

An Investigation into the Prehistory of the Persian Language

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ABSTRACT

Persian Languages is one of the widespread branches of Indo-European languages that for long have comprised several important languages. The importance of these languages which lies in the strength of Median, Achaemenian, Parthian, and Sasanid Empires during different eras caused a number of researchers to increase their studies about these languages continually and find the origin of each of them through linguistic research. In this article, by showing the relationship among Persian languages, the researchers tried to point out the long history of Persian language and its changes throughout different periods in order to prove the falsity of the hypothesis which states that the origin of Persian language (Dari) is Koshanian language.

Key words: Iranian Languages, Old Persian, Middle Persian, New Persian, Balkhi Language

INTRODUCTION

Language is commonly referred to as a dynamic phenomenon which changes in the course of history. Changes, as observed in the history of most known languages of the world have been caused by some unwelcome force, or in more precise terms, oppression. Military, economic, and cultural hegemony have been the main reasons for changes, whether abrupt or gradual.

Cultural and linguistic integration however has rarely been referred to as a source of change. The history of Persian language illustrates a very good example of this integration. Despite many upheavals in the course of more than four thousand years of history in the part of the world referred to as Mesopotamia, India, East, Middle East, Persian