

The Verb System of Samarkand Tajik

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to give a brief summary of my thesis. In my thesis, I present an overview of the verb system of Samarkand Tajik (abbreviated as ST), a dialect of the Tajik language spoken in the Samarkand region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is clear that this dialect has been influenced by the Uzbek language due to language contact in the span of centuries.

As a result of this study, some general features of ST have been determined. These can be summarized in two parts: the development of synthetic constructions, and the resemblance with Uzbek due to language contact. The development of synthetic constructions can be seen in the grammaticalization (affixization) of the literary past participial form *istoda* to suffix *-sa* to express the progressive aspect and the literary perfect form *budan* turning into the suffix *-ud*.

The features that have developed due to language contact with Uzbek are the extensive usage of auxiliary verb constructions, modal constructions, and the supplementary usage of two past participles. The usage of participial possessive and the progressive form of the verb *omadan* ‘to come’ to express volition is also a feature that can be attributed to the influence from Uzbek.

This study is based on the data recorded in the Taylak district of Samarkand region. The data was transcribed¹ by the author². It is noted that the transcription of recordings, English translation and glossing of the examples were made by the author unless specified otherwise.

2. Previous Research

Two grammars have mainly been used as a reference in this paper: Perry (2005) and Ido (2005). An explanation on features of these is given below.

Perry (2005) is a comprehensive grammar of Tajik. Consisting of 521 pages, it gives thorough description of Tajik grammatical structures. Almost all of the example sentences given in this work are presented in Persio-Arabic script as well as Cyrillic. Perry (2005: XV) states that “this work aims to provide a quick, easy, and comprehensive access to grammatical structures of Tajik Persian of Central Asia, as used in writing and educated speech”. While the immense influence of Uzbek and common Turkic on Tajik is recognized in Perry (2005), the degree to which it has impacted is not specified. In addition, although Perry (2005) states that the Northern dialects have been influenced

¹ The vowels /i/, /e/, /a/, /o/, /û/ and /u/ are transcribed as *i*, *e*, *a*, *o*, *û* and *u* respectively. For the following consonants, /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /q/, /m/, /n/, /r/, /f/, /v/, /s/, /z/, /h/, /l/, the spelling is generally the same as the IPA symbol. The following consonants will have a special spelling: /g/: *g*, /ʃ/: *š*, /dʒ/: *j*, /tʃ/: *č*, /j/: *y*, /x/: *x*, /ʁ/: *ǰ*

² The author is a female speaker of Samarkand Tajik, born in Taylak district of Samarkand region in 1997.

by Uzbek, the presence or absence of the difference in the specific influences between dialects and Literary Tajik (LT) is not clarified. In other words, it is not clear which features of Northern dialects have been more influenced by Uzbek than in Literary Tajik.

Ido (2005) is an easy-read comprehensive grammar of Tajik. Consisting of 99 pages, it can be considered as an introductory grammar of Tajik. This work clearly states that the verb paradigms of Literary Tajik and dialects (especially Northern dialects) are radically different (Ido 2005: 66). Also, Ido (2005) gives examples of dialects, and sometimes makes a difference between colloquial forms and forms that are only seen in literary usage. However, as it is stated in Ido (2005: 66), since this is not a dialectological study, detailed description of the verb systems of Northern dialects, and other dialects is not given.

Other studies on Tajik Grammar and Dialectology including Rastorgueva (1952, 1964), Rastorgueva and Kerimova (1954), Kerimova (1959, 1997), Xalilov (1977) were also referred in my thesis.

3. Data used

Primary spoken data: This is the main data for this study. This data consists of about 4 hours of spoken ST which was recorded in the Taylak district of Samarkand. Taylak is a district in Samarkand region with the total area being 0.28 thousand km². Distance to Samarkand city center is about 10 km.

My main language consultants are HK (female, year of birth: 1949), NS (male, year of birth: 1956), FF (male, year of birth 1969), DS (female, year of birth: 1971), NF (male, year of birth: 2002). All of the consultants were born in and spent their language formative period in the Taylak district. The example sentences used in this paper are extracted from this data unless specified otherwise.

