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RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE LINGUISTIC ATLAS OF THE EAST OF GUILAN AND THE NATIONAL PROJECT OF THE DIALECTOLOGY OF IRAN

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Abstract

The significance of the research on Iranian dialects is clear for everyone. According to this goal, "The National Project of the Dialectology of Iran" has been started in 1999. Up to now in related to this project, 18 theses in Iranian universities, especially in Islamic Azad University Central Tehran Branch, has been fulfilled on the dialects of some provinces of Iran. This article is based on this project and it is about the dialects of the East of Guilan province. The purpose of this research is to find the similarities and differences of the dialect or accent in 20 villages in this region in terms of phonetic, grammatical and lexical analysis that will be carried out by questionnaire and finally provided as a linguistic atlas.

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Introduction:-

Identity and authenticity of every culture and nation are rooted in its language. In other words, native language of every nation is the authentic and valuable treasure of the antiquity and history of that nation. Therefore, every effort on preserving and saving this precious wealth is admirable and important. Iran is a land with many language diversities, dialects and accents; thus in the linguistic studies, the study of (New) Iranian dialects as a branch of the Old Iranian language, and Iranian languages as a branch of Indo-Iranian languages, is very important. Extinction of each language and its dialect and accent will lead to decline and extinction of a culture and civilization, that it would be irremediable. So put the individual and collective scientific efforts into the recording of the languages and dialects of different ethnic groups can pave the way for studying and doing a research on the humanities such as sociology, psychology, anthropology, etc. In this global effort, Persian language with thousands of years of history and richness can be a great contribution to protect the cultural and social history of the world. In this regard, preparing a linguistic atlas for each language and country is very important and useful in collecting different dialects of that country in a form of a linguistic encyclopedia. Providing the linguistic atlas of the East of Guilan is a scientific research in achieving the efforts of the great linguistics masters of our country - Dr. Yadollah Samareh and Dr. Iran Kalbassi - and other researchers who have taken steps in realization of "The National Project of the Dialectology of Iran". Other researchers in different majors and even non-Persian language researchers could use the result of that and it will be useful in promoting Persian language structure, the ancient human language, whether in education or making new words.

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Review of literature:-

The researchers of the dialects of the Southern coast of the Caspian Sea, including the Iranian and non-Iranian researchers will be cited briefly:

- ❖ Gmelin is the biological and ethnological scientist that we owe him for the first awareness of Guilaki dialect in the second half of the eighteenth century, published the book "Reise Durch Russland Zur Untersuchung Der Drey Naturreiche" in Saint Petersburg in 1775. He mentioned some Guilaki words in the third part of his book.
- ❖ Chodzko, Polish researcher, published the book "Specimens of Popular Poetry of Persia" in London in 1842 about the Northern parts of Iran and Guilaki dialect.
- ❖ Christensen, the professor of Persian Philology in the University of Copenhagen, a researcher who, in addition to his contribution on some Old Iranian languages, has many works in Iranian literature and culture also Iranian dialects. He wrote the description of the grammatical structure of Guilaki dialect based on Guilaki dialect of Rasht in the book "Dialecte Guilakî De Recht" that it was translated by Khomamizadeh in 1995.
- ❖ Geiger, German linguist, wrote an article entitled "Die Kaspischen Dialekte" in his book "Grundriss Der Iranischen Philologie" in 1896. He considered all the knowledge that scholars collected about the phonetics and grammatical structure of Guilaki dialect until the end of the nineteenth century.
- ❖ Schmit, the contemporary professor, presented a book entitled "Compendium Linguarum Iranicarum" in 1989, has edited and published an overview of past and present Iranian languages and it is the findings of many years' efforts of seventeen prominent scientists of linguistics. In the section of the Western Iranian dialects, the dialects of the coast of Caspian Sea in terms of phonetics, morphology, syntax and lexicon are carefully studied. Baghbidi has translated it into Persian in 2003.
- ❖ Sotoudeh is one of the Iranian researchers who by publishing articles and books as "Guilaki Dictionary" in 1953 had a great contribution in identifying the dialects of this region.
- ❖ Payandeh Langaroudi has published the book entitled "A Dictionary of Guilaki and Deilami Proverbs and Idioms" which is the part of the folklore of the region in 1968. In addition, he wrote the book "A Dictionary of Guilaki and Deilami" that is a set of words and phrases from all regions of Guilan in 1987 and the book "The Religions and Beliefs of Guilaki and Deilami" in 1998.
- ❖ Sartippour has published the book entitled "Grammatical Characteristics and A Dictionary of Guilaki Terms" in 1990, that analyses the phonetics, phonology and morphology of Guilaki in Rasht.
- ❖ Kalbassi is one of the researchers that has done many researches on the subject that some of her researches are the books entitled "The Dialect of Kalardasht (Roudbarak)" in 1997 and "A Descriptive Dictionary of Linguistic Varieties in Iran" in 2009.
- ❖ Bakhshzad Mahmoodi in 2011 in the book "Guilaki Grammar" has explained in detail, the morphology, syntax and punctuation of Guilaki simply.

In addition, the various theses have done in this field are as follows:

Shokouhi, 1999, "The Verb Phrase Structure in the Dialect of Guilaki in Langaroud". Abdollahzadeh, 2003, "The Phonetic and Dialect System in Astaneh Ashrafieh". Azari Hamidian, 2003, "The National Project of the Dialectology of Iran, No. 2 (40 Villages in Mazandaran and Guilan)". Abdollah Tabar Ghasemabadi, 2011, "The National Project of the Dialectology of Iran, No. 7 (30 Villages in the East of Guilan)".

