

ЯЗЫКИ НАРОДОВ ЗАРУБЕЖНЫХ СТРАН (С УКАЗАНИЕМ КОНКРЕТНОГО ЯЗЫКА ИЛИ ГРУППЫ ЯЗЫКОВ)/LANGUAGES OF PEOPLES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES (INDICATING A SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR GROUP OF LANGUAGES)

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SOME CONSIDERATIONS BESET WITH MORPHOLOGICO-LEXICAL PECULIARITIES OF THE TAJIK PREPOSITION BAR IN 18TH-CENTURY HISTORICAL PROSE WORKS (BASED ON “JAHONKUSHOI NODIRI”, “UBAYDULLOHNOMA”, “TARIKHI ABULFAYZKHON”, “ALAMOROI NODIRI”, AND “TUHFAT-UL-KHONI”)

Research article

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Abstract

The given article dwells on the analysis of the morphologico-lexical peculiarities of the Tajik preposition *bar* in 18th-century Persian-Tajik historical prose works. It is noted that the language of the relevant period recognized as a crucial transitional stage in the history of the Tajik literary language, and exhibits distinctive morphological, syntactic, and lexical characteristics. The preposition *bar* is considered to be one of the most productive relational units in the history of the language performed a wide range of lexical meanings and grammatical functions during this era.

The study employs descriptive-analytical and comparative-historical methodologies using significant historical works of the century as empirical sources: “Jahonkushoi Nodiri” by Mirzo Mehdi Khan Astarabodi, “Ubaydullohnoma” by Mir Muhammad Amin Bukharoi, “Tarikhi Abulfayzhon” by Abdurrahman Tali, “Alamoroi Nodiri” by Muhammad Kazim Marvi, and “Tuhfat-ul-khoni” by Muhammad Vafoi Karminagi. The analysis reveals that *bar* in the 18th century existed in an active transitional state as a multifunctional grammatical element, shifting from an independent syntactic unit to a word-forming verbal component, a key characteristic of the period's language. This research holds significant theoretical and practical importance for understanding the developmental processes of Tajik historical grammar.

Keywords: historical language, 18th century, preposition, derived verbs, morphological and lexical peculiarities, Tajik literary language, historical works.

НЕКОТОРЫЕ СООБРАЖЕНИЯ, СВЯЗАННЫЕ С МОРФОЛОГО-ЛЕКСИЧЕСКИМИ ОСОБЕННОСТЯМИ ТАДЖИКСКОГО ПРЕДЛОГА ВАР В ИСТОРИЧЕСКОЙ ПРОЗЕ XVIII ВЕКА (НА МАТЕРИАЛЕ «ДЖАХОНКУШОИ НОДИРИ», «УБАЙДУЛЛОХНОМА», «ТАРИХИ АБУЛФАЙЗХОН», «АЛАМОРОИ НОДИРИ» И «ТУХФАТ-УЛ-ХОНИ»)

Научная статья

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Аннотация

В данной статье анализируются морфолого-лексические особенности таджикского предлога *бар* в персидско-таджикской исторической прозе XVIII века. Отмечается, что язык рассматриваемого периода, признаваемый важнейшим переходным этапом в истории таджикского литературного языка, обладает особыми морфологическими, синтаксическими и лексическими особенностями. Предлог *бар* считается одной из самых продуктивных реляционных единиц в истории языка, выполнявшей широкий спектр лексических значений и грамматических функций в эту эпоху.

В исследовании используются описательно-аналитический и сравнительно-исторический методы, в качестве эмпирических источников используются значимые исторические труды века: «Джахонкушои Нодирӣ» Мирзо Мехди-хана Астарабоди, «Убайдуллохнома» Мир Мухаммада Амина Бухарои, «Тарихи Абулфайзхон» Абдулрахмана Тали, «Аламорои Нодирӣ» Мухаммада Казима Марви и «Тухфат-ул-хони» Мухаммада Вафои Карминаги. Анализ показывает, что в XVIII веке *бар* находился в активном переходном состоянии как многофункциональный грамматический элемент, переходя от самостоятельной синтаксической единицы к словообразовательному глагольному компоненту, что является ключевой характеристикой языка этого периода. Данное исследование имеет важное теоретическое и практическое значение для понимания процессов развития таджикской исторической грамматики.