Journal of the Institute of Language Research No. 28: This is a journal published by the Institute of Language Research in Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. According to Kazama (2022: 105), the “Special Issue” series of this journal began in 2009, and until 2018, 10 themes have been covered in this series. From 2019, the goal has been to add data of new languages that had not been covered in the previous special issues. In the 28th issue of the journal, the data for ST is created by present author. Research example sentences of ST from this journal are used in this paper. These sentences are specified on the right corner of the sentence, with the mark “JILR” and the number of the sentence in the section of the journal.

Lastly, if examples needed are not found both in primary spoken data and the JILR, they will be created by the author, who is a native speaker of ST. These will be marked as “Created by the author”.

4. Verb morphology

Verbs are inflected for tense, aspect, mood, number, and person. The formation method for verb forms is as follows: (NEG)-(IMPF)-verb.stem-(CAUS)-(PROG)-(PST)-person=(MOD). The structures in the squares are integral parts of the verb forms, while those in brackets can be combined freely. Note that the imperfective and progressive markers do not cooccur.

4.1. Verbal stems

Every verb has two stems: **the present stem**, and **the past stem**. The past stems of Tajik verbs always end in *-t* (after unvoiced consonants) and *-d* (after vowels and voiced consonants). According to Ido (2005: 43), the present stem, although with a certain degree of regularity, is not as systematic as the past stem because it has derived from the complex verbal morphology that existed in the history of Iranian languages. In ST, although the stem formation is generally the same to that of LT, there are some differences caused in two ways: phonetically and morphologically. These differences are discussed in detail in my thesis.

4.2. Pre-stem elements

The possible slots of pre-stem elements, which include **imperfective marker *me-*** and **negation marker *na-*** is as follows: *na-me-don-am* [NEG-IMPF-know(PRS)-1SG] ‘I don’t know’. In ST, the imperfective marker has 4 allomorphs: *mi-*, *mu-*, *mû-*, and *me-*. These allomorphs appear due to regressive assimilation: *mi-gir-am* [IMPF-take(PRS)-1SG] ‘I take, I will take’, *mu-kun-am* [IMPF-do(PRS)-1SG] ‘I do, I will do’, *mû-xûr-am* [IMPF-eat(PRS)-1SG] ‘I eat, I will eat’. Prefix *bi-*, which is a literary imperative marker, is not used in Samarkand Tajik.

4.3. Person marking and ‘be’

Tajik utilizes subject-verb agreement morphology where personal markers are used to mark the subject’s person and number (Ido 2005: 45). Personal markers of ST are as follows: 1SG *-am*, 2SG *-i/-et*, 3SG *-at/-Ø/-s*, 1PL *-em*, 2PL *-eton*, 3PL *-an*.

In ST, when a present stem ends in a vowel sound, the *a* in 1SG, 3SG, and 3PL drops (e.g., *mu-kušo-m* [IMPF-open(PRS)-1SG] ‘I open, I will open’). In 2SG, 1PL, and 2PL, a *y* is added between the vowel and the suffix (e.g., *mu-kušo-yem* [IMPF-open(PRS)-1PL] ‘we open, we will open’).

The second person singular marker *-et* is used for honorific expression. Among the third person singular markers, *-at* is used for the present stem, *-Ø* is used for the past stem, and *-s* is attached to the participial forms (e.g., *kad-a-s* [do(PST)-PTCPI-3SG] ‘(it seems that) he has done’). The literary copula *ast* and its inflectional forms are not used in nominal predicate sentences in Samarkand Tajik (e.g., LT: *û xursand ast* [s/he joyful COP.3SG] ‘s/he is joyful’; ST: *vay xursand* [s/he joyful] ‘s/he is joyful’).

