

Syntactical Structure of Genitive Case in AZERI and PERSIAN Languages

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Abstract

Genitive case is among those frequent used phrases in every language . So it plays an essential role in communication. Teachers and EFL learners are the first group need to know its syntactical structure. This paper investigates the syntactical structure of the genitive case in Azeri language been divided in 36 groups and shows their equivalents in Persian. The results show some similarities and differences. This classification can be used to subcategorise genitive case in Persian language, as well.

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Genitive case in Azeri language

Seyidov was the first person who had a systematic study on complex noun phrases in Azerbaijani language. (Seyidov. 1992, 2006). Genitiv case is one of the three kind of complex noun phrases. The genitive pronouns are as follows:

Mənim, sənin, onun, bizim, sizin, onların.

For the 1st person the ending is -im, for everything else it's -in.

The possessive suffixes are as follows:

-mənim -(i)m	my
-sənin -(i)n	your
-onun -(s)ı	his/her/its
-bizim -(i)miz	our
-sizin -(i)niz	your
-onların -(s)ı/ları	their

These are all four-way harmonizing suffixes.

For the third person plural there are two possibilities; -(s)ı is used if the possessed noun is singular, -ları if it's plural:

onların it-i - their dog

onların it-ləri - their dogs

Likewise, if the possessed noun with other pronouns is also plural it takes the plural suffix:

bizim itlərimiz - our dogs

The letters in brackets are variations used depending on whether the word ends in a consonant or a vowel. to illustrate, we'll use the consonant-final kitab ("book") and vowel-final meyvə ("fruit"):

-mənim kitab-ım mənim kitab-ım

-sənin meyvə-n your fruit

-onun kitab-ı his/her/its book

-bizim kitab-ımız our book

-sizin kitab-ınız your book

-onların kitab-ı their book-

So as you can see, consonant-final words require a vowel-initial suffix, and vice-versa.

The full pronouns are of course optional and used mainly for emphasis.

The genitive of regular nouns is formed with the suffix -(n)ın; -nın after vowels, -in after consonants. the possessed noun likewise takes the 3rd person possessive suffix:

adam-ın ev-i - the man's house

ana-nın bağça-sı - the mother's garden

This suffix can also be added to possessive suffixes:

ana-m-ın bağça-sı - my mother's garden

or the plural ending:

adam-lar-ın mənzil-i - the men's apartment

One exception: su ("water"), which has the buffer consonant -y- instead of -n-:

suyun dadı - the taste of water ("water's taste")

To express possession ("I have x") the construction is noun+possessive suffix + var.

kitabım var - i have a book (or the book) (lit. "my book is/exists")

böyük itin var - you have a large dog

To do the same in the negative ("I don't have x") var is replaced by yoxdur (note: unlike turkish the -dur is necessary, in Azeri "yox" alone means "no")

mənim itim yoxdur - i don't have a dog ("my dog isn't")

sənin evin yoxdur(mu)? - don't you have a house?

Genitive Case in Persian language

In Persian, the genitive case relates two or more words to each other. The genitive case is marked with the enclitic -è (or -yè after vowels). The genitive enclitic is added to all the words that are connected to the head word and complement it. (Mo'in, 1984, Natel Khanlari, 1976. Khayampor, 1994. Look at the following examples

pedar -e Sârâ — the father of Sarah

dust- e pedar e Sârâ — the friend of Sarah's father

cheshmhâ- ye Sârâ — the eyes of Sarah

arbâb-e halghehâ — Lord of the rings

dokhtar-e shâh — the daughter of the king

otâgh-e barâdar am — the room of my brother

rang-e divâr — the color of wall

shomâl-e Tehrân — the north of Tehran
 shahr-e Tehrân — the city of Tehran
 din-e Eslâm — the religion of Islam
 mâh-e Fevriye — the month of February
 borj-e Eiffel — Eiffel Tower
 zir-e miz — under the table (lit. beneath of the table)
 âlbom-e aks — photo album (lit. album of photo)

The Structure of genitive case in Azeri language

This structure is composed of at least two words: head and a modifier. These parts are formed in the following forms: (Khanchobani: 2010)

part (modifier)			The second part (head)
1	Adjective Pronoun Numeral Noun	+	Numeral Noun Adjective Pronoun Nominal verb
2	Noun Adjective Pronoun gerund	+	Adverb
3	Adjective Pronoun Numeral gerund	+	Preposition
4	Adjective Pronoun Demonstrative	+	Gerund
5	Adverb	+	Noun
6	Gerund	+	Adjective Pronoun Noun Nominal verb

The structures of the genitive case in Azeri language and the equivalent forms in Persian