Ключевые слова: исторический язык, XVIII век, предлог, производные глаголы, морфологические и лексические особенности, таджикский литературный язык, исторические произведения.

Introduction

1.1. The Significance of Diachronic Grammatical Analysis

Diachronic linguistics constitutes a foundational discipline dedicated to elucidating the evolutionary trajectories of languages across their phonological, lexical, and grammatical domains. Within this scope, the study of historical morphosyntax, and specifically the evolution of adpositions is of particular importance. Prepositions, as pivotal functional elements that encode grammatical relations, are subject to significant semantic and functional shifts throughout their diachronic development. Analysis of these transformations provides crucial insights into the underlying principles of language change and allows for the identification of broader evolutionary trends [1, P. 120], [4, P. 300].

1.2. The 18th Century as a Pivotal Period in Tajik Language History

The 18th century represents a period of significant complexity and transition in the history of Central Asia, particularly for the Tajik-speaking populations. This era was marked by the collapse of the Janid (Astarkhanid) dynasty, the military campaigns of Nader Shah Afshar, and the subsequent ascendancy of the Manghit dynasty in the Bukharan Emirate. These momentous political, social, and cultural transformations exerted a considerable influence on the Persian-Tajik literary language of the period. While the language of 18th-century historiography perpetuated the established conventions of the classical literary tradition, it also integrated elements from colloquial registers and regional vernaculars. Accordingly, an analysis of the language of this period is essential for delineating the features of the transition from the post-classical to the modern era in the history of the Tajik language [5, P. 45].

1.3. The Preposition *bar* as the Object of Investigation

Within the adpositional system of Persian-Tajik, the preposition *bar* constitutes one of the most archaic and polysemous elements. Derived from Old Persian (*upariy*) and Middle Persian (*abar*), *bar* has, in the course of its diachronic evolution, developed an extensive array of locative, temporal, and abstract functions, in addition to a variety of grammaticalized meanings [11, P. 120]. In the classical literary language, *bar* functioned not only as a preposition but also as a highly productive verbal prefix, serving as a critical component in the derivation of numerous compound verbs. An investigation into the usage of this polysemous preposition within 18th-century texts is therefore crucial for assessing its level of productivity, charting its semantic development, and examining the interplay of its lexical and grammatical functions during this pivotal historical period.

1.4. Research Aim and Objectives

The primary aim of this research is to describe and analyze the semantic and functional features of the preposition *bar* in the language of 18th-century historical works. The following objectives were set to achieve this aim:

- identify and collect examples of *bar* usage from the analyzed historical texts;
- classify the lexico-grammatical meanings of *bar* based on the collected examples;
- analyze the functions of *bar* in expressing locative, temporal, figurative, and abstract meanings;
- dwell on the role of *bar* as a word-forming component in compound verbs and determine its productivity;
- draw conclusions regarding the status and evolution of *bar* within the grammatical system of the Tajik literary language in the 18th century.

1.5. Empirical Basis and Scientific Contribution

The empirical basis of this investigation is a corpus comprising five major 18th-century historiographical works: “Jahonkushoi Nodiri” by Mirzo Mehdi Khan Astarabodi, “Ubaydullohnoma” by Mir Muhammad Amin Bukharoi, “Tarikhi Abulfayzkhon” by Abdurrahman Tali, “Alamoroi Nodiri” by Muhammad Kazim Marvi, and “Tuhfat-ul-khoni” by Muhammad Vafoi Karminagi. The above-mentioned historical productions representing prominent examples of the period's literary-historical prose, and provide a substantial and authentic dataset for analyzing the literary language of the era. The scientific contribution of this research resides in its novel, systematic analysis of the morphosyntactic and semantic functions of *bar* within this specific corpus, thereby elucidating previously unexamined aspects of Tajik historical grammar during this pivotal transitional period.

