

Persian

Letters of the Alphabet

| Initial | Medial | Final | Alone | Romanization |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| ا | ا | ا | ا | omit (see Note 1) |
| ب | ب | ب | ب | b |
| پ | پ | پ | پ | p |
| ت | ت | ت | ت | t |
| ث | ث | ث | ث | <u>s</u> |
| ج | ج | ج | ج | j |
| چ | چ | چ | چ | ch |
| ح | ح | ح | ح | h |
| خ | خ | خ | خ | kh |
| د | د | د | د | d |
| ذ | ذ | ذ | ذ | <u>z</u> |
| ر | ر | ر | ر | r |
| ز | ز | ز | ز | z |
| ژ | ژ | ژ | ژ | zh |
| س | س | س | س | s |
| ش | ش | ش | ش | sh |
| ص | ص | ص | ص | ṣ |
| ض | ض | ض | ض | ẓ |
| ط | ط | ط | ط | ṭ |
| ظ | ظ | ظ | ظ | ẓ |
| ع | ع | ع | ع | ' (ayn) |
| غ | غ | غ | غ | gh |
| ف | ف | ف | ف | f |
| ق | ق | ق | ق | q |
| ک | ک | ک | ک | k (see Note 2) |
| گ | گ | گ | گ | g (see Note 3) |
| ل | ل | ل | ل | l |
| م | م | م | م | m |
| ن | ن | ن | ن | n |
| و | و | و | و | v (see Note 3) |
| ه | ه | ه ، ه | ه ، ه | h (see Note 4) |
| ی | ی | ی | ی | y (see Note 3) |

Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 5)

| | | | | | |
|----|---|-------|----------------|----|----|
| آ | a | آ , ا | ā (see Note 6) | ای | ī |
| او | u | اُ | á (see Note 7) | او | aw |
| ی | i | ی | ū | ی | ay |

Notes

1. For the use of | (*alif*) to support ء (*hamzah*) and م (maddah), see rule 1(a). For the romanization of ء and م, see rules 4 and 5 respectively. For the use of | (*alif*) to represent the long vowel romanized ā, see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rule 1(b).
2. Final ک and گ (often written ك and گ) may have the form ك, without the distinguishing upper stroke or strokes. The two letters are always distinguished in romanization.
3. For other values of و and ی, see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rules 2, 3, and 7.
4. ö (dotted o) when used as an alternative to ت is romanized *t*.
5. Vowel points are not printed on Library of Congress cards.
6. See rules 1(b) and 5.
7. See rule 3(d).

RULES OF APPLICATION

Letters Which May Be Romanized in Different Ways Depending on Their Context

1. | (*alif*) is used:
 - (a) As a support for ء (*hamzah*) and م (*maddah*). In these cases it is not represented in romanization. See rules 4 and 5.
 - (b) To indicate the long vowel romanized ā. For the use of | in *tanvīn*, see rule 6.

| | |
|------|------|
| dānā | دانا |
|------|------|
2. و is used to represent:
 - (a) The consonant romanized *v*.

| | |
|---------|------|
| varzish | ورزش |
| davā | دوا |
| sarv | سرو |

Silent و following ذ is retained in romanization.

| | |
|----------|--------|
| khvāstan | خواستن |
| khvud | خود |

- (b) The long *ū*-vowel (and short *u*-vowel in some monosyllables) is romanized *ū*.

| | |
|------|-----|
| dūr | دور |
| chūn | چون |
| tū | تو |

- (c) The diphthong romanized *aw*.

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Firdawsī | فردوسی |
|----------|--------|

When the diphthong precedes a consonantal **و**, the combination is romanized *avv*. See rule 7.

و may be used as a support for **ء** (*hamzah*); in this case it is not represented in romanization. See rule 4.

3. **ی** is used to represent:

- (a) The consonant romanized *y*.

| | |
|-------|------|
| yār | یار |
| siyāh | سیاه |
| pāy | پای |

- (b) The long vowel romanized *ī*.

| | |
|------|-------|
| Īrān | ایران |
| qālī | قالی |

- (c) The diphthong romanized *ay*.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| ayvān | ایوان |
| ray | ری |

- (d) The final long vowel romanized *ā*.

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Muṣṭafā | مصطفی |
|---------|-------|

For the use of **ی** (*y*) as a mark of *izāfah*, see rule 8(c).

ی in the medial forms **ی**, **ی**, without dots, may be used as a support for **ء** (*hamzah*); in this case **ی** is not represented in romanization. See rule 4 below.

Orthographic Symbols Other than Letters and Vowel Signs

The signs listed below are frequently omitted in Persian writing and printing; their presence must then be inferred. They are represented in romanization according to the following rules:

4. **ء** (*hamzah*)

- (a) When initial, **ء** is not represented in romanization.

- (b) When medial or final, **ء** is romanized ' (alif) except as noted in (c) and (d) below.

| | |
|----------|-------|
| mu'assir | مؤثر |
| khulafā' | خلفاء |

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| | pā'īn | پائین |
| (c) | When used as a mark of <i>izāfah</i> , ء is romanized <i>-i</i> . | |
| | āstānah-'i dar | آستانه در |
| (d) | When used to mark the indefinite article, ء is romanized <i>'i</i> . | |
| | khānah'i | خانه |
5. ّ (maddah)
- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|
| (a) | Initial Ā is romanized <i>ā</i> . | |
| | āb | آب |
| | Kulīyat al-Ādāb | کلیه الآداب |
| (b) | Medial Ā, when it represents the phonetic combination 'ā, is so romanized. | |
| | ma'āsir | مآثر |
| | Daryā'ābādī | دریاآبادی |
| (c) | ّ is otherwise not represented in romanization. | |
| | girdāvarandah | گردآورنده |
6. *Tanvīn*, (written َ, ِ, ِ, ِ), which occurs chiefly in Arabic words, is romanized *un*, *in*, *an*, and *an*, respectively.
7. ّ (shaddah or tashdīd) is represented by doubling the letter or digraph concerned.
- | | |
|----------|--------|
| khurram | خَرَم |
| avval | اَوَّل |
| bachchah | بچّه |
| Khayyām | خِیَام |
- Note the exceptional case where ّ is written over و and ی to represent the combination of long vowel plus consonant.
- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| nashrīyāt | نشریات |
| qūvah | قوه |

Grammatical Structure as It Affects Romanization

8. *Izāfah*. When two words are associated in the relation known as *izāfah*, the first (the *muzāf*) is followed by an additional letter or syllable in romanization. This is added according to the following rules:
- (a) When the *muzāf* bears no special mark of *izāfah*, it is followed by *-i*.
- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| dar-i bāgh | در باغ |
| qālī-i Īrān | قالی ایران |
| khānah-i buzurgh | خانه بزرگ |

- (b) When the *muzāf* is marked by the addition of ء, it is followed by *-ī*.
 qālī-'ī Īrān قالئ ایران
 khānah-'ī buzurg خانه بزرگ
- (c) When the *muzāf* is marked by the addition of ی, it is followed by *-yi*.
 rū-yi zamīn روی زمین
 Daryā-yi Khazar دریای خزر
 khānah-yi buzurg خانه ی بزرگ
- (d) *l̥zāfah* is represented in romanization of personal names only when expressly identified in the Persian script.

Affixes and Compounds

9. Affixes.

- (a) When the affix and the word with which it is connected grammatically are written separately in Persian, the two are separated in romanization by a single prime ('). See also 12(b) below.

| | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| | khānah'hā | خانه ها |
| | khānah'am | خانه ام |
| | khānah'ī | خانه ای |
| | mī'ravam | می روم |
| <i>but</i> | mīravam | میروم |
| | bih'gū | به گو |
| | bar'rasīhā | بررسیها |
| | Kāzim'zādah | کاظم زاده |
| <i>but</i> | Kāzimzādah | کاظمزاده |

- (b) The Arabic article *al* is separated by a hyphen, in romanization, from the word to which it is prefixed.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| dār al-mu'allimīn | دار المعلمین |
| 'Abd al-Ḥusayn | عبد الحسین |

10. Compounds. When the elements of a compound (except a compound personal name) are written separately in Persian, they are separated in romanization by a single prime ('). See also 12(b) below.