There are two existential verbs in ST: ***hast*** (negative *nest*) and ***budan***. *hast* is used only in the present tense (e.g., *sinf-ba ki hast?* [class-DAT/LOC who exist] ‘Who is in the classroom?’). *budan* has a present stem *boš-* and a past stem *bud-*. The past stem is used to express existence of someone or something in the past (e.g., *Muhammad Zoiršoh poššo bud* [PN padishah be(PST)] ‘Muhammad Zoirshoh was the padishah.’). However, the present stem is not used to express existence.

4.4. Non-finite verb forms

The non-finite forms in ST are made of one infinitive form and five participial forms. The verb *kadan* ‘to do’ is used as an example in the table.

Table 1: The non-finite verb forms of ST

Infinitive		<i>kad-an</i>
Participles	Past I	<i>kad-a</i>
	Past II	<i>kad-agi</i>
	Present-Future	<i>me-kad-agi</i>
	Progressive	<i>kaysagi</i>
	Future	<i>kad-ani</i>

Infinitive [past stem + *-an*] has the properties of a noun. Therefore, it can take the plural marker (e.g., *xond-an-o nağz mi?* [read(PST)-INF-PL good Q] ‘How are your studies?’), accusative/genitive marker *-(y)a*, the dative/locative marker *-ba*, and the possessive

marker as well. It is often used in sentences expressing a necessity with the word *darkor* ‘necessary’ or general possibility with the word *mumkin* ‘possible’, as well as prohibition with its negative form.

Past participles I [past stem + *-a*] **and II** [past stem + *-agi*] are in complementary distribution in ST. Past participle I is seen only in adverbial usage (1). It is mainly used as the main verb in auxiliary verb constructions (4.7). Past participle II is used mainly in adjectival usage as a predicate or as a modifier for nouns (2).

- (1) *bozi ka šišt-agi. In binni vay-a gazid-a kit-agi*
 play do(PST).PTCPI sit(PST)-PTCPII this nose.IZ that-ACC/GEN bite(PST)-PTCPI take(PST)-PTCPII
 ‘They were playing. He bit his (the other person’s) nose (to his own benefit).’

- (2) *mohon Šibirğon-ba šišt-agi.*
 1PL PN-DAT/LOC sit(PST)-PTCPII
 ‘We lived in Shibirghon (a city in Afghanistan).’

The present-future participle [*me-* + past stem + *-agi*] represents a stative perfect (3). It often bears a modal nuance of potential or obligation. It can also refer to the near future. Unlike past participle II, present-future participle does not have a predicative usage.

- (3) *unja joy-i me-raft-agi nest.*
 there place-IZ IMPF-go(PST)-PTCPII exist.NEG
 ‘There is no place to go.’

The progressive participle [past stem + *-sagi*] is often used to express that the action that has been in progress at the time when the action in the main clause happened (4). Similarly to the present-future participle, the progressive participle does not have a predicative usage.

- (4) *tu zix šuysagi barin*
 2SG bored become.PROG.PTCPII like
 ‘You look like you are bored.’ JILR [227] (24)

The future participle [past stem + *-ani*] is used to express the intention or volition of the speaker

(5). In ST, this form can be seen only in predicative usage.

- (5) *yoki raft-ani.* *yoki yagonjo* *raft-ani*
 or go(PST)-PTCP.FUT or somewhere go(PST)-PTCP.FUT
 ‘(Yes) or he is planning to. Or he is planning to go somewhere.’

4.5. Finite verb forms

Finite verb forms of ST are characterized by having more synthetic constructions in the forms which are analytical in LT (LT: *raft-a istod-a bud-am* [go(PST)-PTCPI stand(PST)-PTCPI be(PST)-1SG] ‘I was going’); ST: *rafsud-am* [go(PST).PROG.PST-1SG] ‘I was going’). The table below is a paradigm of finite verb forms in Samarkand Tajik. It is divided into the next mood forms: indicative, inferential, speculative, imperative and conditional. The naming of forms are borrowed from Ido (2005), with slight changes made by me. The verb *kadan* ‘to do’ is used as an example in the table.