Methods and materials

2.1. Research Methods

This study is predicated upon a combination of established linguistic methodologies. The principal method is descriptive-analytical, which is applied to the description and functional analysis of *bar* based on contextualized textual evidence. Concurrently, a comparative-historical method is employed to contextualize the 18th-century usage of *bar* against both earlier (Classical) and later (Modern Tajik) stages of the language in order to delineate its diachronic trajectory. Additionally, quantitative methods are employed judiciously to ascertain the frequency of specific semantic functions and grammatical patterns.

2.2. Research Materials

As previously noted, the primary research material is constituted by the texts of five 18th-century historiographical works:

1. “Tuhfat-ul-khoni” (Tarikhi Rahimkhoni) by Muhammad Vafoi Karminagi [6], which details the history of the Bukharan Emirate during the reign of Muhammad Rahim Khan (1753–1758).
2. “Tarikhi Abulfayzkhon” by Abdurrahman Tali [12], which documents the political events in the Bukharan Emirate under the last Janid ruler, Abulfayz Khan.
3. “Jahonkushoi Nodiri” by Mirzo Mehdi Khan Astarabodi [2], which provides a comprehensive account of the military campaigns of Nader Shah Afshar.
4. “Alamoroi Nodiri” by Muhammad Kazim Marvi [7], which serves as another principal source on the state history of Nader Shah.
5. “Ubaydullohnoma” by Mir Muhammad Amin Bukharoi [3], which is dedicated to the history of the reign of the Janid ruler Ubaydullah Khan (1702–1711).

The rationale for the selection of this corpus is twofold: these texts are canonical examples of the 18th-century historiographical style, and they collectively furnish a rich and reliable dataset for grammatical investigation.

2.3. Data Collection and Analysis Procedure

The data collection and analysis were conducted through a multi-stage process. The initial stage involved a comprehensive reading of the source texts to systematically excerpt all occurrences of *bar* in its various functions (as both a preposition and a verbal component), resulting in a dataset of over 500 examples. Subsequently, the extracted attestations were classified according to their semantic-grammatical functions. In the final stage, each functional category was subjected to a detailed qualitative analysis, supported by specific textual examples and their corresponding contexts.

2.4. Analytical Framework

To facilitate a systematic analysis, the attested functions of *bar* were categorized into the following four principal domains:

1. *Locative Functions*: Expressing spatial relations (e.g., 'on,' 'upon,' 'against').

2. *Abstract and Figurative Functions*: Expressing notions of cause, purpose, basis, condition, etc.

3. *Temporal Functions*: Expressing temporal relations (observed to be less frequent in this period).

4. *Function as a Verbal Prefix*: The use of *bar* as an integral component of compound verbs (e.g., *barxostan* — 'to rise,' *bardoštan* — 'to lift/carry,' *baromadan* — 'to emerge/come out').

This analytical framework provides a structured approach for comprehensively investigating the polysemy and functional distribution of the adposition.

Main results

Analysis of the collected material from 18th-century historical works shows that the preposition *bar* was an extremely productive and polysemous unit during this period, performing a wide range of meanings and functions.

3.1. Locative (Spatial) Use of *bar*

The locative meaning is one of the oldest and most fundamental meanings of *bar*. In the analyzed works, this meaning is used abundantly in various forms.

3.1.1. Meaning "on", "upon"

This meaning is most often used to express the placement of something on the surface of something else.

Example 1: Sipohi garon *bar* teppae, ki mushrif *bar* qal'a bud, qaror giriftand va tūphoro omoda sokhtand — The mighty army settled on a mound overlooking the fortress and prepared the cannons [2, P. 154].

In this sentence, *bar* expresses the location of the army, meaning "on top of", "upon". This is the classical usage of the preposition, still active in modern Tajik, with the same meaning.