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------|
| | marīẓ'khānah | مريض خانه |
| <i>but</i> | marīẓkhānah | مريضخانه |
| | Shāh'nāmah | شاه نامه |
| <i>but</i> | Shāhnāmah | شاهنامه |

Note the treatment of compound personal names:

Persian

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Romanization of Persian

| Persian alphabet | |
|---|-----------------|
| ی و ه ن م ل گ ک ق ف غ ع ظ ط ض ص ش س ژ ز ر ذ د خ ح چ ج ث ت پ ب ا | |
| Perso-Arabic script | |
| • | Transliteration |
| • | Diacritics |
| • | Hamza |
| • | Numerals |
| • | Numeration |

Romanization of Persian is the means by which the Persian language is represented using the Latin script. Several different romanization schemes exist, each with its own set of rules driven by its own set of ideological goals.

Romanization paradigms

Because the Perso-Arabic script is an abjad writing system (with a consonant-heavy inventory of letters), many distinct words in standard Persian can have identical spellings, with widely varying pronunciations that differ in their (unwritten) vowel sounds. Thus a romanization paradigm can follow either transliteration (which mirrors spelling and orthography) or transcription (which mirrors pronunciation and phonology).

Transliteration

Transliteration (in the strict sense) attempts to be a complete representation of the original writing, so that an informed reader should be able to reconstruct the original spelling of unknown transliterated words. Transliterations of Persian are used to represent individual Persian words or short quotations, in scholarly texts in English or other languages that do not use the Arabic alphabet.

A transliteration will still have separate representations for different consonants of the Persian alphabet that are pronounced identically in Persian. Therefore transliterations of Persian are often based on transliterations of Arabic. Persian-alphabet vowel representation is also complex, and transliterations are based on the written form.

Transliterations commonly used in the English-speaking world include BGN/PCGN romanization and ALA-LC Romanization.

Non-academic English-language quotation of Persian words usually uses a simplification of one of the strict transliteration schemes (typically omitting diacritical marks) and/or unsystematic choices of spellings meant to guide English speakers using English spelling rules towards an approximation of the Persian sounds.

An academic and standardized method for official transliteration of Persian also exists which is called Desphilic Persian Standard Romanization (Desphilic PSR ^[1]). In this transliteration standard, all Persian words are transliterated to standard Latin-1 characters and therefore can be written using an ordinary English keyboard.

Transcription

Transcriptions of Persian attempt to straightforwardly represent Persian phonology in the Latin script, without requiring a close or reversible correspondence with the Perso-Arabic script, and also without requiring a close correspondence to English-language phonetic values of Roman letters; for example, letters such as X, Q, C may be reused for Persian-language phonemes that are not present in English phonology or do not have a consistent or single-letter English spelling.

Proposed Roman-alphabet scripts intended to be a primary representation of Persian, for use by Persian speakers as an alternative to the Perso-Arabic script, fall into this category. Some of these proposed scripts are described at Omniglot ^[2].

The Persian language (Tehrani dialect) has six vowels and twenty-three consonants. The Persian sounds have two specifications:

1. every syllable starts with consonants and
2. it is combination of one consonant and one vowel, as in the chart below:

| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|----|---------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | ° | اَ | اِ | اُ | اَ | ای | او |
| | | | a | e | o | ā | i | u |
| 1 | اع | ' | 'a | 'e | 'o | 'ā | 'i | 'u |
| 2 | ب | b | ba | be | bo | bā | bi | bu |
| 3 | د | d | da | de | do | dā | di | du |
| 5 | ف | f | fa | fe | fo | fā | fi | fu |
| 4 | گ | g | ga | ge | go | gā | gi | gu |
| 6 | ح° | h | ha | he | ho | hā | hi | hu |
| 7 | ج | j | ja | je | jo | jā | ji | ju |
| 8 | ک | k | ka | ke | ko | kā | ki | ku |
| 9 | ل | l | la | le | lo | lā | li | lu |
| 10 | م | m | ma | me | mo | mā | mi | mu |
| 11 | ن | n | na | ne | no | nā | ni | nu |
| 12 | پ | p | pa | pe | po | pā | pi | pu |
| 13 | ر | r | ra | re | ro | rā | ri | ru |
| 14 | س ص ث | s | sa | se | so | sā | si | su |
| 15 | ت ط | t | ta | te | to | tā | ti | tu |
| 16 | و | v | va | ve | vo | vā | vi | vu |
| 17 | ی | y | ya | ye | yo | yā | yi | yu |
| 18 | ز ذ ض ظ | z | za | ze | zo | zā | zi | zu |
| 19 | چ | ch | cha | che | cho | chā | chi | chu |
| 20 | ق غ | gh | gha | ghe | gho | ghā | ghi | ghu |
| 21 | خ | kh | kha | khe | kho | khā | khi | khu |
| 22 | ش | sh | sha | she | sho | shā | shi | shu |
| 23 | ژ | zh | zha | zhe | zho | zhā | zhi | zhu |

It is important that use of symbols ' like as one alphabet symbol (it is not necessary only at the beginning of the words or between two vowels of words, but is necessary for Persian transcription in other situation).

Comparison of proposed Persian and neighboring Latin-based scripts

| IPA | Desphilic [1] | Ironik [3] | Pk [4] | UP [5] | EF [6] | tk | az | tr | ku | ASCII [7] | English |
|----------|---------------|------------|----------|--------|--------|---------|-----|---------|---------|-------------|---------|
| /æ/ | a | A a | | | | Ä ä | Ə ə | E e [8] | | a | cat |
| /ɒ:/ | A | O o | Á á | Â â | Ã ã | A a [9] | | | aa | father [10] | |
| /f/ | w | C c | Sc sc | Š š | | Ş ş | | | sh | ship | |
| /ʒ/ | J j ? | J j | Zc zc | Ž ž | | J j | | | zh [11] | vision | |
| /tʃ/ | c C Ç Ć | Tc tc | C c [12] | | | Ç ç | | | ch | church | |
| /dʒ/ | J j ? | Dj dj | J j | | | C c | | | j | judge | |
| /ɣ/ [13] | Q q [14] | | | | | Ğ ğ | | | gh | none | |
| /x/ | x X Ķ | X x [15] | | | | X x | | | kh | none | |
| /ʔ/ | u U | ' | [16] | ' | | | | ' | uh-oh | | |

[1] <http://www.desphilic.com/>

[2] <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/persian.htm>

[3] <http://xrad.ir/xat-e-ironik/>

[4] <http://www.persiandirect.com/projects/ipa2>

[5] <http://www.unipers.com>

[6] <http://www.euofarsi.com>

[7] E.g. when commenting in weblogs or when using cellphones to send SMS. See Fingilish for a similar example.

[8] In Turkish, actually , but with various allophones: ~.

[9] Actually in Turkish and Turkmen or in Azerbaijani.

[10] Similar to of Received Pronunciation and of General American plus additional roundedness, but not like the front of Australian English.

[11] Not used for this sound in native English words, but standard in transliterations of foreign languages such as ALA-LC Romanization

[12] Same value as in National Library at Kolkata romanization and other transliterations of Indic scripts, as well as in Malay/Indonesian

[13] When occurs at the beginning of a word in Iranian Persian, it is realized as a voiced uvular plosive

[14] Different sound than Arabic qāf, but both qaf and ghayn in Arabic words are pronounced with this sound in Iranian Persian

[15] Cyrillic kha and Azeri Roman x look the same and are used for the slightly different voiceless velar fricative sound

[16] Diacritic mark over following vowel added or changed

One common theme is that in transcriptions of Persian, the unmarked letter **a** is used for the front vowel /æ/, while accented or doubled versions of the letter are used for the back vowel /ɒ:/; this is opposite to the conventions in Latin alphabets of Turkic languages, although similar to some romanizations of Arabic.

Romanization schemes

Official Iranian Latin alphabet

In 2012, the United Nations approved a romanization system based on the official guidelines adopted by Iran. This system conforms more closely to Persian phonology than the previous system approved in 1967.^[1] The new system is also virtually identical to UniPers, the only notable differences being that UniPers *â* and *c* become Iranian *ā* and *č*, respectively.