1) **Noun+noun**

-The love of the motherland
Elin gücü

- عشق وطن
توان مردم

2) **Noun+adjective**

-Sözün (noun-modifier) doğrusu (adjective-head)
- İşin yaxşısı

صحت گفتار
خوب کار نوع

3) **Noun+numeral**

-Tələbələrin (noun-modifier) beşi (numeral-head)
-Əsgərlərin (noun-modifier) onbeşi (numeral-head)

پنج نفر از محصلان
پانزده نفر از سربازان

4) **Noun+pronoun**

-Atamın (noun-modifier) özü (pronoun-head)
-Əkrəmin (noun-modifier) nəyi (pronoun-head)

خود پدرم
چه چیز اکرم؟

5) **Noun+nominal verb**

-Məhsulun (noun-modifier) yığıımı (nominal verb-head)
-Baharın (noun-modifier) gəlişi (nominal verb-head)

برد اشد محصول
آمدن بهار

6) **Noun+adverb**

-Evin (noun-modifier) eşi (adverb-head)
-Otağın (noun-modifier) içərisi (adverb-head)

بیرون خانه
درون اتاق

7) **Adjective+noun**

-Gözəlin (adjective-modifier) camalı (noun-head)
-Gözəlin (adjective-modifier) gülüşü (noun)

رخسار زیبارو
خنده زیبارو

8) **Adjective + Adjective**

-Gözəllərin (adjective-modifier) gözəli (adjective-head)
-Böyüklərin (adjective – modifier) böyüyü (adjective-head)

زیباترین زیبای زیباییان
بزرگ بزرگان

9) **Adjective + numeral**

-Balacaların(adjective-modifier) biri(numeral- head)
Arıqların(adjective-modifier) onuncusu(numeral- head)

-یکی از کوچکیها
دهمین نفر از لاغرها

10) **Adjective + adverb**

-Gözəllərin(adjective-modifier) çoxu(adverb-head) خیلی از زیبا رویان
-Yetişənlərin(adjective-modifier) hamısı(adverb-head) تمامی رسیده ها

11) Adjective+ gerund

-Gənclərin(adjective-modifier) qulaq asması(gerund-head) گوش دادن جوانها
-Çalışqanların(adjective-modifier) oxuması (gerund-head) خواندن سخت کوشها

12) Adjective+ pronoun

-Keçmişin(adjective-modifier) hər nəsi(pronoun-head) هر چیز گذشته
-Balacanın(adjective-modifier) özü (pronoun-head) خود کوچک

13) Adjective+ nominal verb

-Cavanın(adjective-modifier) baxışı(nominal verb) نگرش جوان
-Balacanın(adjective-modifier) yerışı (nominal verb) راه رفتن کوچولو

14) Adjective+ preposition

- Özgələrin (adjective-modifier) başqası (preposition-head) - دیگر بیگانگان
Tanışların(adjective-modifier) qeyrisi (preposition-head) دیگر آشنایان

15) Pronoun+ noun

-Mənim(pronoun-determiner) qızım(noun-head) دختر من
-Hərənin(pronoun-determiner) əxlaqı(noun-head) اخلاق هر کس

16) Pronoun+ adjective

-Mənim(pronoun-determiner) əzizim(adjective-head) عزیز من
-Kimin(pronoun-determiner) böyüyü(adjective-head) بزرگ چه کسی

17) Pronoun+ numeral

- Onların(pronoun-determiner) biri(numeral-head) یکی از آنها
- Onun(pronoun-determiner) beşi(numeral-head) پنج تا از آن

18) Pronoun+ pronoun

-Mənim(pronoun-determiner) nəyim(pronoun-head)? چه چیز من?
-Onun(pronoun-determiner) neçəsi(pronoun-head)? چند تای آن?

19) **Pronoun+ nominal verb**

- Mənim(pronoun-determiner) gəlişim(nominal verb-head) آمدن من
- Kimin(pronoun-determiner) yığılması(nominal verb -head) افتادن چه کسی

20) **Pronoun+ adverb**

- Kimin(pronoun-determiner) əvvəli(adverb -head) اول چه کسی؟
- Bizim(pronoun-determiner) azımız (adverb-head) کمی از ما

21) **Pronoun+ infinitive**

- Onun(pronoun-determiner) qaçmağı(infinitive -head) فرار او
- Kimlərin(pronoun-determiner) gülməyi (infinitive-head) خندیدن چه کسانی

22) **Pronoun + Preposition**

- Sənin(pronoun-determiner) qarşın(preposition -head) روبروی تو
- Kimin(pronoun-determiner) yanı(preposition-head) کنار چه کسی؟