Example 2: Chun khon ba takhti saltanat nishast, amiron va akobiron *bar* zamin sajda ovarand — When the Khan sat on the throne of sovereignty, the emirs and nobles performed sajdah (prostration) *bar* zamin (on the ground) [12, P. 78].

Here, *bar* zamin indicates the location of the action's completion, meaning "on the ground", also reflecting the ceremonial aspect.

3.1.2. Meaning "against", "in opposition to"

One of the common meanings of *bar* in historical prose, often used in describing wars and struggles, is the meaning "against":

Example 3: Ubaydullohon lashkare buzurg jam' ovarda, *bar* qabilahoi isyongari turkman yurish oghoz namud — Ubaydullah Khan gathered a large army and launched an attack *bar* qabilahoi (against the) rebellious Turkmen tribes [3, P. 112].

Seemingly, the phrase *bar* qabilaho... yuriš oghoz namud expresses the direction of the attack, meaning "against", "in opposition to". This meaning is less common in modern Tajik today, largely replaced by the preposition *ba* or the phrase *ba muqobili*.

3.1.3. Meaning "at", "by"

Example 4: Qosidoni amironi Hisor *bar* dari Arki Bukhoro rasida, muntaziri farmoni khon shudand — The messengers of the Emirs of Hisar arrived *bar* dari Arki (at the gate of the Ark) of Bukhara and awaited the Khan's order [6, P. 98].

So, the phrase *bar* dari Ark indicates the precise location of presence. This meaning, inherited from classical language, carries a formal and ceremonial nuance.

3.2. Figurative and Abstract Use of *bar*

In 18th-century works, *bar* was extensively used to express non-locative relations, i.e., figurative and abstract meanings, indicating its high semantic potential.

3.2.1. Expressing Basis and Cause (based on, because of)

Example 5: Ulamoi Bukhoro jam' omada, *bar* asosi dalelhoi shar'i fatvo dodand, ki islohoti pulii khon mukholifi shariat nest — The ulama of Bukhara gathered and issued a fatwa *bar* asosi (based on) shar'i evidence, stating that the Khan's monetary reforms were not contrary to Sharia [3, P. 165].

It is worth mentioning that the relevant preposition in the compound *bar* asosi serves to indicate the foundation and basis of an action (issuing the fatwa). This compound remains active in literary language today.

3.2.2. Expressing State and Condition (in a state of)

Example 6: Sipohi dushman dar holati paresheoni bud va *bar* in hol, hamlai nogahoni lashkari Nodir onhoro ba kulli shikast dod — The enemy army was in a state of disarray, and *bar* in hol (in this state), Nader's army's sudden attack completely defeated them [2, P. 178].

In the phrase *bar* in hol, it is used to describe the general state and condition of the enemy army. It means "in such a situation", despite this".

3.2.3. Expressing Benefit or Detriment (for the benefit of / to the detriment of)

Example 7: In tadbiri vazir, harchand dar zohir nek menamud, dar asl *bar* zarari podshoh va davlat bud — Although this vizier's plan seemed good outwardly, in reality it was *bar* zarari (to the detriment of) the king and the state [12, P. 101].

Proceeding from the assumption of the above-adduced sentence, one can assert that *bar* zarari expresses an adversarial relationship, showing that the result of the action is detrimental to someone or something. This pattern was also abundantly used in classical language.

3.3. *Bar* as a Verb-Forming Component (Prefix)

One of the most important and productive functions of the preposition *bar* in 18th-century works is its role as a verb-forming prefix. In this role, *bar* combines with verb roots to form numerous compound verbs with new lexical meanings or specific grammatical nuances. This characteristic indicates that *bar* was in an active phase of grammaticalization during this period: *barxostan* (to rise) — This verb primarily means “to stand up”, “to get up”, and figuratively “to rebel”, “to rise up”.

Example 8: Chun zulmi hokimi Samarqand az had guzasht, mardumi shahr yakdilonā *barkhostand* va uro az shahr berun kardand — When the oppression of the Samarkand governor exceeded all bounds, the people of the city unanimously *barxostand* (rose up) and expelled him from the city [6, P. 211].