Table 2: The finite verb forms of ST

		1SG	2SG; 2SG.HON	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Indicative	Past	<i>kadam</i>	<i>kad-i;</i> <i>kad-et</i>	<i>kad</i>	<i>kad-em</i>	<i>kad-eton</i>	<i>kad-an</i>
	Past imperfective	<i>me-kad-am</i>	<i>me-kad-i;</i> <i>me-kad-et</i>	<i>me-kad</i>	<i>me-kad-em</i>	<i>me-kad-eton</i>	<i>me-kad-an</i>
	Past perfect	<i>kad-ud-am</i>	<i>kad-ud-i;</i> <i>kad-ud-et</i>	<i>kad-ud</i>	<i>kad-ud-em</i>	<i>kad-ud-eton</i>	<i>kad-ud-an</i>
	Past perfect imperfective	<i>me-kad-ud-am</i>	<i>me-kad-ud-i;</i> <i>me-kad-ud-et</i>	<i>me-kad-ud</i>	<i>me-kad-ud-em</i>	<i>me-kad-ud-eton</i>	<i>me-kad-ud-an</i>
	Past progressive	<i>kaysud-am</i>	<i>kaysud-i;</i> <i>kaysud-et</i>	<i>kaysud</i>	<i>kaysud-em</i>	<i>kaysud-eton</i>	<i>kaysud-an</i>
	Present progressive	<i>kaysem</i>	<i>kaysi;</i> <i>kayset</i>	<i>kaysas</i>	<i>Kaysem</i>	<i>kayseton</i>	<i>kaysen</i>
	Present imperfective	<i>mu-kun-am</i>	<i>mu-kun-i;</i> <i>mu-kun-et</i>	<i>mu-kun-ad</i>	<i>mu-kun-em</i>	<i>mu-kun-eton</i>	<i>mu-kun-an</i>
Inferential	Past	<i>kad-em</i>	<i>kad-i;</i> <i>kad-et</i>	<i>kad-a-s</i>	<i>kad-em</i>	<i>kad-eton</i>	<i>kad-en</i>
	Past imperfective	<i>me-kadem</i>	<i>me-kadi;</i> <i>me-kadet</i>	<i>me-kad-a-s</i>	<i>me-kad-em</i>	<i>me-kad-eton</i>	<i>me-kad-en</i>
	Past perfect	<i>kadudem</i>	<i>kad-ud-i;</i> <i>kad-ud-et</i>	<i>kad-ud-as</i>	<i>kad-ud-em</i>	<i>kad-ud-eton</i>	<i>kad-ud-en</i>
	Past progressive	<i>kaysudem</i>	<i>kaysud-i;</i> <i>kaysud-et</i>	<i>kaysud-as</i>	<i>kaysud-em</i>	<i>kaysud-eton</i>	<i>kaysud-en</i>
Speculative	Past	<i>kad-agem</i>	<i>kad-aget;</i> <i>kad-ageton</i>	<i>kad-agi-s</i>	<i>kad-agemon</i>	<i>kad-ageton</i>	<i>kad-agen</i>
	Present imperfective	<i>me-kad-agem</i>	<i>me-kad-aget;</i> <i>me-kad-ageton</i>	<i>me-kad-agi-s</i>	<i>me-kad-agemon</i>	<i>me-kad-ageton</i>	<i>me-kad-agen</i>
	Present progressive	<i>kaysagem</i>	<i>kaysaget;</i> <i>kaysageton</i>	<i>kaysagi-s</i>	<i>Kaysagemon</i>	<i>kaysageton</i>	<i>kaysagen</i>
Imperative	<i>kun-am</i>	<i>kun;</i> <i>kun-ed</i>	<i>kun-ad</i>	<i>kun-em</i>	<i>kun-eton</i>	<i>kun-an</i>	
Conditional	<i>kun-am</i>	<i>kun-i;</i> <i>kun-ed</i>	<i>kun-ad</i>	<i>kun-em</i>	<i>kun-eton</i>	<i>kun-an</i>	

Indicative past form expresses a completed action in the past (6). **Indicative past imperfective form** expresses habitual patterns in the past and occurrences which took place for a long period of time (7). **Indicative past perfect form** refers to an action or state in past already completed by a

certain time in the past (8). **Indicative past perfect imperfective form** is used in complex sentences, when the reference time is in past, to designate that an action had been going on at that time or was repeated habitually (9). **Indicative past progressive form** expresses an action in progress at the reference time (10). **Indicative present progressive form** expresses the progressive aspect of action verbs (11). **Indicative present imperfective form** expresses the non-past, therefore it can denote unchanging situation, general truths, action occurring in the future, a habitual action (12).

