

Word order typology in two dialects of Gilaki: Lahijan dialect and Rasht dialect

Gilaki is a north-western Iranian language, spoken mostly in Gilan province. It has two main different varieties, belonging to east and west of Gilan, separated by Sefid-rud river. The western variety which the natives call it “Biye-pas” (over the river) is spoken in Anzali, Somesara, Fouman and Rasht and the eastern variety which is called “Biye-pish (before the river) is spoken in Lahijan, Langerud and Rudsar. These two varieties are significantly different especially in verb structure, different tenses represented by verb, and stress pattern which may partially cause difficulties in mutual understanding.

This paper aims to study the differences and similarities between these two varieties from word order typology point of view. For this, word order typology in Rasht dialect as the western variety and Lahijan dialect as the eastern variety representative are chosen to be compared based on Greenberg’s theoretical framework (1966), considering Dryer’s word order criteria (1992) and Dabir-Moghaddam (2001;2013).

The data are gathered through direct interview with native speakers via a compiled questionnaire and reviewing some written texts.

Bellow a few examples of these two varieties relating to some studied correlations are provided:

No.	Criteria	Rasht dialect	Lahijan dialect	English	order
1	adposition type	1-miz <u>ʔutayə</u> <u>dərun</u> næfiæ 2-mærjæm xo dæstæ <u>ʔayə</u> hæmræ væve	1-miz ʔutayə mijæn hænnæ 2-mærjæm xo dæstæ ba <u>ʔayə</u> bebe.	1-The table is <u>in</u> the room. 2-Maryam cut her hand <u>with</u> knife.	Preposition/ postposition
2	noun and genitive	<u>bayə dər</u>	<u>bayə dər</u>	<u>Garden’s door</u>	GN
3	adjective and standard in comparative construction	ʔæz ʔuʃun <u>pæʔtər</u>	ʔæz ʔuʃun <u>kutatər</u>	<u>Shorter than them</u>	Standard in comparative constructionAdj
4	noun and adjective	<u>pilə bay</u>	<u>pilə bay</u>	<u>Big garden</u>	AdjN
5	content verb and auxiliary verb	ʔæli jo hæʃæn <u>ʔæmʊn dəbʊn</u>	ʔæli jo hæʃæn <u>ʔæmæ dəbʊn</u>	Ali and Hasan <u>were</u> <u>coming.</u>	Tense-aspect affixV
6	question particle and sentence	tu ʔəza buxurdi	tu ʔəza buxurdi	Did you eat any food?	No question particle
7	tense-aspect affix and verb stem	<u>niftə bʊm</u>	<u>nəʃtə bʊm</u>	I had sat.	suffix
8	possessive affix and noun	<u>ʔæmi ʔəza</u>	<u>ʔæmi ʔəza</u>	Our food	PossN

In the full paper all 24 criteria mentioned in Dabir-Moghaddam (2013) have been studied for the two varieties. Some findings are as follows:

In both varieties there exist preposition and postposition but the postposition is the basic form. The order of noun and relative clause is NRel in both dialects. The orders of noun/ genitive; and noun/adjective are GN and AdjN respectively. The orders of demonstrative/noun, article/noun and numeral/noun are DemN, ArtN and NumN respectively. In respect of the orders of verb/

adpositional phrase, verb/manner adverb, 'want'+verb, and verb/ subject the two varieties behave similarly and we have AdpoPV, MannerAdvV, wantV, and SubV.

As it is obvious from above findings and the examples given in the chart, the two varieties have the same typological behavior in word order. As mentioned before, it seems that the difference between the two lies basically in morphology and choice of words and there is no significant difference in word order typology.

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