Here, *barxostand* means “rebelled”, “rose up”. The prefix *bar* adds the semantic nuance of sudden inception and upward movement to the root verb *xostan*.

Discussion

The comprehensive analysis of the empirical data extracted from 18th-century historiographical texts enables the formulation of several significant theoretical conclusions regarding the status and function of the preposition *bar* during this pivotal period in the language's diachronic development.

4.1. The Polysemy and Multifunctionality of *Bar*

The findings of this research robustly demonstrate that *bar* functioned as a highly polysemous and multifunctional element in the 18th century. Its functional scope was not restricted to simple locative relations but extended to a wide spectrum of figurative, abstract, and complex syntactic functions. This observed polysemy attests to the significant semantic potential of this grammatical unit and confirms its integral role within the linguistic system of the period.

4.2. *Bar* as a Transitional Element: From Adposition to Prefix

A principal finding of this investigation is the identification of *bar* in an active state of transition along a grammaticalization pathway from an autonomous adposition to a bound verbal prefix. The data reveals a dual functionality:

- on one hand, *bar* continued to operate as an independent preposition;
- on the other, it was extensively employed as an inseparable component of compound verbs.

This diachronic process, wherein an independent lexical or syntactic unit is reanalyzed as a grammatical or derivational morpheme, represents a canonical instance of grammaticalization [8], [9]. The high frequency and productivity of compound verbs incorporating the *bar*-component (e.g., *barxostan*, *bardoštan*, *baromadan*) suggest that this grammaticalization process was particularly robust during the 18th century.

4.3. Diachronic Comparison with Earlier and Later Periods

A diachronic comparison reveals significant shifts in the functional load of *bar*. In comparison to the Classical Persian period (10th–15th centuries), which marks the peak of its productivity, certain archaic meanings of *bar* exhibit diminished frequency in the 18th-century corpus. Nevertheless, its role as a verbal prefix remained highly productive. Conversely, when contrasted with Modern Standard Tajik, many of the functions and usage patterns of *bar* that were active in the 18th century have since become archaic or are restricted to elevated literary registers. The use of *bar* to denote 'against,' for instance, is now rare. This evidence indicates a gradual restriction of the preposition's functional scope over the past two centuries [10], [11].

Conclusion

The analysis of the morphosyntactic and semantic properties of the preposition *bar* within a corpus of major 18th-century historiographical texts — namely “Jahonkushoi Nodiri”, “Ubaydullohnoma”, “Tarikhi Abulfayzkhon”, “Alamoroī Nodiri” and “Tuhfat-ul-khoni” substantiates the following conclusions:

1. In the 18th-century literary language, the adposition *bar* functioned as a highly polysemous and multifunctional element, encompassing a broad spectrum of semantic domains, including locative (e.g., on, upon, against), figurative (e.g., based on, to the detriment of), and abstract relations.
2. A principal function of *bar* during this period was its role as a productive verbal prefix. It was integral to the derivation of numerous compound verbs (e.g., *barxostan*, *bardoštan*, *baromadan*), to which it contributed distinct semantic and aspectual properties.
3. The language of the 18th-century corpus documents a pivotal transitional stage in the diachronic trajectory of *bar*. This period is characterized by the ongoing grammaticalization of the element, as evidenced by its functional shift from an autonomous adposition to a bound, derivational morpheme.
4. In comparison to Modern Standard Tajik, the functional productivity of *bar* was demonstrably greater in the 18th century. This finding indicates a progressive restriction of its functional domain over the subsequent two centuries.

In a nutshell, the corpus of our study affirms that the diachronic analysis of adpositional systems, grounded in historical corpora, is of significant theoretical and methodological value for elucidating the principles that govern the evolution of the grammatical architecture of the Tajik language.

Конфликт интересов

Не указан.

Рецензия

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Conflict of Interest

None declared.

Review

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