Moreover, some articles related to this study are as follows:

Basirat and Famian, 2011, "Towards Mapping out A Guilaki Dialect Atlas". Mir Hashemi Jorshari, 2012, "The Verbal Prefix /bv-/ in the Simple Past Tense of Guilaki from Creation to Declension". Shabani, 2014, "The Description and Analysis of the Discontinuous Focus in Guilaki Language (Eshkevarat Dialect)".

Purpose of the Study:-

The presence of Guilak nation and the dialects of Guilan, whether in the East or in the West, cause the area to be linguistically important for the numbers of speakers and the variety of different dialects and accents in a similar geographical situation. Providing the linguistic atlas that shows and presents various dialects of this region, can be an important step for facilitating social, historical, indigenous and cultural studies. Moreover, it is possible for linguists and who are interested in the culture to have access to a comprehensive source on the study of a dialect with various accents, which are different in phonetics, morphology, syntax and lexicon with the standard Persian.

Methodology:-

This study was the library and field study, and the data collection was based on a questionnaire consisting of 100 words, by sampling of 20 villages in the East of Guilan province from Astaneh Ashrafieh to the end of the Eastern

region of Guilan, Chaboksar. The data collected from each village analyses in descriptive–analytic method and the findings added to the table, which is related to each word.

After comparing the differences and similarities in phonetics, morphology, syntax and lexicon of each word with the standard Persian, the result was marked with signs on the map of the region. Finally, the linguistic atlas has been prepared.

To achieve the authentic accents, the middle-aged speakers who spent most of their life in that region have participated in the research, and villages with more phonetic differences in accent have been considered.

Language points analysis:-

The findings of this study are divided into phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical data. Some examples provided in each section.

Phonetic analysis on vowels are as follows: 1. Vowel replacement; 2. Vowel elision; 3. Vowel insertion; 4. Vowel length; 5. Vowel elision and vowel length simultaneously with consonant elision.

Vowel replacement :-

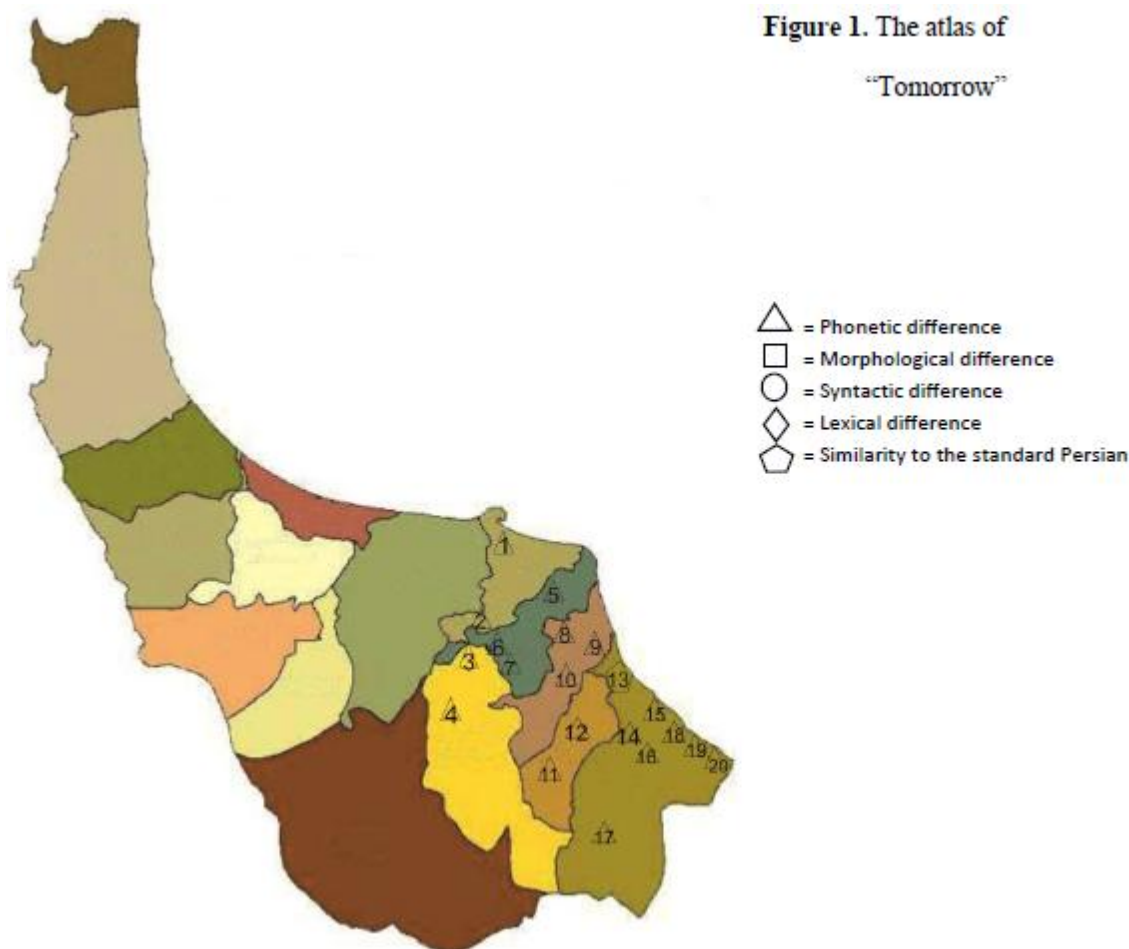
Sometimes the vowel [ə] in Guilaki is the equivalent to the vowel [â] in the standard Persian:

fardə

“Tomorrow”

fardâ

Figure 1. The atlas of
“Tomorrow”



Vowel length:-

baro:n

“Rain”

bârân

Figure 2. The atlas of

“Rain”



- △ = Phonetic difference
- = Morphological difference
- = Syntactic difference
- ◇ = Lexical difference
- ◡ = Similarity to the standard Persian

Phonetic analysis on consonants are as follows: 1. Consonant replacement; 2. Consonant elision; 3. Consonant insertion.