(6) *hamtu bovo-t-ba nyo kad-am ki, imoh kad-an*
 like.this grandfather-2SG.POSS-DAT/LOC look do(PST)-1SG REL sign do(PST)-3PL
 ‘Your grandfather gave me a sign once I looked at him.’

(7) *raft-a tamošo me-kad-em, mi-šišť-em*
 go-PTCPI look IMPF-do(PST)-1PL IMPF-sit(PST)-1PL
 ‘We used to watch (it) and sit (there).’

(8) *hamunkas-a na-bin-em guft-ud-em, na-did-em*
 that person-ACC/GEN NEG-see(PRS)-1PL say(PST)-PST-1PL NEG-see(PST)-1PL
 ‘We didn’t want to see him, and luckily we didn’t see him.’

(9) *ayni Islom-ba rav-em agar yak-ta čoynik čoy dam me-kad-ud*
 one’s PN-DAT/LOC go(PRS)-1PL if one-CLF teapot tea brew IMPF-do(PST)-PST
 ‘Whenever we went to Islom’s house, he used to make tea for us.’

(10) *vay omad-ageš-ba man avqot xũrsud-am*
 that come(PST)-PTCPII.3SG.POSS-DAT/LOC 1SG food eat.PROG.PST-1SG
 ‘I was eating food when he came back.’ JILR [254] (26)

(11) *hozir Farhod peš-i Širin-ba rafsa-s*
 now PN front-IZ PN-DAT/LOC go.PROG-3SG
 ‘Now, Farhod is going to Shirin’s place.’ JILR [11] (11)

(12) *mũl gard-am počem dar mu-kun-ad*
 many walk(PRS)-1SG leg.1SG.POSS hurt IMPF-do(PRS)-3SG
 ‘If (when) I walk a long distance, my feet hurt.’

The inferential mood forms express that the speaker does not have first-hand information on a statement. **Inferential past form** expresses information that was gained by the speaker in the past through hearsay or indirect evidence (13). **Inferential past imperfective form** expresses an

information that was obtained in the past but will take place in the future or is a habitual action taking place in the present (14). **Inferential past perfect form** expresses that the information was obtained in past, and that the action took place prior to reference time (15). **Inferential past progressive form** expresses an information obtained in the past but the action is in progress in the present (16).

(13) *forsi gap-o mûl bud-a-s*

Persian word-PL many be(PST)-PTCPI-3SG

‘(It seems that) there are many Persian words.’

(14) *Qobil-a pisar-aš kor me-kad-a-s hamja*

PN-ACC/GEN son-3SG.POSS work IMPF-do(PST)-PTCPI-3SG there

‘(I found out that) Qobil’s son works there.’

(15) *Nodir xoneš-ba raft-ageš-ba,*

PN house.3SG.POSS-DAT/LOC go(PST)-PTCPII.3SG.POSS-DAT/LOC

oyteš uje avqot puxt-a mond-ud-a-s.

sister.3SG.POSS already food cook(PST)-PTCPI put(PST)-PST-PTCPI-3SG

‘(I heard that) when Nodir went home, his sister had already cooked a meal (for him).’

(16) *Qobil aka=yam xonešon-a furûxsud-en*

PN brother=too house.3PL.POSS-ACC/GEN sell.PROG.PST-PTCPI.3PL

‘(I heard that) Mr. Qobil is also selling his house.’

