

The Aspectual System of Luri of Doroud

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Aspects are different ways of viewing the internal temporal constituency of a situation (Comrie, 1976:4). Aspect is one of the characteristics of the verb which is discussed in many languages in relation to tense and mood. In this paper, we are going to analyze the aspectual system of one of the dialects of Luri, a west Iranian language which is spoken in south western Iran. The dialect which is discussed here is Luri of Doroud, one of the cities in Lorestan Province of Iran. Despite their similarities to standard Persian, the Luri dialects share features that set them apart as a group from the standard language (MacKinnon, 2011). In this dialect, we see some influences of Persian, the standard language of the country. The aspectual system in Luri of Doroud can be described by the ternary division between Perfective, Imperfective and Perfect aspect, like many other Indo European languages (see Hewson & Bubenik, 1997). Verbal constructions are based on two stems: past/ perfective stem (in the past tense, and perfect constructions), and present/ imperfective stem (in non-past tenses).

| | Perfective | Imperfective | Perfect |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| past | emæm | dašt-æm mi-m-æm | ema-m-æ ema-m bi |
| Non- past | bi-ya-m | y-æm dar-em y-æm | |

Table 1: The Aspectual system for the verb “to come” in Luri of Doroud

The perfective aspect is made by the perfective stem plus the personal suffix:

- (1) diruz de mædresæ emæ-m
 yesterday from school come: P 1SG
 I came from the school yesterday.

The Imperfective aspect in this dialect is comparable to the innovative Imperfective aspect in Persian. The auxiliary verb “daštæn” (to have) which is grammaticalized as the progressive marker is used in this dialect, the same as in Persian. It is worth mentioning that this is formed by the combination of the auxiliary and the Imperfect form which is used with “mi” in Persian whereas the Imperfect form with “mi” itself is not common in Luri:

- (2) dašt-æm mi-m-æm di-m-eš
 have:P 1SG IMPF-come: P1SG see: P1SG- him/ her
 I was coming that I saw him/her.

Luri dialects have a perfect construction which is a “be Perfect” and made by perfective stem+ personal suffix+ Aux (æ). This auxiliary is the conjugated form of the verb “to be” in 3rd SG,

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