

# **The Word Structure in Jewish Dialect of Isfahan**

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The present language spoken by the Iranian Jews is descended from an older Iranian ancestor, and may be assigned to the group of Central Dialects of Iran. The distribution of this dialect today covers certain cities such as Isfahan, Hamadan, Kashan, Yazd, Boroojerd, and some places such as Caucasia, Samarkand, Bokara outside Iran. This rather wide distribution can be regarded as a responsible factor for the emergences of many phonological and sometimes grammatical varieties.

This paper is meant to deal with the morphological structure of the Isfahani variety. It is also to be mentioned that derivational (but not the inflectional) constructions will be dealt with in the following paragraphs.

Derivatives in this dialect are of three types: simple, compound, and complex.

A simple word is composed of only one single free morpheme, e.g. *tou* "swing", *teu* "fever".

A compound word consists of more than one free morpheme, e.g. *bâbâ-bele* "grandfather", *jan-buvâ* "step-mother".

A complex word contains, in addition to one or more free morpheme, one or more derivational affixes, e.g. *pil-ak* "spangle", *gand-a* "fetid", in which *-ak* and *-a* are two derivational affixes.

Generally speaking, as the verb, in comparison with the other types, has a different structure we give precedence to the discussion of non-simple verbs and, then, proceed to the other types to non-simple words.

### **1. The Verb**

Non-simple verbs may be divided into two groups: complex and compound.

#### **1.1 The Complex Verb**

A complex verb has, in addition to the verbal element, one derivational prefix. The derivational prefixes used with the verb are as follows:

<i>ve-:ve-gartan</i>	"to return"
<i>var-:var-kešan</i>	"to lift"
<i>ver-:ver-ešnofdan</i>	"to hear"
<i>dar-:dar-kafdan</i>	"to fall"
<i>feru-:feru-?undan</i>	"to come down"

## 1.2. The Compound Verb

A compound verb has, in addition to the verbal part, one or more elements such as noun, adjective, pronoun, or preposition. The non-verbal element, which may be accompanied by a verbal prefix, can be divided into the following types:

Noun:pand-gifdan	"to take counsel"
Adjective: ?ârum-kartan	"to make quiet"
Noun+noun: ?ou-paθ-dan	"to secrete"
Noun+verbal prefix: vir-ve-sdan	"to forget"
Pronoun: ?am-baθθan	"to stir up"
Preposition+noun: be-yâ- ?ârtan	"to recognize"
Preposition+pronoun: be- ?am-xortan	"to collide"
Preposition+verbal prefix: be-dar-bartan	"to lead astray"
Preposition+noun+verbal prefix: ?eđ-pâ-dar-kafdan	"to collapse"
Preposition+pronoun+noun: ?eđ-xod-ki-yârtan	"to make up by oneself"
Preposition+pronoun+adjective: ?eđ-am-veđâ-kartan	"to separate"
Noun+Ezafe marker(-e)+ noun: dičâr-e-θaxti-kartan	"to put into trouble"

## 2. Non-verbal Words

Non-verbal word including nouns, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, etc. other than simple forms, may be divided, derivationally, into the following types:

### 2.1 Compound words

These groups of words are of the following types according to the kind of combinations their members render:

#### 2.1.1 Genitive

A genitive construction is composed of two nouns or a noun and an adjective plus the genitive marker(-e) which is attached to the first element, e.g. pir-e- ?âmu "cousin".

It is noteworthy that the genitive marker is sometimes omitted, e.g. ?ov- ?âš- "a kind of dish"

#### 2.1.2 Inverse Genitive

The term "inverse genitive" is used to denote a kind of genitive construction the word order of which is inversed, e.g. đard-âli "apricot"

#### 2.1.3 Verb-derived Compound

This kind of compound is compound of either a non-verbal element plus a present participle or past

participle (short or complete), e.g. ?ou-pâš "watering-can", num-đad "fiancee", beđar-xunde "step-brother".