Consonant replacement:-

Sometimes the consonant [v] in Gilaki is the equivalent to the consonant [b] in the standard Persian:

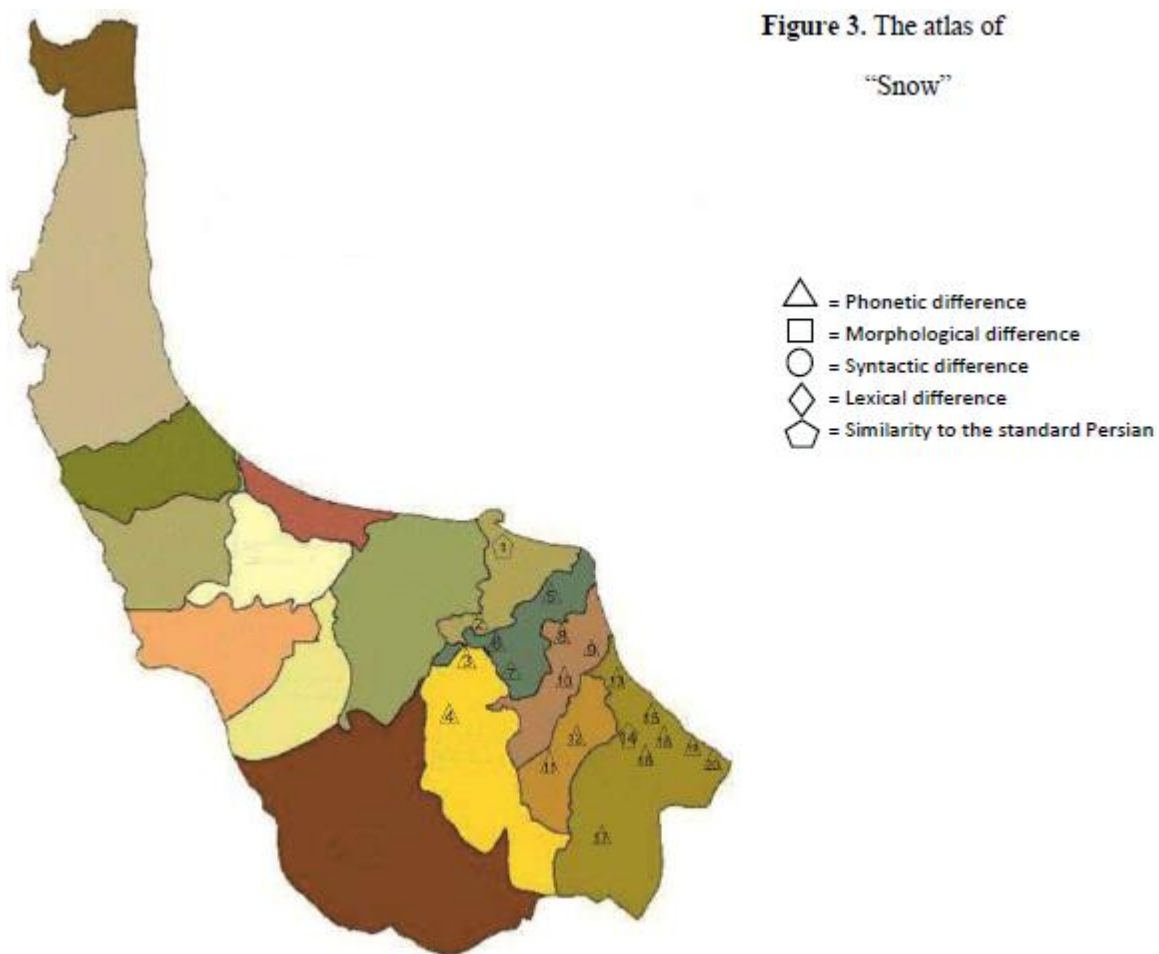
varf

“Snow”

barf

Figure 3. The atlas of

“Snow”



Consonant elision:-

Sometimes the consonant [h]in Guilaki will be deleted at the end of the word:

ku

“Mountain”

kuh



Figure 4. The atlas of
“Mountain”

- △ = Phonetic difference
- = Morphological difference
- = Syntactic difference
- ◇ = Lexical difference
- ◡ = Similarity to the standard Persian

Morphological study areas follows: 1. The plural sign; 2. The deletion of genitive sign; 3. The progressive sign with the intransitive verb; 4. The progressive sign with the transitive verb; 5. The independent subject pronouns; 6. The dependent subject pronouns with the intransitive verb; 7. The dependent subject pronouns with the transitive verb; 8. The verbal prefix in the simple past tense with the intransitive verb; 9. The verbal prefix in the simple past tense with the transitive verb.