Speculative mood forms express presumptions of the speaker on a situation without having any evidence on it. **Speculative past form** expresses presumptions about a situation in the past (17). **Speculative present imperfective form** expresses presumptions about a situation that might take place in the future (18). **Speculative present progressive form** expresses presumptions about a situation that might be ongoing in the present (19).

(17) *Saylun bud-agi-s=da*

PN be(PST)-PTCPII-3SG=MOD

‘(I presume that) it should be Sailun.’

(18) *palav me-kad-agen*

plov IMPF-do(PST)-PTCPII.3PL

‘(I presume that) they will make plov.’

- (19) *ukem a kor omaysagi-s*
 y.brother.1SG.POSS from work come.PROG-PTCPII-3SG
 ‘(I think that) my brother might be coming back from work.’

4.6. Voice

Causative suffix *-on* is attached to the present stem to form causative verbs (e.g., *šin-on-* [sit(PRS)-CAUS-] ‘make one sit’). This suffix can form causatives from both transitive and intransitive verbs. The patient is marked by the accusative/genitive case *-(y)a* (e.g., *man ukem-a xez-ond-am* [1SG y.brother.1SG.POSS-ACC/GEN awake(PRS)-CAUS-1SG] ‘I woke my brother up’). The causer is in the nominative case (zero marking), and the causee is marked by the dative/locative case *-ba* (20).

- (20) *man ukem-ba ašŭla xon-ond-am*
 1SG y.brother.1SG.POSS-DAT/LOC song read(PRS)-CAUS-1SG
 ‘I made my brother sing a song.’ JILR [73] (3)

The **passive** voice is expressed by the past participle I and the verb *šudan* ‘to become’ (21). The participial form does not change, therefore the verb *šudan* is conjugated for person, number, and takes the imperfective or negation markers. In ST, similarly to LT, the passive construction is not utilized as much.

- (21) *nav bino soxt-a šud*
 new building make(PST)-PTCPI be(PST)
 ‘the new building has been built’ JILR [5] (5)

4.7. Auxiliary verb constructions

The auxiliary verb constructions in Tajik are formed by the past participle I with the auxiliary verbs which are conjugated for tense, person and number and take the imperfective or negation markers. The lexical meaning is given by the past participial form while the grammatical or functional nuance is added by the auxiliary verb (22).

- (22) *hozi man yoft-a mi-tiy-am*
 now 1SG find(PST)-PTCPI IMPF-give(PRS)-1SG
 ‘I will find it (for you/ for you benefit) right away.’

Auxiliary verb constructions are broadly used in Samarkand Tajik. According to Rastorgueva (1964: 84), this is a feature that is absent in both Classical Persian and (Classical) Tajik, and can be addressed to as a borrowing from Uzbek. Ido (2005: 70) states that the total number of auxiliaries in Tajik is uncertain, since majority of them probably came into existence as a result of language contact between

Tajik and Uzbek/Turkic. Therefore, the auxiliary verbs are naturally particularly salient in northern dialects, which are heavily influenced by Uzbek. Being a member of northern dialects, auxiliary verbs are very common in Samarkand Tajik.

4.8. Modal constructions

Modal constructions in ST have been influenced by Uzbek to a wide extent. For example, LT modal constructions of necessity and obligation are formed by the defective verb *boyad* ‘it is necessary (that)’ (e.g., *man boy-ad rav-am* [1SG need(PRS)-3SG go(PRS)-1SG] ‘I must go’ (Perry 2005: 330)). However, in ST, similarly to Uzbek, non-finite forms of the verb with the adjective ‘necessary’ (ST *darkor*, Uzbek *kerak*) is used (e.g., ST *man raft-agem darkor* [1SG go(PST)-PTCPII.1SG.POSS necessary] ‘I must go’; Uz *men ket-ish-im kerak* [1SG leave-VN-1SG.POSS necessary] ‘I must go’). Before *darkor*, nominal forms of the verb, which are the infinitive form (23) or the participial possessive form are used.

- (23) *Zomin-ba raft-an darkor*
 PN-DAT /LOC go(PST)-INF necessary
 ‘We have to go to Zomin (lit. It is necessary to go to Zomin).’