Baha'i Persian romanization

Bahá'ís use a system standardized by Shoghi Effendi, which he initiated in a general letter on March 12, 1923. The Bahá'í transliteration scheme was based on a standard adopted by the Tenth International Congress of Orientalists which took place in Geneva in September 1894. Shoghi Effendi changed some details of the Congress's system, most notably in the use of digraphs in certain cases (e.g. *sh* instead of *š*), and in incorporating the solar letters when

writing the definite article *al-* (Arabic: ال) according to pronunciation (e.g. *ar-Rahim*, *as-Saddiq*, instead of *al-Rahim*, *al-Saddiq*).

This transliteration differs significantly from UniPers, especially in vowel presentation. For example, what is in UniPers "Tehran" is presented in many Bahá'í translations as "Tihran". The name of the Bahá'í women's right activist and martyr "Táhirih" would be pronounced in Persian according to the UniPers translation "Tahereh", but never printed as "Tahereh" in Bahá'í books. The use of "i" in the case of "Tahereh", illustrates the Bahá'í system's emphasis on literal correspondence with the Persian script, rather than the pronunciation of the modern national language of Iran. A detailed introduction to the Bahá'í Persian romanization can usually be found at the back of a Bahá'í scripture.

ASCII Internet romanizations

It is common to write Persian language with only English letters especially when commenting in weblogs or when using cellphones to send SMS. One form of such writing is as the following:

Romanization on Internet

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|
| A a | AA aa | B b | CH ch | D d | E e | F f | G g | H h | I i |
| /æ/ | /ɑ:/ | /b/ | /tʃ/ | /d/ | /e/ | /f/ | /g/ | /h/ | /i/ |
| J j | K k | L l | M m | N n | O o | P p | GH gh | R r | S s |
| /dʒ/ | /k/ | /l/ | /m/ | /n/ | /o/ | /p/ | /ɣ/ | /r/ | /s/ |
| SH sh | T t | U u | V v | W w | KH kh | Y y | Z z | ZH zh | ' |
| /ʃ/ | /t/ | /u/ | /v/ | /w/ | /χ/ | /j/ | /z/ | /ʒ/ | /ʔ/ |

Tajik Latin alphabet

The Tajik language or Tajik Persian is a variety of the Persian language. It was written in Tajik SSR in a standardized Latin script from 1926 until late 1930s, when the script was officially changed to Cyrillic. However, Tajik phonology differs slightly from that of Persian in Iran; see Persian phonology#Historical shifts.

The Tajik alphabet in Latin

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|------|
| A a | B b | C c | Ç ç | D d | E e | F f | G g | Ol ol | H h | I i | Ī ī |
| /a/ | /b/ | /tʃ/ | /dʒ/ | /d/ | /e/ | /f/ | /g/ | /ɬ/ | /h/ | /i/ | /iː/ |
| J j | K k | L l | M m | N n | O o | P p | Q q | R r | S s | Ş ş | T t |
| /j/ | /k/ | /l/ | /m/ | /n/ | /o/ | /p/ | /q/ | /r/ | /s/ | /ʃ/ | /t/ |
| U u | Ū ū | V v | X x | Z z | Ʒ Ʒ | ' | | | | | |
| /u/ | /uː/ | /v/ | /χ/ | /z/ | /ʒ/ | /ʔ/ | | | | | |

Turco-Persian Romanization

| Numerals | | Cardinal number | | | Ordinal number | | |
|----------|-----|-------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| W | A | Persian | Turkish | Persian | Persian | Turkish | Persian |
| 0 | ۰ | Sefr | Sefr | صفر | | Seferom | صفرم |
| 1 | ۱ | Yek | Yek | یک | Avval, Nakhost | Evvel, Yekom | نخست، اول |
| 2 | ۲ | Do | Dü | دو | dovvom | Devvom | دوم |
| 3 | ۳ | Se | Se | سه | sevvom | Sevvom | سوم |
| 4 | ۴ | Cāhār | Çehar | چهار | çehārom | Çeharom | چهارم |
| 5 | ۵ | Panj | Penc | پنج | pancom | Pencom | پنجم |
| 6 | ۶ | Şeş | Şeş | شش | şeşom | Şeşom | ششم |
| 7 | ۷ | Haft | Heft | هفت | haftom | Heftom | هفتم |
| 8 | ۸ | Haşt | Heşt | هشت | haştom | Heştom | هشتم |
| 9 | ۹ | Noh | Noh | نه | nohom | Nohom | نهم |
| 10 | ۱۰ | Dağ | De | ده | dāhom | Dehom | دهم |
| 11 | ۱۱ | Yāzdah | Yazde | یازده | yāzdahom | Yazdehom | یازدهم |
| 12 | ۱۲ | Davāzdağ | Devazde | دوازده | davāzdahom | Devazdehom | دوازدهم |
| 13 | ۱۳ | Sizdah | Sizde | سیزده | sīzdahom | Sizdehom | سیزدهم |
| 14 | ۱۴ | Cāhārdah | Çeharde | چهارده | çahārdahom | Çehardehom | چهاردهم |
| 15 | ۱۵ | Pānzdah Punzda | Panzde | پانزده | pānzdahom punzdahom | Panzdehom | پانزدهم |
| 16 | ۱۶ | Şānzdah | Şanzde | شانزده | şānzdehom şunzdehom | Şanzdehom | شانزدهم |
| 17 | ۱۷ | Hefdah | Hifde | هفده | hefdahom | Hifdehom | هفدهم |
| 18 | ۱۸ | Hijdah | Hicde | هیجده | hijdahom | Hicdehom | هیجدهم |
| 19 | ۱۹ | Nuzdah | Nuzde | نوزده | nūzdahom | Nuzdehom | نوزدهم |
| 20 | ۲۰ | Bist | Bist | بیست | bīstom | Bistom | بیستم |
| 30 | ۳۰ | Si | Si | سی | sīyom | Siyom | سی ام |
| 40 | ۴۰ | Cehel | Çehel | چهل | çehelom | Çehelom | چهلیم |
| 50 | ۵۰ | Pānjah | Pencah | پنجاه | pancāhom | Pencahom | پنجاهم |
| 60 | ۶۰ | Şast | Şest | شصت | şastom | Şestom | شصتم |
| 70 | ۷۰ | Haftād | Heftad | هفتاد | haftādom | Heftadom | هفتادم |
| 80 | ۸۰ | Haştād | Heştad | هشتاد | haştādom | Heştadom | هشتادم |
| 90 | ۹۰ | Navad | Neved | نود | navadom | Nevedom | نودم |
| 100 | ۱۰۰ | Sad | Sed | صد | sadom | Sedom | صدم |
| 200 | ۲۰۰ | Devist | Divist | دویست | devīstom | Divistom | دویستم |
| 300 | ۳۰۰ | Sisad | Sised | سیصد | sīsadom | Sisedom | سیصدم |

| | | | | | | | |
|------|------|--------------------|----------|--------|----------------------|-------------|----------|
| 400 | ۴۰۰ | Cāhārsad | Çeharsed | چهارصد | çahār sadom | Çehar sedom | چهار صدم |
| 500 | ۵۰۰ | Pān sad Pun sad | Pan sed | پانصد | pānsadom punsadom | Pansedom | پانصدم |
| 600 | ۶۰۰ | Şeş sad | Şeş sed | شش صد | şeş sadom | Şeş sedom | شش صدم |
| 700 | ۷۰۰ | Haft sad | Heft sed | هفت صد | haft sadom | Heft sedom | هفت صدم |
| 800 | ۸۰۰ | haşt sad | Heşt sed | هشت صد | haşt sadom | Heşt sedom | هشت صدم |
| 900 | ۹۰۰ | Noh sad | Noh sed | نه صد | noh sadom | Noh sedom | نه صدم |
| 1000 | ۱۰۰۰ | Hezār | Hezar | هزار | hazārom | Hezarom | هزارم |

"Turco-Persian", among its many definitions, can refer to the code-switching to Persian expressions, Persian literary mannerisms, and heavy use of Persian vocabulary in Anatolian Turkish or Azerbaijani Turkish, especially Ottoman Turkish, which has a long history of subscribing to the Persian language classical literature. Even though Modern Standard Turkish is ostensibly more pure, it nonetheless retains many Persian mannerisms, Persian vocabulary from Ottoman Turkish, and has maintained its peculiar way of transcribing Persian words that is "Turkified" in pronunciation and is quite removed from modern standard pronunciation of Persian.

