A Comparative Study on Syntactic Morphological Similarities and Differences between Korean and Persian Languages

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Abstract

This research aimed to compare Korean and Persian languages both in syntactic and morphological phases. Based on research questions, this research used qualitative approach to figure out and explore the specific detailed information about the topic. The present article seeks to briefly compare some of main similarities and differences of target languages. The researcher used previous studies and researches about each of Korean and Persian syntactic morphological features. In this qualitative case study a total of 22 researches and books were used to collect data about syntactic morphological features of Korean and Persian languages in this research. No research, to date, compared these linguistic elements of Korean and Persian. In general, there are some similarities and differences between syntax and morphology of these Asian languages. A comparative study on these structures is useful because it can help Iranian KFL learners to enhance the process of learning Korean language.

Keywords: Korean and Persian morphological typology, Korean and Persian syntactic typology, Linguistics, Korean language, Persian language

Introduction

Many linguists investigated morphological typology and classified languages according to various and common morphological structures. (Stump, & Finkel, 2013). Languages use a variety of morphological strategies to explain grammatical tense, possession and other aspects. In this level of comparison, they divide languages to two main types: synthetic (agglutinative, fusional) and analytic (Denham, & Lobeck, 2012). Syntactic typology is another phase that linguists worked on and they distinguished languages based on their preferred word order (Ravshanovna, & Abdulakhatovna, 2022).

Based on the above statement, this research compares morphological and syntactic structures to explain Korean and Persian languages differences and clarify main syntactic morphological aspects of these languages. According to Kim and Rezaeian, (2009), Korean and Persian languages are typologically similar. As an example, word order of these languages is the same and they both are SOV. In a more recent paper, Kim (2023) found morphological similarity between Korean and Persian.

This study was guided by two research questions:

1. How are morphological similarities and differences between Korean and Persian languages?

2. How are syntactic similarities and differences between Korean and Persian languages?

Methods

The design of present study was a qualitative case study. A case study is one of the most important used strategies of qualitative research. In case studies, researchers collect detailed information using a variety of data collection (Priya, 2021). The case study approach was used as the methodology of this research, relying on description and studies of syntactic morphological features of Korean and Persian languages. This research relies on previous evidence and case studies. Results and data are collected by analyzing and studying previous researches. Also researcher used Korean syntactic books (e.g. The syntactic structures of Korean A Construction Grammar Perspective Kim, 2016; Korean grammar in use: Beginning to early intermediate (Darakwon, 2010).

Results

Korean and Persian Similarities

Word Order Typology of Korean and Persian

Persian language is an SOV language (Kim, 2016; Faghiri, & Samvelian, 2020). In linguistic typology, a subject-verb-object (SOV) language is one in which the subject, object, and verb of a sentence always or usually appear in that order. According to (Kim et al., 2018) stated that Korean is an SOV language and word order in Korean follows SOV. As an example in table 1 we compare 'We study language' in Korean and Persian. Unlike English that is an SVO language, Korean and Persian both are SOV languages.

Table 1

Examples of SOV form in Korean and Persian with their English Meaning

SOV	Subject	Object	Verb
Korean	geudeul-eun	seonsaengnim-eul	mannabnida
Meaning	they	teacher	meet
Persian	ma	zaban	mikhanim
Meaning	We	Language	study
Korean	geunyeoneun	yeong-eoleul	joh-ahabnida.
Meaning	She	English	likes
Persian	Shoma	Ketab	kharidid
Meaning	You	book	bought

Korean and Persian Morphological Typology

Morphological Typology is made based on how the morphology of the language works and how are words formed in sentences (Ravshanovna & Abdulakhatovna, 2022). Korean language is agglutinative type of language. (Kim et al., 2021). According to (Denham, & Lobeck, 2012) An agglutinative language is kind of synthetic language and inflectional morphemes attach to roots to express syntactic relations. For example, the role of a word is determined by the root and affixes. Like Korean language, Persian is an agglutinative language. (Bijankhan et al., 2011; Mohseni, & Faili, 2020).

Korean and Persian Differences

Prepositions and Postpositions in Korean and Persian

In Persian language prepositions are common. (Mahmoodzadeh, 2012). According to Pantcheva (2006) prepositions in Persian are divided into two types. Class 1 prepositions (æz 'from/via', ta 'up to', bær 'on') and Class 2 prepositions (ru(-ye) 'on', zir(-e) 'under', posht-e 'behind'). Persian language has only the word "râ" as a postposition. (Jam, 2017). But in Korean language postpositions are very common. (Kim, & Lee, 2020). In table 2 there are various examples to compare Persian and Korean prepositions and postpositions. These examples illustrate how prepositions and postpositions are used in Persian and Korean.

Table 2
Examples of prepositions in Persian and Postpositions in Korean Language

Meaning	Korean Postposition	Persian Preposition
At school	haggyo**e**	**dær** madrese
Under bag	gabang**alae**	**zire** kif
Inside house	jib **an**	**dakhele** khaneh
On the car	cha **gaunde**	**roye** mashin
Behind the window	changmun **dwi**	**Poshte** panjare

Adjectives in Persian and Korean

In Persian language, adjectives come after the noun they modify (Sagot & Walther, 2010) The generative marker 'e' is used between adjectives and nouns in Persian language. Table 3 has examples of Adjectives in Persian.

Table 3

Syntactic Structure of Adjectives in Persian Language

Meaning	AP in Persian
Good book	Ketabe **xub**
Cold weather	Havaye **Sard**
Beautiful child	Bacheye **ziba**
Big house	Khaneye **bozorg**

Unlike Persian, in Korean, however "verbs and adjectives resemble one another in how they inflect and how they function in the sentence. In addition, there is no obvious structural difference between verbs and adjectives. In fact adjectives behave like verbs so much that Korean grammarians categorize adjectives as descriptive verbs." (Byon, 2020, p. 24). According to Choi 2019, in Korean language adjectives actually have the syntactic category of verbs. In Persian language adjectives do not change their shape but in Korean language adjectives change their shape and are conjugated like verbs. Table 4 has examples about how Korean adjectives change their shape in different tenses.

Table 4

Syntactic Structure of Adjectives in Korean Language

	Meaning in English	Adjective in Korean
Infinitive	To be big	keuda
Present Tense	It is big	keoyo
Past tense	It was big	keoss-eoyo
Future tense	It will be big	keul geoyeyo

Conclusion

This study was an attempt to compare syntactic morphological similarities and differences between Korean and Persian languages. The findings indicated that there are some similarities between these Asian languages like both are SOV and they are agglutinative types of languages. Also there are some differences between Korean and Persian languages. Syntactic structure of adjectives in these languages are very different. In Persian adjectives come after the nouns and modify them. In Korean language adjectives are descriptive verbs and they change their shape in sentences. Postpositions are very common in Korean but in Persian language prepositions are frequent and "râ" is the only postposition in Persian. Comparing linguistic aspects of Korean and Persian can be useful for students who study these languages. Penetrating Syntactic Morphological similarities and differences between Korean and Persian can be helpful for Iranian KFL learners to comprehend Korean language structures. More studies are thus needed to

compare these languages. Furthermore, this study compare syntactic morphological similarities and differences between these Asian languages. More research could be done to compare other aspects like sematic, phonology and phonetics of Korean and Persian.

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