Possibility is expressed by the word *mumkin* ‘possible’. Like *darkor*, this can also be preceded by the infinitive or a participial possessive form (24).

- (24) *kor-aton tamom šav-ad raft-ageton mumkin*
 work-2PL.POSS end become(PRS)-3SG go(PST)-PTCPII.2PL.POSS possible
 ‘You can go if you have finished your work.’ JILR [40] (1)

Ability is expressed by the verb *tonistan* ‘to be able to/can’. This is a fully inflected verb, which means that it can be used in all the forms non-finite and finite forms (e.g., *vay habozi kad-a me-ton-ad* [that swim do(PST)-PTCPI IMPF-can(PRS)-3SG] ‘He/she can swim’).

Volition is expressed by participial possessive and the progressive form of the verb *omadan* ‘to come’ (e.g., *yagon čiz xūrd-agem omaysa-s* [some thing eat(PST)-PTCPII.1SG.POSS come.PROG-3SG] ‘I want to eat something’). This construction can be addressed to as a borrowing from Uzbek, since the same construction is seen in Uzbek and other Turkic languages as well, but not seen in Literary Tajik and Persian (e.g., Uz *nimadir ye-gi-m kel-yap-ti* [something eat-VN-1SG.POSS come-PROG-3SG] ‘I want to eat something’).

5. Conclusion

Features of ST can be summarized in two parts: the development of synthetic constructions, and the resemblance with Uzbek due to language contact. The development of synthetic constructions is thought to have occurred outside the influence of Uzbek, while the resemblance is a result of language

contact. First, the development of synthetic constructions is yielded by two means: the phonemic means and also the morphological means. The phonemic contraction is seen in vowels in clusters fusing into one and also in the regular elision or omitting of *av*. Also, the irregularity in some forms of verbs caused by individual difference as a result of analogy from other forms and complete irregularity in contraction (e.g., *bed* (ST) || *biyoyed* (LT) ‘(you) come’) is seen in ST as well. The morphological means of the development of synthetic construction can be seen in the grammaticalization (affixization) of the literary past participial form *istoda* to suffix *-sa* to express the progressive aspect and the literary perfect form *budan* turning into the suffix *-ud*. Second, some features of ST that have developed due to language contact with Uzbek, differentiate it from LT. Some of these features are the complementary distribution of the two literary past participles and the extensive usage of auxiliary verb constructions. Also, the development and high usage of modal sentences (e.g., *kad-an darkor* [do(PST)-INF necessary] ‘it is necessary to..’; *kad-aget mumkin* [do(PST)-PTCPII.2SG.POSS possible] ‘you can do...’) can be attributed to influence from the Uzbek language. In addition, the usage of participial possessive and the progressive form of the verb *omadan* ‘to come’ to express volition is also a feature of ST that is thought to have developed due to language contact with Uzbek.

In my thesis, I gave an overview of the verb system of ST. However, only brief description of phonology and nominal morphology was given. Hence, more research needs to be done on these fields, as well as a thorough research on syntax. Once these tasks are accomplished, the description of the entire grammatical system of ST can be aimed for. This will, in result, be a step to conservation of the language and a contribution to further research on Tajik linguistics, and linguistics of Iranian Languages in general.

Abbreviations

1, 2, 3: 1, 2, 3 person/ ACC: Accusative/ CLF: Classifier/ COP: Copula/ DAT: Dative/ FUT: Future/ GEN: Genitive/ HON: Honorific/ IMPF: Imperfective/ INF: Infinitive/ IZ: Izafet/ LOC: Locative/ LT: Literary Tajik/ MOD: Modality/ NEG: Negative/ PL: Plural/ PN: Proper Noun/ POSS: Possessive/ PROG: Progressive/ PRS: Present/ PST: Past/ PTCP: Participle/ Q: Question/ REL: Relativizer/ SG: Singular/ ST: Samarkand Tajik/ Uz: Uzbek/ VN: Verbal Noun.

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