Following are some examples taken from the Turkish Wikipedia tr:Farsça Sözcükler in explaining differences in spelling between standard Persian transliterated with Turkish Latin Alphabet, and Turco-Persian orthography in the same alphabet:

Following are some lines of Persian poems from the Azeri Wikipedia, with the Azeri Turco-Persian transliteration in bold az:Cahanşah Həqiqi az:Səid Səlmasi az:Məhəmməd Hadi az:Əbül-ülə Gəncəvi:

1.

Vüsəlını diləram kam ilən ze fəzli-ilah
Məni-şikəstəyə kami-vüsəl beylə gərək.
Ey xətin səb'ül-məsani, vey ləbin mai-təhur,
Vey cəmalın pərtövindən sərbəsər aləmdə nur.

2.

Mən on zəmini guhərbari-paki İranəm,
Bə hər bəlayi-cəhalət nişəgəh əst təni mən...

3.

Məkatib cilməgahi -tələti-fəyyazi-qüdrətdir,
Məkatib pərtövü-ənvari-şəmsi-sübhi-vəhdətdir

...

Ey dəsti-sitəmkar, ayə pənceyi-mənhus!..

4.

Mara şəst saləst kəz xake-İran
 Bovəd şanzdəh ta be Şirvan fetadəm.

References

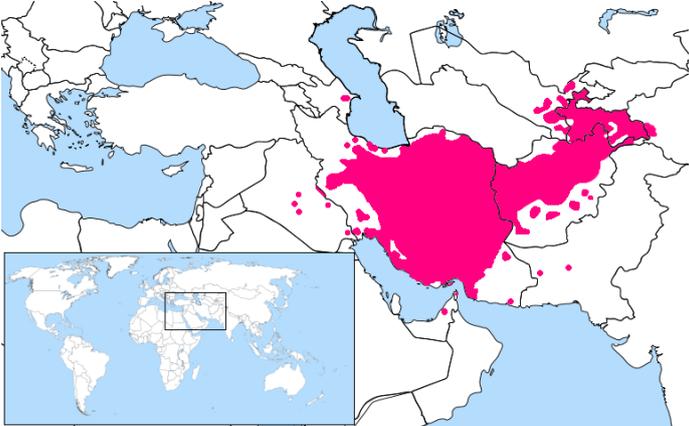
[1] http://www.eki.ee/wgrs/rom1_fa.htm

External links

- Comparison of DMG, UN, ALA-LC, BGN/PCGN, EI, ISO 233-3 transliterations (<http://transliteration.eki.ee/pdf/Persian.pdf>)
- UN Romanization of Persian for Geographical Names (http://www.eki.ee/wgrs/rom1_fa.htm)
- Library of Congress/American Library Association Romanization of Persian (<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsol/romanization/persian.pdf>)
- Cataloguing Issues and Problems (<http://books.google.com/books?id=6u18PtO0BoQC&pg=PA137>)
- eiktub: (<http://www.eiktub.com>) web-based Arabic transliteration pad, with support for Persian characters

Persian language

| Persian | |
|------------------------|--|
| | Farsi |
| | فارسی |
| |  <p>The word فارسی in Persian script (Nasta'liq style).</p> |
| Pronunciation | [fɒːɾˈsiː] |
| Native to | Iran Afghanistan(as Dari) Tajikistan(as Tajik) Uzbekistan Iraq Kuwait Bahrain Azerbaijan |
| Native speakers | 60 million (2009) ^[1] (110 million total speakers) |
| Language family | Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indo-Iranian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iranian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Iranian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwestern Iranian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persian |
| Early forms | Old Persian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Persian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persian |
| Dialects | Western Persian Eastern Persian Central Asian Persian Bukharic Pahlavani Hazaragi Aimaq Judæo-Persian Dehwari Juhuri Caucasian Tat Armeno-Tat |
| Writing system | Arabic (Persian alphabet) Cyrillic (Tajik alphabet) Hebrew script Persian Braille |

| Official status | |
|--|---|
| Official language in |  Iran  Afghanistan  Tajikistan |
| Regulated by | Academy of Persian Language and Literature (Iran) Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan ^[citation needed] |
| Language codes | |
| ISO 639-1 | fa |
| ISO 639-2 | per (B) fas (T) |
| ISO 639-3 | fas – inclusive code Individual codes: pes ^[1] – Western Persian prs ^[2] – Eastern Persian tgk ^[3] – Tajiki aiq ^[4] – Aimaq bhh ^[5] – Bukharic haz ^[6] – Hazaragi jpr ^[7] – Dzhidi phv ^[8] – Pahlavani deh ^[9] – Dehwari jdt ^[10] – Juhuri ttt ^[11] – Caucasian Tat |
| Linguasphere | 58-AAC (Wider Persian) > 58-AAC-c (Central Persian) |
|  | |
| Approximate extent of the Persian language area. Map includes all three dialects of Persian. | |

Persian is an Iranian language within the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European languages. It is primarily spoken in Iran (also known as فارسی **Farsi** [fɒ:rˈsiː] or پارسی **Parsi**), Afghanistan (officially known as "**Dari**" since 1958 for political reasons^[12]), Tajikistan (officially known as "**Tajik**" since the Soviet era),^[13] and other countries which historically came under Persian influence. The Persian language is classified as a continuation of Middle Persian, the official religious and literary language of Sassanid Persia, itself a continuation of Old Persian, the language of the Persian Empire in the Achaemenid era.^{[14][15]} Persian is a pluricentric language and its grammar is similar to that of many contemporary European languages.^[16]

There are approximately 110 million Persian speakers worldwide, with the language holding official status in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. For centuries Persian has also been a prestigious cultural language in Central Asia, South Asia, and Western Asia.^[17] Persian is used as a liturgical language of Islam in not only Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, but also in Pakistan and North India.

Persian has had a considerable, mainly lexical influence on neighboring languages, particularly the Turkic languages in Central Asia, Caucasus, and Anatolia, neighboring Iranian languages, as well as Armenian, and Indo-Aryan languages, especially Urdu. It also exerted some influence on Arabic, particularly Bahraini Arabic,^[18] while borrowing much vocabulary from it after the Muslim conquest of Persia.^{[[19][20]}

With a long history of literature in the form of Middle Persian before Islam, Persian was the first language in Muslim civilization to break through Arabic's monopoly on writing, and the writing of poetry in Persian was established as a court tradition in many eastern courts. Some of the famous works of Persian literature are the *Shahnameh* of Ferdowsi, works of Rumi, Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, Divan of Hafiz and poems of Saadi.

Classification

Persian belongs to the Western branch of the Iranian family of Indo-European languages, which also includes Kurdish, Mazandarani, Gilaki, Talyshi, and Baluchi. The language is in the Southwestern Iranian group, along with the Larestani, Kumzari and Luri languages.

Etymology

Persian language name in Persian

Persian is known by other names by native speakers:

- **Farsi** (فارسی *fārsī*)^[21] is the native name of the Persian language spoken in Iran, and is sometimes also used in English to refer to the Persian language. It is also used in the variant form *Parsi* (پارسی).
- **Dari** (دری *darī*)^[22] is one of the two official languages of Afghanistan and is a dialect of Persian: sometimes termed *Afghan Persian* in English;^[23]
- **Tajik** (тоҷикӣ / تاجیکی *tojikī*)^[24] is a dialect of Persian spoken in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan sometimes termed *Tajik Persian*.^[25]

English name

Persian, the more widely used name of the language in English historically, is an anglicized form derived from Latin **Persianus* < Latin *Persia* < Greek Πέρσις *Pérsis*, a Hellenized form of Old Persian *Parsa*. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the term *Persian* as a language name is first attested in English in the mid-16th century.^[26] Native Iranian Persian speakers call it *Fārsī*.^[27] *Farsi* is the Arabicized form of *Pārsī*, due to a lack of the 'p' phoneme in Standard Arabic (i.e., the 'p' was replaced with an 'f').^{[28][29]} The origin of the name *Farsi* and the place of origin of the language which is *Fars* is, of course, the Arabicized form of *Pārs*. In English, this language has historically been known as "Persian", though "Farsi" has also gained some currency. According to the OED, the term *Farsi* was first used in English in 1926, while *Parsi* dates to 1790. "Farsi" is encountered in some linguistic literature as a name for the language, used both by Iranian and by foreign authors.^[30] The Academy of Persian Language and Literature has declared that the name "Persian" is more appropriate, as it has the longer tradition in the western languages and better expresses the role of the language as a mark of cultural and national continuity. Some Persian language scholars such as Ehsan Yarshater, editor of *Encyclopædia Iranica*, and University of Arizona professor Kamran Talattof, have also rejected the usage of "Farsi" in their articles.

