



HAL
open science

Some issues in the morphological analysis of nominal plurals in Persian

Pegah Faghiri

► **To cite this version:**

Pegah Faghiri. Some issues in the morphological analysis of nominal plurals in Persian. International Conference on Iranian Linguistics (ICIL3), Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3 (Pollet Samvelian), Sep 2009, Paris, France. halshs-01480080

HAL Id: halshs-01480080

<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-01480080>

Submitted on 1 Mar 2017

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Some issues in the morphological analysis of nominal plurals in Persian

Under the framework of Whole Word Morphology (WWM) developed by Ford and Singh (Ford *et al.* 1997), this paper proposes a synchronic description of nominal plural morphology in Persian (limited to Tehran's spoken variety). According to this theory, any morphological relationship between two words of a language can be described by a Word-Formation Strategy (WFS), having the following form:

$/X/\alpha \leftrightarrow /X'/\beta$, where:

X and X' are words,

α and β are major lexical categories,

\leftrightarrow indicates an equivalence relation (a bidirectional implication),

X' is a semantic function of X,

' indicates a formal difference between the two poles of the morphological operation,

' can be null iff $\alpha \neq \beta$.

Any strategy is a generalization from a particular fact, activated in the production or understanding of new words or temporarily forgotten ones. In order to establish a WFS, one must be provided with at least two couples of words with the same semantic and formal relationship.

Some problematic issues in the existing analyses are:

It is common to divide the plural morphology into Persian and Arabic. This etymological division, based on the illegitimate hypothesis that all speakers have access to words' etymology, has no place in a synchronic analysis.

A proper explanation of double plurals, ranging from speech errors: *maqâlâthâ*, *nazarâthâ*..., to commonly used forms: *omurât*, *omurhâ*, *rosumât*, *rosumhâ*..., is lacking.

-jât has been extended both in formal and informal registers and is no longer limited to vowel-ending nouns, i.e. *šarbatjât*, *roqanjât*, *boronzjât* used as technical terms, as well as *alkoljât*, *esemesjât*, *mozaxrafjât*, *sândevičjât* used in a familiar register, especially by youngsters.

Pairs of words such as *čarand/čarandiyât*, *qazal/qazaliyât*, *jafang/jafangiyât*, *hajv/hajviyât* challenge the analyses of *-iyât* as a phonological variant of *-ât*.

Finally, given that a variety of plural forms is available to speakers, and the fact that these forms are not always interchangeable, the question of how the choice of plural marking is determined is raised.

References

Ford A., Singh R., Martohardjono G. (1997), *Pace Panini*, New York: Peter Lang.