The plural sign:-

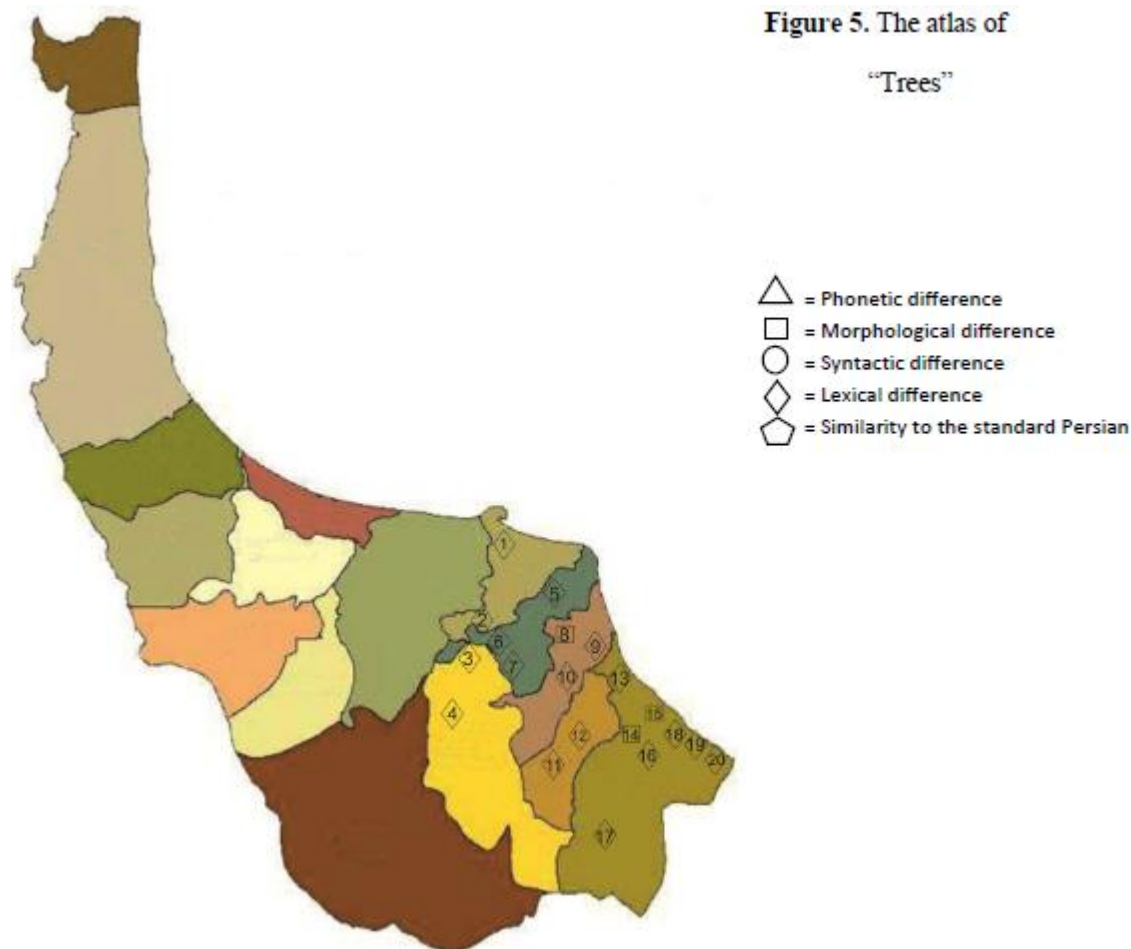
Sometimes the plural suffix [an] in Gilaki is the equivalent to [hâ] in the standard Persian:

dâran

“Trees”

deraxthâ

Figure 5. The atlas of
“Trees”



The independent subject pronouns:-

amo / amə / amu / âmu / mâ

“We”

mâ

**Figure 6. The atlas of**

“We”

- △ = Phonetic difference
- = Morphological difference
- = Syntactic difference
- ◇ = Lexical difference
- ◡ = Similarity to the standard Persian

The verbal prefix in the simple past tense with the intransitive verb:-baništim / beništim / bəništim

“We sat down”

nešastim



Figure 7. The atlas of
“We sat down”

- △ = Phonetic difference
- = Morphological difference
- = Syntactic difference
- ◇ = Lexical difference
- ◡ = Similarity to the standard Persian

Syntactic study areas follows: 1. The order of the demonstrative adjective and noun; 2. The order of the number and noun; 3. The order of the adjective and noun; 4. The order of the pronoun and noun; 5. The order of the preposition and noun; 6. The order of the genitive and noun; 7. The indefinite sign; 8. The definite sign.

The order of the adjective and noun:-

The adjective and noun is often reversed in Gilaki and the genitive sign is [ø].