The international language-encoding standard ISO 639-1 uses the code "fa", as its coding system is mostly based on the local names. The more detailed standard ISO 639-3 uses the name "Persian" (code "fas") for the dialect continuum spoken across Iran and Afghanistan. This consists of the individual languages Dari (Afghan Persian) and Iranian Persian.

Currently, VOA, BBC, DW, and RFE/RL use "Persian Service" for their broadcasts in the language. RFE/RL also includes a Tajik service, and an Afghan (Dari) service. This is also the case for the American Association of

Teachers of Persian, The Centre for Promotion of Persian Language and Literature, and many of the leading scholars of Persian language.

History

| History of the Persian language |
|---|
| Proto-Iranian (ca. 1500 BC) Southwestern Iranian languages |
| Old Persian (c. 525 BC - 300 BC) Old Persian cuneiform script |
| Middle Persian (c.300 BC-800 AD) Pahlavi script • Manichaean script • Avestan script |
| Modern Persian (from 800 AD) Perso-Arabic script |

Persian is an Iranian language belonging to the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European family of languages. In general, Iranian languages are known from three periods, usually referred to as Old, Middle, and New (Modern) periods. These correspond to three eras in Iranian history; Old era being the period from sometime before Achaemenids, the Achaemenid era and sometime after Achaemenids (that is to 400–300 BC), Middle era being the next period most officially Sassanid era and sometime in post-Sassanid era, and the New era being the period afterwards down to present day.^[31]

According to available documents, the Persian language is "the only Iranian language"^[32] for which close philological relationships between all of its three stages are established and so that Old, Middle, and New Persian represent one and the same language of Persian, that is New Persian is a direct descendent of Middle and Old Persian.^[31]

The known history of the Persian language can be divided into the following three distinct periods:

Old Persian

Old Persian evolved from Proto-Iranian as it evolved in the Iranian plateau's southwest. The earliest dateable example of the language is the Behistun Inscription of the Achaemenid Darius I (*r.* 522 BC–ca. 486 BC). Although purportedly older texts also exist (such as the inscription on the tomb of Cyrus II at Pasargadae), these are actually younger examples of the language. Old Persian was written in Old Persian cuneiform, a script unique to that language and is generally assumed to be an invention of Darius I's reign.

After Aramaic, or rather the Achaemenid form of it known as Imperial Aramaic, Old Persian is the most commonly attested language of the Achaemenid age. While examples of Old Persian have been found wherever the Achaemenids held territories, the language is attested primarily in the inscriptions of Western Iran, in particular in Parsa "Persia" in the southwest, the homeland of the tribes that the Achaemenids (and later the Sassanids) came from.

In contrast to later Persian, written Old Persian had an extensively inflected grammar, with eight cases, each declension subject to both gender (masculine, feminine, neuter) and number (singular, dual, plural).

Middle Persian

The complex conjugation and declension of Old Persian yielded to the structure of Middle Persian in which the dual number disappeared, leaving only singular and plural, as did gender. Middle Persian developed the *ezāfe* construction, expressed through *ī*, to indicate some of the relations between words that have been lost with the simplification of the earlier grammatical system.

Although the "middle period" of the Iranian languages formally begins with the fall of the Achaemenid Empire, the transition from Old to Middle Persian had probably already begun before the 4th century. However, Middle Persian is not actually attested until 600 years later when it appears in Sassanid era (224–651) inscriptions, so any form of the language before this date cannot be described with any degree of certainty. Moreover, as a literary language, Middle Persian is not attested until much later, to the 6th or 7th century. And from the 8th century onwards, Middle Persian gradually began yielding to New Persian, with the middle-period form only continuing in the texts of Zoroastrian tradition.

The native name of Middle Persian was *Parsig* or *Parsik*, after the name of the ethnic group of the southwest, that is, "of *Pars*", Old Persian *Parsa*, New Persian *Fars*. This is the origin of the name *Farsi* as it is today used to signify New Persian. Following the collapse of the Sassanid state, *Parsik* came to be applied exclusively to (either Middle or New) Persian that was written in Arabic script. From about the 9th century onwards, as Middle Persian was on the threshold of becoming New Persian, the older form of the language came to be erroneously called *Pahlavi*, which was actually but one of the *writing systems* used to render both Middle Persian as well as various other Middle Iranian languages. That writing system had previously been adopted by the Sassanids (who were Persians, i.e. from the southwest) from the preceding Arsacids (who were Parthians, i.e. from the northeast). While Rouzbeh (Abdullah Ibn al-Muqaffa, 8th century) still distinguished between *Pahlavi* (i.e. Parthian) and *Farsi* (i.e. Middle Persian), this distinction is not evident in Arab commentaries written after that date.

Gernot Windfuhr considers new Persian as an evolution of the Old Persian language and the Middle Persian language^[1] but also states that none of the known Middle Persian dialects is the direct predecessor of the [New] Persian^{[33][34]} Professor. Ludwig Paul states: "The language of the Shahnameh should be seen as one instance of continuous historical development from Middle to New Persian"^[35]

New Persian

The history of New Persian itself spans more than 1,000–1,200 years. The development of the language in its last period is often divided into three stages dubbed early, classical, and contemporary. Native speakers of the language can in fact understand early texts in Persian with minimal adjustment, because the morphology and, to a lesser extent, the lexicon of the language have remained relatively stable for the most part of a millennium.

Early New Persian

New Persian developed from the 8th century on as an independent literary language.^[36] Upon the decline of the Caliphate at Baghdad in the 9th century began the re-establishment of Persian national life and Persians laid the foundations for a renaissance in the realm of letters. New Persian was born in Bactria through the adaptation of the spoken form of Sassanian Middle Persian court language called Dari. The cradle of the Persian literary renaissance lay in the east of Greater Iran, in the Greater Khorasan and Transoxiana regions close to the river Amu Darya.^[37]

The mastery of the newer speech having now been transformed from Middle- into New Persian was already complete during three princely dynasties of Iranian origin Tahirid (820–872), Saffarid (860–903) and Samanid (874–999), and could develop only in range and power of expression.

Abbas of Merv is mentioned as being the earliest minstrel to chant verse in the newer Persian tongue and after him the poems of Hanzala Badghisi were among the most famous between the Persian-speakers of the time.^[38]

The first poems of the Persian Language, a language historically called Dari, have emerged in Khorasan. Wikipedia:Disputed statement The first significant Persian poet was Rudaki. He flourished in the 10th century, when the Sāmānids were at the height of their power. His reputation as a court poet and as an accomplished musician and singer has survived, although little of his poetry has been preserved. Among his lost works is versified fables collected in Kalilah va Dimnah.

The language spread geographically from the 11th century on and was the medium through which among others, Central Asian Turks became familiar with Islam and urban culture. New Persian was widely used as a transregional lingua franca, a task for which it was particularly suitable due to its relatively simple morphological structure and this situation persisted until at least 19th century. In the late Middle Ages, new Islamic literary languages were created on the Persian model: Ottoman, Chaghatay and Urdu, which are regarded as "structural daughter languages" of Persian.



from Ferdowsi's Shahnameh.