#### 2.1.4 Pre-subordinative

This type of compound has a subordinate element which precedes the head. They are as follows:

Demonstrative adjective : ?in-gad "this much"  
 Numeral adjective : bayn-šabbât "Thursday"  
 Indefinite and adjective : ?ar-yâ "everywhere"  
 Interogative adjective : ċe-tour "how"  
 Emphatic adjective : ?am-in "this very"

#### 2.1.5 Prepositional Compound

A preposition plus a noun constitute the prepositional construction. The prepositions used in these compounds are as follows:

bâ:bâ-devum	"durable"
vi:vi-xebar	"ignorant"
be:be-ĵâ	"proper"

#### 2.1.6 Conjunctive Compound

This kind of word has a conjunction as one of its elements, e.g. ?in-ge "that"

#### 2.1.7 Sentence-like words

A sentence-like word has a verb as one of its structural members, e.g. vâđ-vejan "fan"

#### 2.1.8 Compound-with-link

The constituents of this kind of compounds are linked together by a linking element. The linking elements are as follows:

â:θar-â-θar	"throughout"
bar:pâ-bar-yâ	"firm"
be:ri-be-ri	"opposite"
o:bume-?o-bešo	"to come and go"

#### 2.1.9 Repetitive

The repetitive compound is a type in which one of the constituents is repeated, e.g. peč-peč "chatter"

#### 2.1.10 Reduplicative

In this construction there exists a nonsense element which has a sort of vocalic harmony with the other element, e.g. ċeran-peran "nonsense"

### 2.2 Complex Words

These words have at least one derivational affix.

The derivational affixes include prefixes and suffixes.

### 2.2.1 Prefixes

Prefixes are as follows:

ne-:ne-doti	"step-daughter"
nâ-:nâ-pâk	"unclean"

### 2.2.2 Suffixes

suffixes are as follows:

-â:rušn-â	"light"
-âd:ʔâb-âd	"habitable"
-âle:moč-âle	"to crumple"
-âli:xov-âli	"sleepy"
-âni-ʔaθab-âni	"nervous"
-a:piθ-a	"decayed"
-abun:mehr-abun	"kind"
-ak:fitfit-ak	"whistle"
-an:hatm-an	"certainly"
-e:dið-e	"soot"
-ek:ðard-ek	"carrot"
-eki:ʔov-eki	"watery"
-emun:ʔâθ-emun	"sky"
-enâk:čaθb-enâk	"sticky"
-eθθun:Kord-eθθun	"Kurdistan"
-eš:ʔarð-eš	"value"
-ešd:gard-ešd	"excursion"
-evar:ʃun-evar	"vermin"
-i:θouð-i	"vegetable"
-içi:boð-içi	"kid"
-iji:θir-iji	"measles"
-ik:târ-ik	"dark"
-ike:ʃan-ike	"woman" (diminutive)
-in:piš-in	"noon"
-iye:ʃâð-iye	"dowry"
-iðe:pâk-iðe	"clean"
-u:tarθ-u	"timid"
-ule:ðang-ule	"bell"
-uli:kuč-uli	"small"
-un:ʔâvið-un	"hanging"
-une:θahb-une	"breakfast"
-uni:piš-uni	"forehead"
-bâ:nun-bâ	"baker"
-če:dulâb-če	"cupboard"
-çi:çiri-çi	"chicken"
-dun:qan-dun	"sugar-bowl"
-duni:pil-duni	"money-box"
-ger:ʔâhen-ger	"blacksmith"
-geri:ʔâni-geri	"begging"
-gi:ʔiθtâde-gi	"resistance"
-gin:xâsm-gin	"angry"
-gune:veče-gune	"childish"

-ji:miyun-ji	"mediator"
-vâde:keðe-vâde	"family"
-vâr:ʔomid-vâr	"hopeful"
-vun:ʔâθiyoun-vun	"miller"
-y:bede-y	"debt"

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