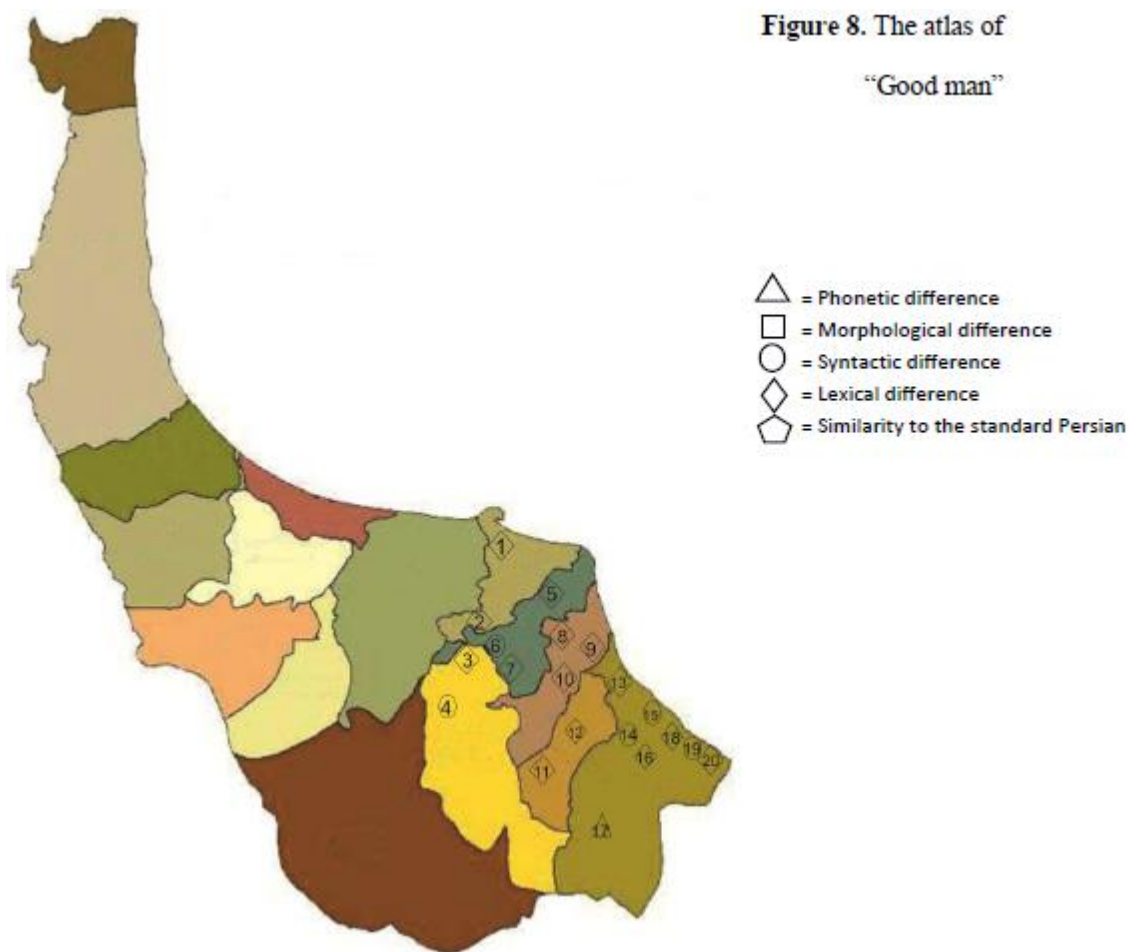
xubmarduna

“Good man”

mardexub

Figure 8. The atlas of

“Good man”



The order of the pronoun and noun:-

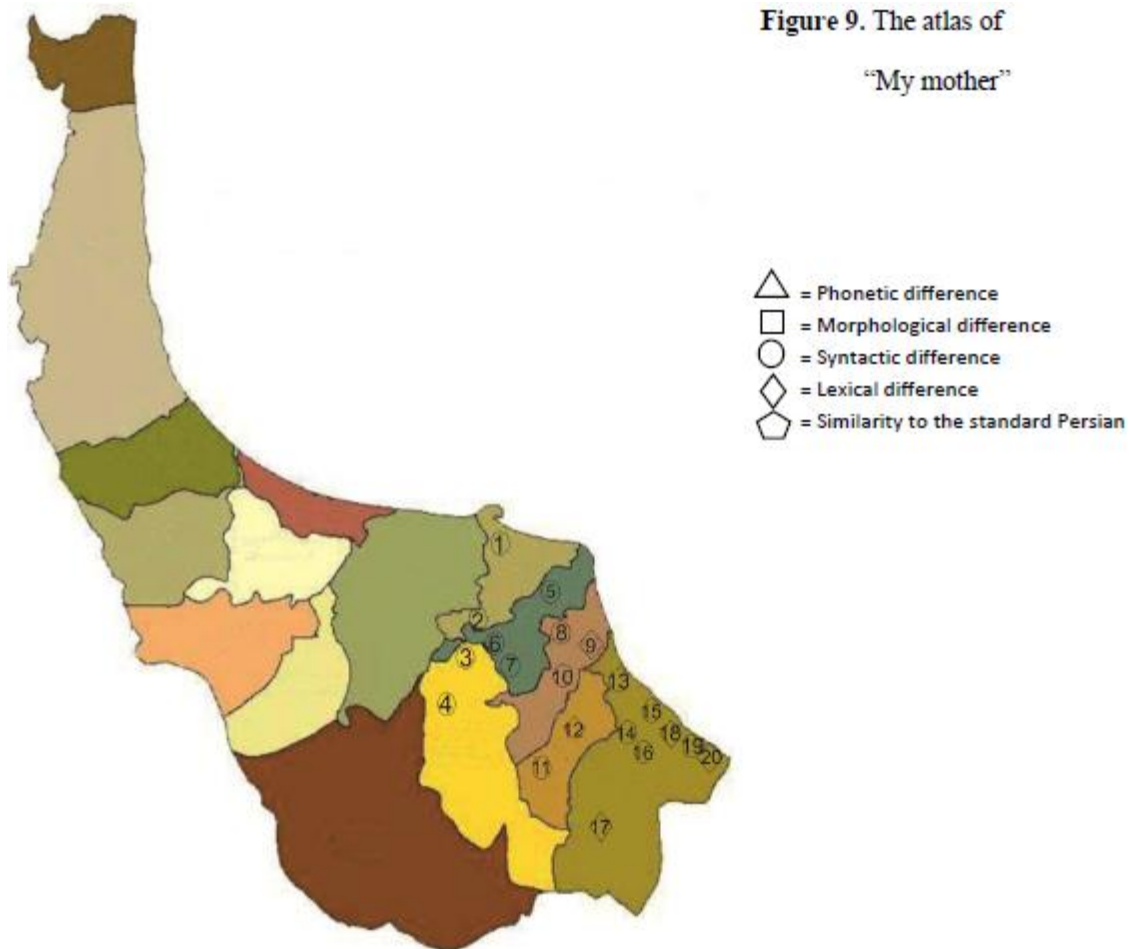
The pronoun comes before the noun in Gilaki and the genitive sign is [ø].

