

An Analytic Study of the Grammatical Tenses in Lari Language

Mahinnaz Mirdehghan

(Corresponding Author)

Department of Linguistics, Shahid Beheshti University

Evin, Tehran, Iran, Postal Code - 1983963113

E-mail: M_Mirdehghan@sbu.ac.ir

Muhammed Ourang

Department of Linguistics, Shahid Beheshti University

Tehran, Iran

E-mail: M.Sultan.Ahel@gmail.com

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Abstract

Grammatical tense, as the time of action occurrence, locates a situation in time to indicate when the situation takes place, which in many languages is indicated in three basic categories of past, present and future. The present study is aimed to analyze the tense system in Lari language, a language of Larestan Township in the Southern part of Iran, which is also spoken by more than a million people in other parts of Iran, Oman and the UAE. Based on a contrastive-descriptive methodology, the research illustrates the tense system of Lari in comparison to that of English and in case in Persian. Following a brief explanation of Lari tenses, their applicability and features are explained comparatively in English and Lari via tables. Finally, differences and similarities among the two languages are demonstrated together with the unique features of Lari. The results illustrate Lari's specific features in past, non-past, and especially future tenses.

Keywords: Lari language, Grammatical tense, English, descriptive- contrastive methodology, Persian.

1. Introduction

Tense is considered among the most significant aspects of the verbs. Khayampur (2005, p. 79) defines tense as "an aspect of the verb that shows the time an action happens. Shafayi (1984, p. 74) says "the tense has been made when the man has paid attention to the verb, and then the grammatical tense was created". Quirk et al (1985) distinguish between the time and the tense. In their view 'time is as a line on which a tense like the present one is located' (p. 175). Moreover, they specify two levels of differentiation for tense. The first one is 'referential level' in which we have present, past and the future. Anything ahead of present moment is in the future and anything behind it is in the past. However, in the 'semantic level', for example,

the present tense is the most general and unmarked category, e.g. 'Albatrosses are large birds' is a generic statement applicable to present, past and the future (ibid).

By grammatical tense, we mean the name with which verbs are called, e.g. [ræftæm] (I went) is the present simple (Anvari & Givi, 2007, p. 46). Farshidvard (2004), defining the tense as a verb characteristic, states that "the verb is divided into three categories based on the tense: the past like [ræftæm] (I went), present like [mirævæm] (I go), and the future such as [xâhæm ræft] 'I will go' (p. 379). Taleghani (1975, p. 39) has the same definition of this category stating that the verbs have three divisions including the past, the present, and the future. Ehrlich and Murphy (1980) define the tense as "the time showing the action or the state" and add "there are six tenses in English including the Present, Past Perfect, the Past, the Present Perfect, the Future, and the Future Perfect (p. 50). It should be noted that "especial verb endings or accompanying auxiliary verbs often signal the time an event takes place" (Frank, 1993).

The present research is aimed to study the tense system in Lari. Divided as a '*definitely endangered language*' by the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger, Lari is one of the 14 Iranian Endangered Languages¹ which are to be preserved through research and analysis, raising awareness, supporting projects and most importantly disseminating information such as books and articles. 'Education through mother tongue', furthermore, is one of the UNESCO's five programs in addressing particular aspects of language; consequently, it seems of high significance to provide the teachers with descriptive materials of endangered languages (e.g., Lari) in order to develop an appropriate educational syllabus design. Therefore, we have strived to analyze one of the morphological features of Lari in this paper to describe it as a language in danger and also prepare the materials for applied linguists. In doing so, at the first point the tenses in Persian and English are examined, which are then compared to that of Lari. The similarities and differences are demonstrated consequently within the study, together with the unique characteristics of Lari's tense in comparison to Persian and English.