Classic Persian

The Islamic conquest of Persia marks the beginning of the new history of Persian language and literature. This period produced world class Persian language poets and the language served, for a long span of time, as the lingua franca of the eastern parts of Islamic world and South Asia. It was also the official and cultural language of many Islamic dynasties, including Samanids, Buyids, Tahirids, Ziyarids, the Mughal Empire, Timurids, Ghaznavid, Seljuq, Khwarezmids, Safavid, Afsharids, Zand, Qajar, Ottomans and also many Mughal successor states such as the Nizams etc. For example, Persian was the only oriental language known and used by Marco Polo at the Court of Kublai Khan and in his journeys through China.^[39] The heavy influence of Persian on other languages can still be witnessed across the Islamic world, especially, and it is still appreciated as a literary and prestigious language among the educated elite, especially in fields of music (for example Qawwali) and art (Persian literature).



Kalilah va Dimna, an influential work in Persian literature.

After the Arab invasion of Persia, Persian began to adopt many words from Arabic and as time went by, a few words were even taken from Turko-Mongol languages under the Mongol Empire and Turco-Persian society.

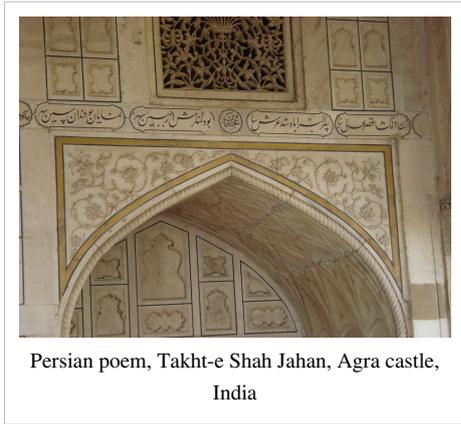
Use in South Asia

Persian has a long and extensive history in South Asia and South Asian culture. For five centuries prior to the British colonization, Persian was widely used as a second language on the Indian subcontinent.^[citation needed]

Wikipedia:Disputed statement It took prominence as the language of culture and education in several Muslim courts on the subcontinent and became the sole "official language" under the Mughal emperors. Beginning in 1843, though, English gradually replaced Persian in importance on the subcontinent. Evidence of Persian's historical influence there can be seen in the extent of its influence on the languages of the Indian subcontinent, as well as the popularity that Persian literature still enjoys in that region. Words borrowed from Persian are still commonly used in Indo-Aryan languages, especially Urdu, also historically known as Hindustani.



Persian poem, Agra castle, India, 18th century



Contemporary Persian

Since the nineteenth century, Russian, French and English and many other languages have contributed to the technical vocabulary of Persian. The Iranian National Academy of Persian Language and Literature is responsible for evaluating these new words in order to initiate and advise their Persian equivalents. The language itself has greatly developed during the centuries.



Varieties

There are three modern varieties of standard Persian:

- **Western Persian (Persian, Iranian Persian, or Farsi)** is spoken in Iran, and by minorities in Iraq and the Persian Gulf states.
- **Eastern Persian (Dari Persian, Afghan Persian, or Dari)** is spoken in Afghanistan.
- **Tajiki (Tajik Persian)** is spoken in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It is written in the Cyrillic script.

All these three varieties are based on the classic Persian literature and its literary tradition. There are also several local dialects from Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan which slightly differ from the standard Persian. Hazaragi (in Central Afghanistan and Pakistan), Herati (in Western Afghanistan), Darwazi (in Afghanistan and Tajikistan), Tehrani (in Iran, the basis of standard Iranian Persian) and Dehwari (in Pakistan) are examples of these dialects. Persian-speaking peoples of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan can understand one another with a relatively high degree of mutual intelligibility, give or take minor differences in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar – much in the same relationship as shared between British and American English.

ISO 639-3 lists ten dialects of Persian, the three main literary dialects listed above and seven regional dialects: Hazaragi, Aimaq, Bukharic, Dzhidi, Dehwari, Darwazi, Pahlavani.

The following are some languages closely related to Persian:

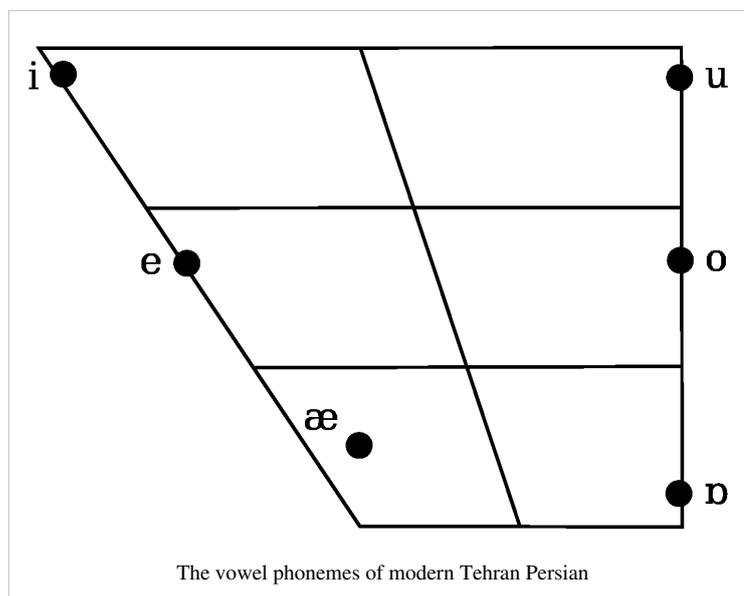
- Luri (or *Lori*), spoken mainly in the southwestern Iranian provinces of Lorestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, some western parts of Fars Province and some parts of Khuzestan.
- Tat, spoken in parts of Azerbaijan, Russia, etc. It includes Judæo-Tat & Christian-Tat.
- Lari (in southern Iran)

Phonology

Iranian Persian has six vowels and twenty-two consonants.

Vowels

Historically, Persian has distinguished length: Early New Persian possessed a series of five long vowels (/i:/, /u:/, /ɒ:/, /o:/ and /e:/) along with three short vowels /æ/, /i/ and /u/. At some point prior to the sixteenth century within the general area that is today encompassed by modern Iran, /e:/ and /i:/ merged into /i:/, and /o:/ and /u:/ merged into /u:/. Thus, the older contrasts such as *shēr* "lion" vs. *shīr* "milk", and *rūd* "river" vs *rōd* "bow-string" were lost. However, there are exceptions to this rule, and in some words "ē" and "ō" are preserved or merged into the diphthongs [eɪ] and [oʊ] (which are descendants of the diphthongs [æɪ] and [æʊ] in Early New Persian), instead of merging into /i:/ and /u:/. Examples of this exception can be found in words such as [roʊʃæn] (bright).



However, in the eastern varieties, the archaic distinction of /e:/ and /i:/ (respectively known as *Yā-ye majhūl* and *Yā-ye ma'rūf*) is still preserved, as well as the distinction of /o:/ and /u:/ (known as *Wāw-e majhūl* and *Wāw-e ma'rūf*). On the other hand, in standard Tajik, the length distinction has disappeared and /i:/ merged with /i/, and /u:/ with /u/.^[41] Therefore, contemporary Afghan dialects are the closest one can get to the vowel inventory of Early New Persian.

According to most studies on the subject (e.g. Samareh 1977, Pisowicz 1985, Najafi 2001), the three vowels which are traditionally considered long (/i:/, /u:/, /ɒ/) are currently distinguished from their short counterparts (/e/, /o/, /æ/) by position of articulation, rather than by length. However, there are studies (e.g. Hayes 1979, Windfuhr 1979) which consider vowel length to be the active feature of this system, i.e. /ɒ/, /i/, and /u/ are phonologically long or bimoraic whereas /æ/, /e/, and /o/ are phonologically short or monomoraic.

There are also some studies which consider quality and quantity to be both active in the Iranian system (e.g. Toosarvandani 2004). This view offers a synthetic analysis which includes both quality and quantity, often suggesting that modern Persian vowels are in a transition state between the quantitative system of classical Persian and a hypothetical future Persian which will eliminate all traces of quantity, and retain quality as the only active feature.

The length distinction is nevertheless strictly observed by careful reciters of classic-style poetry, for all varieties (including the Tajik).