mima:r

“My mother”

mâdareman

Figure 9. The atlas of
“My mother”

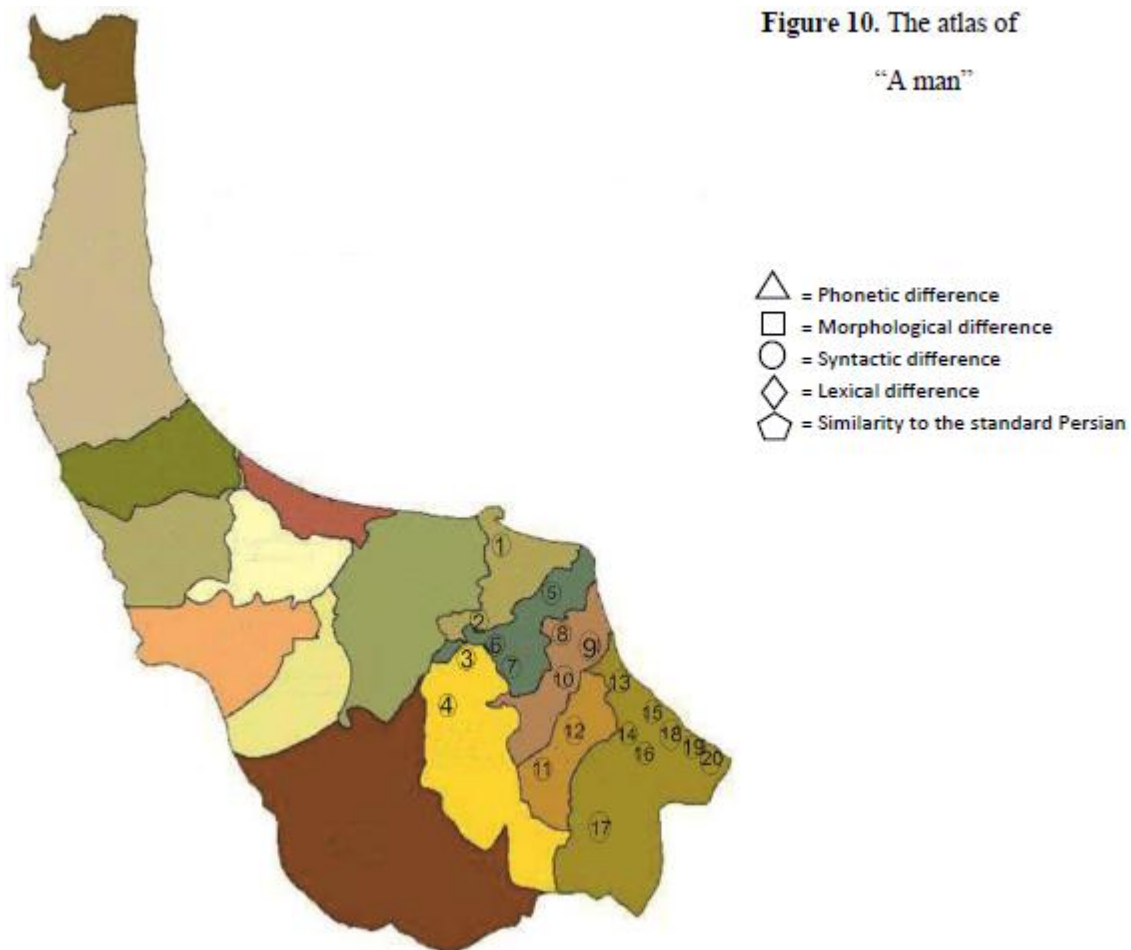


The indefinite sign:-yektamarday/ yəktəmərdəy/ yemardj

“A man”

yekmardj**Figure 10. The atlas of**

“A man”



The definite sign:-uzənkə /u zənəkə /u zənaka/u zənəkay

“That woman”

ânzan

**Figure 11.** The atlas of

“That woman”

- △ = Phonetic difference
- = Morphological difference
- = Syntactic difference
- ◇ = Lexical difference
- ◡ = Similarity to the standard Persian

