /e/: half-open, short.

F. Phonetic Processes
These are changes resulted from collocation of sounds and are considered as language universals.

Ellipsis: The process includes deletion of one or more sounds in Persian morphemes used in Ruyini, as below examples:

 /h/ is often elided before and after long vowels:

Ruyini	Standard Persian
izom	hizom
firewood	
kelo	kolâh
hat	
koe	kuh
mountain	

/h/ is elided in morphemes' middle and ultimate positions:

bes	buseh
kiss	
bitar	behtar
better	

Ellipsis takes place in a number of Persian morphemes to make the pronunciation easier:

aynah	âyineh
mirror	
asiyo	âsiyâb
mill	

3. Addition

The process takes place when one or two phonemes are added to the Persian morphemes:

gilors (/r/ is added)	gilâs	cherry
gezenda (/d/ is added)	gazane	nettle

4. Substitution
It includes inversion of a phoneme in a morpheme to other phonemes. The process is not so frequent, yet it takes place in a big number of morphemes of such a kind [7]:

The short vowel /a/ changes to /âo/ before /f/ and /b/ in middle and ultimate positions, the two consonants will be deleted subsequently:

lâo	lab
lip	
šâo	šab
night	

The long vowel /u/ changes to /i/:

zerdali	zardâlu
apricot	
sizân	suzan
needle	

The short vowel /a/ changes to /e/;

gevân	gavan
goat's-thorn	
šeqâm	šalqam
turnip	
behor	bahâr
spring (season)	
gendum	gandom
wheat	

The short vowel /e/ changes to /a/:

aynak	eynak
glasses	
pašnah	pâšneh
heel	

The long vowel /â/ changes to /o/:

bod	bâd
wind	
siyoh	siyâh
black	

The short vowel /o/ changes to /i/:

kilâng	kolang
pick	
rišân	rôšan / rowšan
bright	

The consonant /b/ changes to /v/:

tavistân	tâbestân
summer	

aftava   âftâbe
ewer

/l/ changes to /r/:
lâr   lâl (âb-e raked)
stagnant water
zelor   zalâl
limpid

/r/ changes to /l/:
zenjil   zanjir
chain
sebidoel   sepidâr
aspen

The long vowel /u/ changes to /oe/:
toet   tut
mulberry
toep   tup
ball

5. Saturation
It is the opposite of reduction and takes place where short vowels of Persian morphemes turn to long vowels in Ruyini:

The short vowel /a/ changes to the long vowel /â/:
kâm   kam
few/little
sang   sang
stone

The short vowel /o/ changes to the long vowel /u/:
čequndar   čoqondar
beet
rub   rob
sauce

The short vowel /e/ changes to the long vowel /i/:
kišt   kešt
plantation
atiš   âteš
fire

5. Reduction
The process takes place where long vowels are reduced to the short ones:
5.1. /â/ is reduced to /a/:
ašno   âšnâ/âšenâ
familiar/acquainted
astin   âstin
sleeve

5.2. /i/ is reduced to /e/:
bel   bil
shovel
bex   bix
bottom/ lower part

Coalescence
In a number of cases, two morphemes are combined to form a double-letter in spelling (harf-e tašdid dâr/ mošaddad):
putta   bute
bush
gulla   golule
bullet

Inversion
The process involves replacement of one or more phonemes in Persian morphemes:
sebând   espand
qelber   qarbâl
riddle
qulf   qofl
lock

Fracture
The morphemes are broken down into smaller units. The process is confined to the proper nouns in Persian:
madasan   mohammad hasan
two male names
madeseyn   mohammad
hoseyn   two male names
mandali   mohammad ali
two male names
Different people including Armenians, Uyghurs, Ardabilis (from Ardabil, in Azarbayejan), and Kormanji kurds have immigrated to Ruyin in past times, each people with their own impact on Ruyini sound system:
a. The vowels /â/ and /e/ with a high frequency are originated from Armenian:
Ruyini   Persian
nâng   nang
disgrace
ez   az
from/ of/ since
b. /âo/ is a high frequency diphthong and a historical remainder of The Old Iranian /au/ and Avestan /ao/. [8].
c. /oe/ is a remainder of the Old Iranian /ayū/ which turns to Parthian /ē/. Therefore, it must have developed to Ruyini /ē/, or /e/. It should be noted that Ruyin is located in ancient Parthian, alternatively, the sound could have been borrowed form Uyghur, or Ardabili Turkish.

d. /âw/ is either the Old Iranian final -ava, /aw/ in Parthian and /âw/ in Ruyini, or The Old Iranian âvaya, Parthian /âw/ and Ruyini /âw/. [9].

e. The direct impact of Kormanji Kurdish can be seen as /w/ in a number of Ruyini morphemes.

f. The classification of phonetic processes is not definite one, thus overlapping is probable in a number of cases [10]. Language is a phenomenon, so the dialect has been studied with regard to its geographical situation, the counter influences of the adjacent dialects, and different social, political and cultural factors, all resulted in development of a certain dialect-Ruyini.

g. Ruyini people call themselves as Revini. It is suggested that the word is made up of two morphemes: rev+ in.

g.1. The former morpheme is developed from the Middle Persian–ēn which is a developed form of the older morpheme –aēna, a relativity suffix [11].

g.2. –in is a developed form of the older–âyna which is a suffix of place.

Prof. Garnik Asaturian suggests that Revin is developed from Râvâyna meaning the residence of Râvs, one of the Iranian tribes in ancient times. Ruyini people identify themselves as Iranians and have kept close ties with other Iranian people, although they are linguistically a distinct identity.

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