2. Review of Literature

2.1. Larestan and Lari Language

Larestan (52⁰ 32' E, 27⁰ 40' N) is located at the Southeastern part of Fars province in Iran. It's bound to Fars province from the north, to Hormozgan province from the south, to Kerman province from the east, and to Bushehr province from the west (Ahmadinya, 2010). There are nine districts (including Avaz, Khonj, Gerash, Fishvar, Ahel, etc.) in this township, the common language of which is Lari (Moridi, 2010). From an etymological view, 'Lar' is derived from 'Lad' meaning 'the origin and the basis of everything'. Lari is of the SW branch of Middle Iranian languages [namely, Pahlavi in the Middle period of Persian Language Evolution) and consists of nine dialects, the most difference of which is in pronunciation (Geravand, 2010).

Being a branch of Pahlavi language, Lari has many similarities with Pahlavi, its mother language. For example we can mention the ergative structure existing in Lari. It means the difference between the conjugation of transitive and intransitive verbs. The speech community of this language includes Fars province, Hormozgan Province and some of Arabic-speaking countries like United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman (Khonji, 2010, p. 15).

2.2. Researches in Lari

Lack of linguistic researches in Lari is obvious in the number of few researches in this language, among which Oskarman (1909), Ramaskowitch (1945), Veladimir Minorski (1980)

¹ C.f. www.unesco.org/culture/languages-atlas/

and Malčanova (1982) are noticeable. One of the most important researchers of this area is Koji Kamioka, Japanese Professor who wrote 'Comparative Basic Vocabulary of Khonji and Lari' in Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa in 1997. Furthermore, Iranian researches as Vosoughi (2005), Eghtedari (1990) have done precious researches about Lari in various areas but the most important of these researches is carried out by Lotfali Khonji (2009) who has written the book titled 'Comprehensive study of Larestani language and Khonji dialect' which is based on linguistic features of Lari.

3. Methodology

This research is based on a combination of a descriptive and contrastive approach in grammar writing. As Gleason (1961) states: Contrastive approach in grammar writing focuses mainly on the construction patterns of languages in comparison. It's useful in developing and designing materials of second language learning. The difficulties of statements of a language (target language) will be revealed in such a grammar and the teacher can select the best strategy to meet and eradicate these problems. Descriptive method of writing grammar on which the contrastive grammar is based on, on the other hand brings adequate descriptions of the languages under consideration. It's a kind of system, in fact, recording the structural patterns discernible with corpus on which it is based and therefore assumed to have some features of the language as following:

- It doesn't evaluate patterns in terms of any non-linguistic factors.
- Not all patterns or continuations of patterns used have the same social significance (Ibid, pp. 207-8).

Therefore, the present study presents a description of the tenses in Lari including past, present and the future which is followed by their features in English (and where possible in Persian). The last stage is that the Lari grammatical tenses are defined respectively and the structure dominant on them is explained. It should be mentioned that the table related to each tense is represented below the tense for more elaboration. Finally, the results of findings are discussed and summarized within the conclusion.

4. Infinitive Structure in Lari

Grammatical tenses in Lari are of the most intricate structures which have complicated and simultaneously sophisticated characteristics. To have a thorough description on Lari grammatical tenses, we are to examine the infinitive structure firstly. Due to the phonological differences of Lari and Persian, the vowel phonemes of the two languages are presented comparatively in table 1.

Table 1: List of vowel phonemes in Lari and Persian

	Lari			Persian		
	Front	Center	Back	Front	Center	Back
High	i, i:		u, ū	i		u
Mid	e, ē	ə	o, ō	e		o
Low	æ		â	æ		â

As seen, Lari has five extra vowels in comparison to Persian as follows: /ū/, /ō/, /ə/, /ē/, and /i:/.

There are two types of infinitives in Lari: the infinitives ending in /tæ/ (like [sotæ] (to burn)) and the infinitives ending in /dæ/ (like [čedæ] (to go)). The infinitives ending in /dæ/ are not necessarily similar to the ones in Persian. For example, [zædæn] (to hit) in Persian is [zætæ] (to hit) in Lari. Furthermore, differences are seen in their conjugation systems, examples of which are presented in table 2.