Consonants

| | Labial | Alveolar | Postalveolar | Palatal | Velar | Uvular | Glottal |
|--------------------|--------|----------|--------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| Nasal | m | n | | | (ŋ) | | |
| Plosive | p b | t d | | | k ɡ | (q ɢ) | |
| Affricate | | | tʃ dʒ | | | | |
| Fricative | f v | s z | ʃ ʒ | | x ɣ | | h |
| Tap | | r | | | | | |
| Trill | | (r) | | | | | |
| Approximant | | l | | j | | | |

(Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Allophones are in parentheses.)

Grammar

Morphology

- Persian is an agglutinative^[42] language.
- Suffixes predominate Persian morphology, though there is a small number of prefixes. Verbs can express tense and aspect, and they agree with the subject in person and number. There is no grammatical gender in Persian, nor are pronouns marked for natural gender.

Syntax

Normal declarative sentences are structured as "(S) (PP) (O) V". This means sentences can comprise optional subjects, prepositional phrases, and objects, followed by a required verb. If the object is specific, then the object is followed by the word *rā* and precedes prepositional phrases: "(S) (O + *rā*) (PP) V".

Vocabulary

Native word formation

Persian makes extensive use of word building and combining affixes, stems, nouns and adjectives. Persian frequently uses derivational agglutination to form new words from nouns, adjectives, and verbal stems. New words are extensively formed by compounding – two existing words combining into a new one, as is common in German. Professor Mahmoud Hessaby demonstrated that Persian can derive 226 million words.^[43]

Influences

While having a lesser influence on Arabic and other languages of Mesopotamia and its core vocabulary being of Middle Persian origin, New Persian contains a considerable amount of Arabic lexical items, which were Persianized and often took a different meaning and usage than the Arabic original. Persian loanwords of Arabic origin especially include Islamic terms. The Arabic vocabulary in other Iranian, Turkic and Indic languages are generally understood to have been copied from New Persian.^[44]

John R. Perry in his article "Lexical Areas and Semantic Fields of Arabic" estimates that about 40 percent of an everyday vocabulary of 20,000 words in current Persian, and more than 50 percent of the vocabulary of classical and modern Persian literature, are of Arabic origin. The text frequency of these loan words is generally lower and varies by style and topic area. It may approach 25 percent of a text in literature.^[45] Among the Arabic loan words, relatively few (14 percent) are from the semantic domain of material culture, while a larger number are from

domains of intellectual and spiritual life.^[46] Most of the Arabic words used in Persian are either synonyms of native terms or could be glossed in Persian.^[47]

The inclusion of Mongolian and Turkic elements in the Persian language should also be mentioned,^[48] not only because of the political role a succession of Turkic dynasties played in Iranian history, but also because of the immense prestige Persian language and literature enjoyed in the wider (non-Arab) Islamic world, which was often ruled by sultans and emirs with a Turkic background. The Turkish and Mongolian vocabulary in Persian is minor in comparison to that of Arabic and these words were mainly confined to military, pastoral terms and political sector (titles, administration, etc.).^[49] New military and political titles were coined based partially on Middle Persian (e.g. *Artesh* for army instead of *Qoshun*, *Sarlashkar*, *DaryaBaan*, etc.) in the 20th century. Persian has likewise influenced the vocabularies of other languages, especially other Indo-Iranian languages like Urdu and to a lesser extent Hindi, etc., as well as Turkic languages like Ottoman Turkish, Chagatai language, Tatar language, Turkish,^[50] Turkmen, Azeri^[51] and Uzbek, Afro-Asiatic languages like Assyrian and Arabic, and even Dravidian languages especially Telugu and Brahui, as well as Austronesian languages such as Indonesian and Malay. Persian has also had a significant lexical influence, via Turkish, on Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian/Serbo-Croatian, particularly as spoken in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

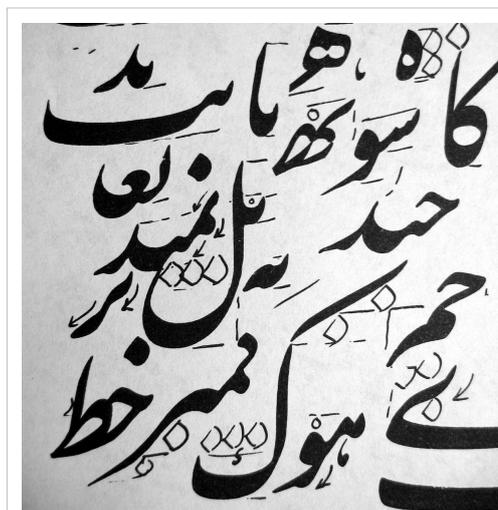
Use of occasional foreign synonyms instead of Persian words can be a common practice in everyday communications as an alternative expression. In some instances in addition to the Persian vocabulary, the equivalent synonyms from multiple foreign languages can be used. For example, in Iranian colloquial Persian (but not in Afghanistan or Tajikistan), the phrase "thank you" may be expressed using the French word *merci* (stressed however on the first syllable), the hybrid Persian-Arabic word *motešakkeram* (*motešakker* being merciful in Arabic and *-am* meaning *I am* in Persian), or by the pure Persian word *sepāsgozāram*.

Orthography

The vast majority of modern Iranian Persian and Dari text is written with the Arabic script. Tajik, which is considered by some linguists to be a Persian dialect influenced by Russian and the Turkic languages of Central Asia, is written with the Cyrillic script in Tajikistan (see Tajik alphabet).

Persian alphabet

Modern Iranian Persian and Afghan Persian are written using a modified variant of the Arabic alphabet (see Persian alphabet), which uses different pronunciation and additional letters not found in Arabic. Tajik Persian, as used in Tajikistan, is typically written in a modified version of the Cyrillic alphabet. There are also Persian Romanizations like Desphalic, Unipers and Finglish/Pinglish for writing Persian using Latin alphabet. After the conversion of Persia to Islam (see Islamic conquest of Iran), it took approximately 150 years before Persians adopted the Arabic script in place of the older alphabet. Previously, two different scripts were used, Pahlavi, used for Middle Persian, and the Avestan alphabet (in Persian, *Dīndapirak* or *Din Dabire*—literally: religion script), used for religious purposes, primarily for the Avestan language but sometimes for Middle Persian.



Example showing Nasta'liq's (Persian) proportion rules.^[11]

In modern Persian script, vowels that are referred to as short vowels (a, e, o) are usually not written; only the long vowels (â, i, u) are represented in the text, so words distinguished from each other only by short vowels are ambiguous in writing: *kerm* "worm", *karam* "generosity", *kerem* "cream", and *krom* "chrome" are all spelled "krm" in Persian. The reader must determine the word from context. The Arabic system of vocalization marks known as *harakat* is also used in Persian, although some of the symbols have different pronunciations.

For example, an Arabic *damma* is pronounced [ʊ~u], while in Iranian Persian it is pronounced [o]. This system is not used in mainstream Persian literature; it is primarily used for teaching and in some (but not all) dictionaries.

It is also worth noting that there are several letters generally only used in Arabic loanwords. These letters are pronounced the same as similar Persian letters. For example, there are four functionally identical 'z' letters (ز ذ ض ظ), three 's' letters (س ص ث), two 't' letters (ط ت), etc.

Additions

The Persian alphabet adds four letters to the Arabic alphabet:

| Sound | Isolated form | Name |
|-----------|---------------|------------|
| [p] | پ | <i>pe</i> |
| [tʃ] (ch) | چ | <i>če</i> |
| [ʒ] (zh) | ژ | <i>že</i> |
| [g] | گ | <i>gāf</i> |

(The *že* is pronounced with the same sound as the "s" in "measure" and "fusion", or the "z" in "azure".)

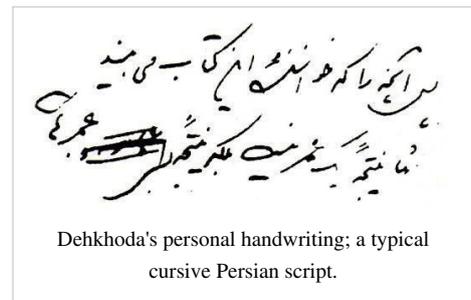
Variations

The Persian alphabet also modifies some letters from the Arabic alphabet. For example, *alef with hamza below* (اِ) changes to *alef* (ا); words using various hamzas get spelled with yet another kind of hamza (so that مسؤول becomes مسئول) even though the latter is also correct in Arabic; and *teh marbuta* (ة) changes to *heh* (ه) or *teh* (ت).