23) **Infinitive+ noun**

- Oxumağın(infinitive-modifier) qaydası(noun-head) الگوی خواندن
- Yazmağın(infinitive-modifier) nəticəsi(noun-head) نتیجه نوشتن

24) **Infinitive+ adjective**

- Yaşamağın(infinitive-modifier) çətini(adjective-head) سختی زندگی کردن
- The difficulty of the living
- Hesablamağın(infinitive-modifier) düzgünü(adjective-head) درستی حساب کردن
- The correctness of the calculating

25) **Infinitive+ pronoun**

- Gəzməyin(infinitive-modifier) özü(pronoun-head) خود گشتن
- Yazmağın(infinitive-modifier) harası(pronoun-head) کجای نوشتن

26) **Infinitive+ gerund**

- Oxumağın(infinitive-modifier) başlanması(gerund-head) شروع خواندن
- İşləməyin(infinitive-modifier) gedişi(gerund-head) روند کار کردن

27) **Infinitive + adverb**

- İşləməyin(infinitive-modifier) çoxu(adverb -head) بیشتر کار کردن
- Almağın(infinitive-modifier) bir qədəri (adverb-head) مقداری از خریدن

28) Infinitive+ preposition

- Verməyin(infinitive-modifier) qarşısı(preposition-head) عوض دادن
- İşləməyin(infinitive-modifier) qabağı (alınmaz)(preposition -head) جلوی کار کردن (گرفته نمیشود)

29) Adverb+ noun

- Dünənin(adverb-modifier) işi (noun-head) کار دیروزی
- Sabahın(adverb-modifier) işləri (noun-head) کارهای فردا

30) Numeral+ noun

- Yüzün(numeral-modifier) adı(noun-head) نام صد
- Milyonların(numeral-modifier) səsi(noun-head) صدای میلیونها

31) Numeral+ adjective

- Birinci(numeral-modifier) tənbəli(adjective -head) تنبل اول
- Onuncuların(numeral-modifier) tənbəli(adjective -head) تنبلهای دهمین

32) Numeral+ numeral

- Onuncuların(numeral-modifier) beşi(numeral-head) پنج تا از آخری ها -
- Birincilərin(numeral-modifier) ikisi(numeral-head) دو تا از اولی ها

33) Numeral+ pronoun

- Dördün(numeral-modifier) özü(pronoun-head) خود چهارم
- Üçüncülərin(numeral-modifier)hərəsi(pronoun-head) هر کدام سومی

34) Numeral+ infinitive

- Milyonun(numeral-modifier) sayılması(infinitive-head) -شمارش میلیون
- Dördün(numeral-modifier) bölünməsi(infinitive-head) تقسیم چهارم

35) Numeral+ gerund

- Birinin(numeral-modifier)oynamağı (gerund-head) رقصیدن یکی
- Dördüncünün (numeral-modifier)danışmağı(gerund-head) حرف زدن چهارمی

36) Numeral+ preposition

- Dördüncünün (numeral-modifier) qarşısı(preposition-head) عوض چهارمی
- Birincinin(numeral-modifier) arxası (preposition-head) دنباله اولی

Conclusion

A contrastive study of the syntactical structure of genitive case in Azeri and Persian languages shows that in this kind of complex noun phrases, Azeri language is the head last but Persian language is head first. Modifiers and determiners precede head in Azeri but they follow the head in Persian. Related to the syntactical structure of these phrases, there are thirty six groups in Azeri as well as in Persian. 1)Noun+noun 2)Noun+adjective 3)Noun+numeral 4)Noun+pronoun 5)Noun+nominal verb 6)Noun+adverb 7) Adjective+noun 8) Adjective + Adjective 9) adjective + numeral 10) Adjective + adverb 11) Adjective+ gerund 12) Adjective+ pronoun 13) Adjective+ nominal verb 14) Adjective+ preposition 15) Pronoun+ noun 16) Pronoun+ adjective 17) Pronoun+ numeral 18) Pronoun+ pronoun 19) Pronoun+ nominal verb 20) Pronoun+ adverb 21) Pronoun+ infinitive 22) Pronoun + Preposition 23) Infinitive+ noun 24) Infinitive+ adjective 25) Infinitive+ pronoun 26) Infinitive+ gerund 27) Infinitive + adverb 28) Infinitive+ preposition 29) Adverb+ noun 30) Numeral+ noun 31) Numeral+ adjective 32) Numeral+ numeral 33) Numeral+ pronoun 34) Numeral+ infinitive 35) Numeral+ gerund 36) Numeral+ preposition. In all forms there is ezafe construction in Persian except those their head is numeral (Noun+ numeral, adjective +numeral, pronoun+ numeral) and one form that the modifier is adjective + adverb. There is a preposition (az/از) between the head and the modifier in these forms.

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