Lexical analysis:-

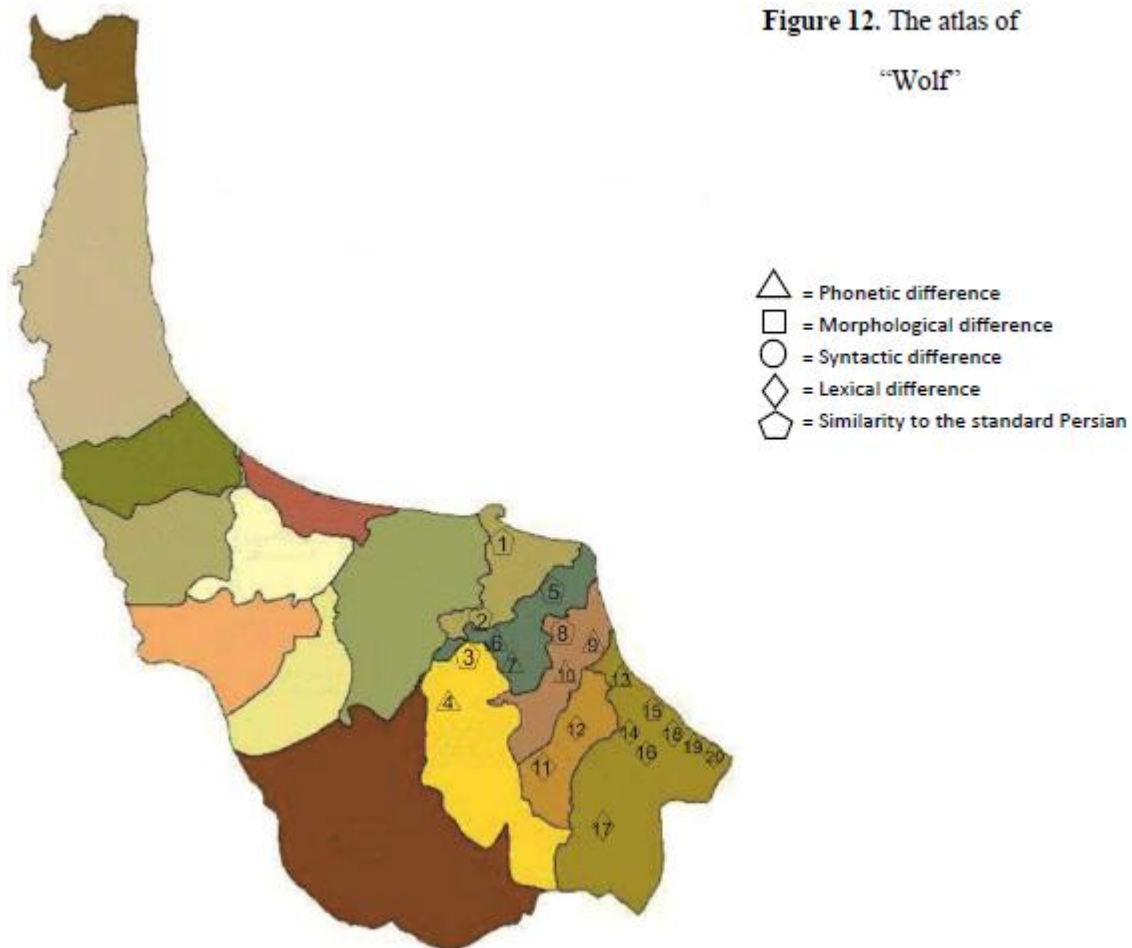
l. vørg/ jønəvər(g)

“Wolf”

gorg

Figure 12. The atlas of

“Wolf”