The letters different in shape are:

| Sound | original Arabic letter | modified Persian letter | name |
|-------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| /k/ | ك | ک | <i>kāf</i> |

Writing the letter in its original Arabic form is not typically considered to be incorrect,^[citation needed] but is not normally done.



Dehkhoda's personal handwriting; a typical cursive Persian script.

Latin alphabet

The International Organization for Standardization has published a standard for simplified transliteration of Persian into Latin, ISO 233-3, titled "Information and documentation – Transliteration of Arabic characters into Latin characters – Part 3: Persian language – Simplified transliteration" but the transliteration scheme is not in widespread use.

Another Latin alphabet, based on the Uniform Turkic alphabet, was used in Tajikistan in the 1920s and 1930s. The alphabet was phased out in favour of Cyrillic in the late 1930s.

Fingilish is the name given to texts written in Persian using ISO basic Latin alphabet. It is most commonly used in chat, emails and SMS applications. The orthography is not standardized, and varies among writers and even media (for example, typing 'aa' for the [ɒ] phoneme is easier on computer keyboards than on cellphone keyboards, resulting in smaller usage of the combination on cellphones).

UniPers, short for the *Universal Persian Alphabet* (Fârsiye Jahâni) is a Latin-based alphabet popularized by Mohamed Keyvan, who used it in a number of Persian textbooks for foreigners and travellers. The current official Iranian romanization system is virtually identical to UniPers, the only notable differences being that UniPers *â* and *c* are Iranian *ā* and *č*, respectively.^[52]

The International Persian Alphabet (*Pársik*) is another Latin-based alphabet developed in recent years mainly by A. Moslehi, a comparative linguist.^[53]

Persá is yet another Latin-based alphabet that has been recentlyWikipedia:Manual of Style/Dates and numbers#Chronological items developed using new characters to represent sounds unique to the Persian language.

Desphilic is also a romanization which uses ordinary Latin character set for romanization of Persian.

Tajik alphabet

The Cyrillic alphabet was introduced for writing the Tajik language under the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic in the late 1930s, replacing the Latin alphabet that had been used since the Bolshevik revolution and the Persian script that had been used earlier. After 1939, materials published in Persian in the Persian script were banned from the country.^[54]



Tajik advertisement for an academy.

Examples

Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Please note that the Tajik text is different from that of the Iranian Persian:

| Iranian Persian (Farsi) | UniPers | Ironik | IPA | Tajik Persian (Tajiki) | English Gloss |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| همهٔ افراد بشر آزاد به دنیا می‌آیند و حیثیت و حقوقشان با هم برابر است، همهٔ شان اندیشه و وجدان دارند و باید در برابر یکدیگر با روح برادری رفتار کنند. | Hameye afrâde bašar âzâd be donyâ miâyando heysiyato hoquqešan bâ ham barâbar ast, hame andiševo vejdân dêrândo bâyad dar barâbare yekdigar bâ ruhe barâdari raftâr konand. | hama-ye afrod-e bacar ozod be dunyo mi-oyand u haysiyat u huqwq-econ bo ham barobar ast, Hama-yecon andica u vejdon dorand u boyad dar barobar-e yakdigar bo rwh-e barodari raftor kunand | [hæmeje æfrɒd bæʃær ɒzɒd be donjɒ midjænd o hejsijæt o hoɢʊɡ ʃɒn bɒ hæm bæɾɒbær æst hæme ʃɒn ændiʃe o bɒdʒdɒn dɒrænd o bɒjæd dær bæɾɒbære jekdigær bɒ ruhe bæɾɒdæri ræftɒr konænd] | Тамоми одамон озод ба дунё меоянд ва аз лиҳози манзилату ҳуқуқ бо ҳам баробаранд. Ҳама соҳиби ақлу вичдонанд, бояд нисбат ба якдигар бародарвор муносабат намоянд. | All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. |

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Persian nouns

Persian nouns have no grammatical gender, and the case markers have been greatly reduced since Old Persian—both characteristics of contact languages. Persian nouns now mark with a postpositive only for the specific accusative case; the other oblique cases are marked by prepositions.

Noun derivation

Persian nouns can be formed by using a number of productive suffixes and affixes. This example shows some possible derivations from the word *dān*, present stem of the verb *dānestan*, "to know":

- *dān* + *-eš* → *dāneš*, "knowledge"
- *dāneš* + *-mand* → *dānešmand*, "scientist"
- *dāneš* + *-gāh* → *dānešgāh*, "university"

Possession

Possession is expressed by special markers: if the possessor appears in the sentence after the thing possessed, the *ezafe* may be used; otherwise, alternatively, a pronominal genitive enclitic is employed.

Genitive enclitics

| Person | Singular | Plural |
|--------|----------|--------|
| 1st | æm | emān |
| 2nd | æt | etān |
| 3rd | æš | ešān |

Ezafe

The اضافه (*ezafe*) (*ez*) construction denotes certain relationships between Persian words, among them: possession, qualification (adjective-noun), titles (Mr., Mrs.) and names (first and last names). It is similar, but not identical, to the Arabic *idaafa* (إضافة) construction.

Ezafe is indicated by the short vowel kasra (ِ *e*). Since short vowels are not normally written in Persian, it usually does not appear in text (exceptions are listed below), but it can be heard in spoken Persian. The following are some examples usages of the ezafe construction.

- Possession:

کتاب من - *ke'tab-e mæn*, literally "book-of me", means "my book"

- Qualification:

دختر زیبا *dox'tær-e zī'bā*, literally "girl beautiful" means "(the) beautiful girl"

- Multiple words can be connected through the ezafe construction, as in the following example of both possession and qualification:

دختر زیبای دوستم *dox'tær-e zī'bā-ye dūstæm*, literally "girl beautiful-of friend-my", means "my friend's beautiful daughter" (*doxtær* can mean either girl or daughter, depending on context)

Spelling exceptions: Ezafe, while pronounced in speech, is not usually written, but it does show up in writing in the following two cases involving words ending in vowels.

1. In the case of heh, the normal heh is replaced with a 'heh yeh' which is a heh with a small 'yeh' on top. Example:

house = خانه /xā'ne/

my friend's house = خانهٔ دوستم /xā'ne-ye dūstæm/

A spelling variant for this would be a normal *he* with a non-connected *ye* following. This spelling is rare and is also not according to the standard orthography of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature.

my friend's house = خانه دوستم ی /xā'ne-ye dūstæm/

- If a noun or adjective ends in alef (ا) and another noun or adjective is attached to it in an ezafe (ـِ) relationship, the letter yeh (ی) must be attached to the end of the word to carry the sound of the extra syllable. Example:

air/weather = هوا /hæ'vā/

"Tehran's weather" = هوای تهران /hæ'vā-ye tēh'rān/

NOTE: Ezafe can be written using the diacritic marker representing the short vowel zir, also known as *kasra*. That looks like this:

کتابِ من - my book (note the small slanted line below the left-most character in the rightmost word both here and in the next example; you may need to increase the font size to really be able to see it)

دخترِ زیبای دوستم - my friend's beautiful daughter

Pluralization

The most common and productive form of pluralization for Persian nouns is with the suffix *hā* (ها). This is typically used for non-human nouns. Another productive plural suffix is *ān* (ان), used for human nouns (with alternative forms *gān* (گان) after the short vowel *e* and *yān* (یان) after other vowels). Many nouns borrowed from Arabic feminine forms pluralize using the *āt* (ات) suffix. Nouns borrowed from Arabic human forms often pluralize using the *īn* (ین). The most challenging type of noun pluralization is for the class of what are termed Arabic broken plurals, which are formed through internal vowel alternation. These nouns pluralize in Persian like their counterparts in Arabic.

In colloquial Persian, the plural suffix *-hā* (pronounced *-ā* after consonants) can be used with virtually all nouns, even if they take an *ān*-plural or an Arabic plural in the written standard language. For example, one can say *mard-hā* (or *mard-ā*) instead of standard *mardān* ("men").

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