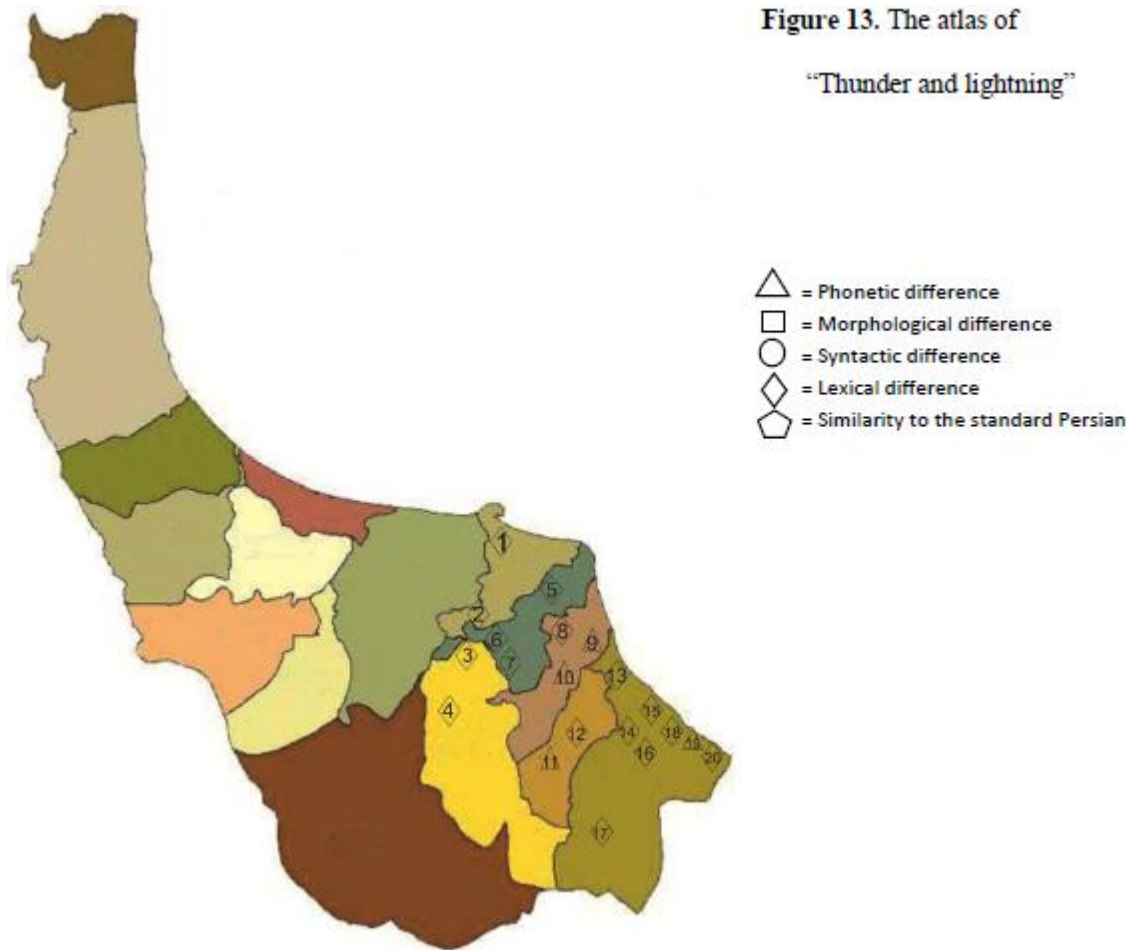
2.asəmongortak/ âsəmənkāt

“Thunder and lightning”

raʔdobarq

Figure 13. The atlas of

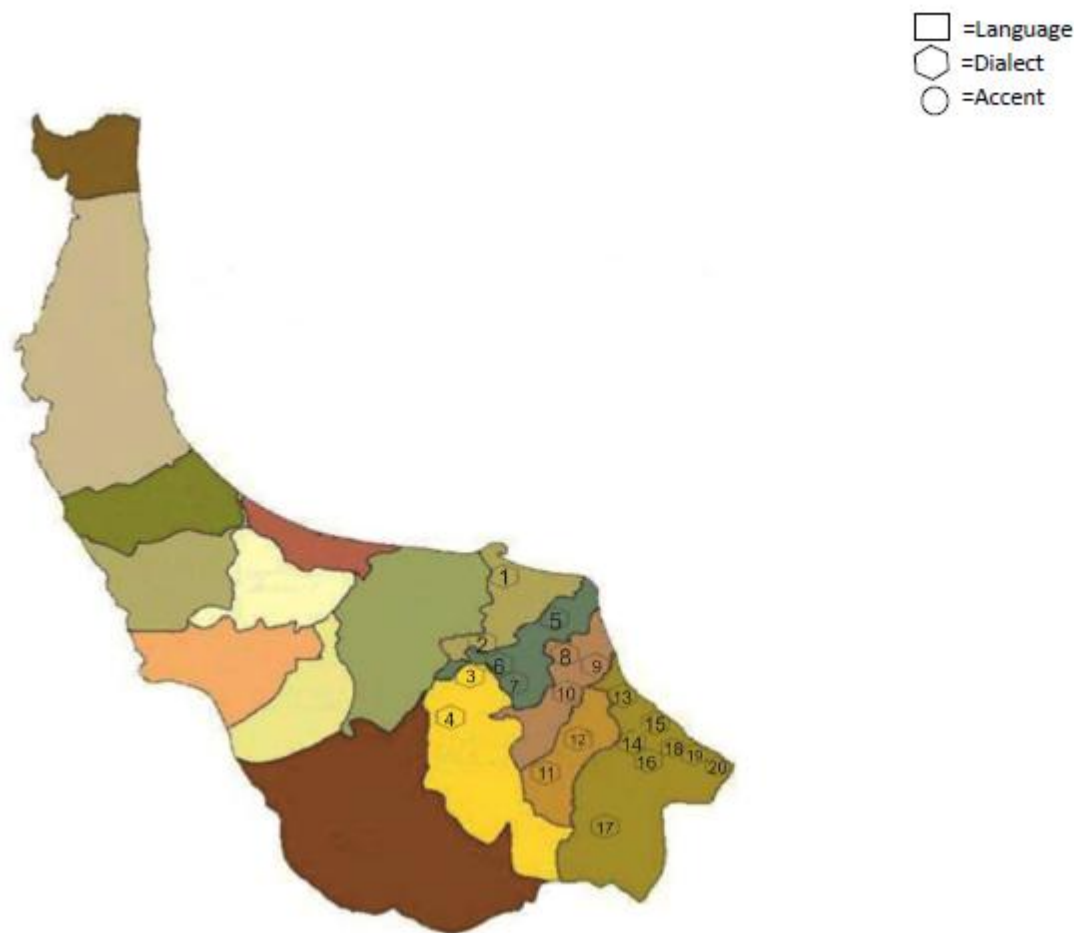
“Thunder and lightning”



Conclusion:-

By analyzing the data in descriptive-analytic method and applying the findings with the map of the region, we identified the phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical differences of the language varieties in the villages of the East of Guilan compared to the standard Persian. Therefore, due to the current study, we can provide the linguistic atlas of the East of Guilan province. We can conclude that the language varieties studied in 20 villages in the East of Guilan province are different accents of one dialect called Guilaki dialect which have phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical differences with the standard Persian.

Figure 14. The final linguistic atlas of the studied region



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