Table2: Infinitives in Lari

to sleep	to stand up	to eat	to want	to burn	to come	to go	to watch
xæta, xæteda	væystædæ	xærdæ	ævestæ	sotæ	ondæ	čedæ	dedæ

In addition to these kinds of infinitives in Lari, there are other types of infinitive called complex infinitives, as seen in ‘[vâkoštæ] (to turn off)’, ‘[čæš kerdæ] (to look at)’, or ‘[vâxovâjûkerdæ] (to search for)’ are some of instances we can name.

5. Grammatical Tenses in Lari

Defining the infinitives in Lari, its tenses and unique features are discussed in the following sections. In order to have an examination on the tenses existing in the language, the matter is described together with their applicability and examples in English and their Lari counterparts, which are summarized in related tables in each section.

5.1. Past Tense

5.1.1. Simple Past

This tense is used for the purpose of an action done in past and it’s finished (Anvari & Givi, 2009, p. 33). Quirk et al (1985) argue that this tense includes two features of meaning:

- Statement taken place in the past, with a gap between its completion and the present moment. For example, ‘I stayed in Africa for several month’ which means I’m no longer in Africa.
- Speaker or writer must have in mind a definite time at which the event/ state take place. For instance we can name a sentence like ‘Fred started school in 1950’ (pp. 183-84).

In Lari, its usage and structure are different for the transitive and intransitive verbs. It means that past tense conjugation of intransitive verbs is formed by adding inflectional affixes to the root [i.e. the lexical content morpheme that cannot be divided into smaller parts (Fromkin et al, 2003, p. 80)]. It should be mentioned that the root in Lari is the form obtained from omitting the infinitive-maker [i.e. “a”], for example ‘čedæ–æ = čed’]. Table shows the past tense conjugation of the intransitive verb of [ondæ] (to come):

Table 3: Conjugation patterns of intransitive past tense of /ondæ/ ‘to come’ and /čedæ/ ‘to go’

PER/NUM	LARI	PERSIAN/ENGLISH	LARI	PERSIAN/ENGLISH
1 ST /SG	ondəm	âmædæm/ I came	čedom	ræftæm/ I went
2 ND /SG	ondəš	âmædi/ You came	čedeš	ræfti/ you went
3 RD /SG	omæ	âmæd/ He/She came	ču:	ræft/ he/she went
1 ST /PL	ondəm	âmædim/ We came	čedem	ræftim/we went
2 ND /PL	ondi:	âmædid/ You came	čedi:	ræftid/you went
3 RD /PL	ondət	âmædænd/They came	čedet	ræftænd/they went

On the other hand, transitive verbs are different in conjugation in such a way that the derivational affixes are added to the roots to the beginning. In fact, the affixes and their places are different from that of intransitive verbs. Here, it is worth mentioning that the roots for these kinds of verbs are not the same as the ones for transitive verbs. To say more subtle, they are irregular. For example, the root of ‘[dædæ] (to give) is ‘[dæ]’ but the one for ‘[bordæ] (to take) is ‘[bū]’.

Table 4 shows the past tense conjugation of a transitive verb [ondæ]:

Table 4: Conjugation patterns of transitive past tense of /dedæ/ ‘to watch’ and /xeledæ/ ‘to buy (Eghtedari, 2005)

PER/NUM	LARI	PERSIAN/ENGLISH	LARI	PERSIAN/ENGLISH
1 ST /SG	omdi	didæm/ I saw	omxeli	xæridam/ I bought
2 ND /SG	otdi	didi/ You saw	otxeli:	xæridi/ you bought
3 RD /SG	ošdi	did/ He/She saw	ošxeli:	xærid/ he/she bought
1 ST /PL	modi	didim/ We saw	moxeli:	xæridim/we bought
2 ND /PL	todi	didid/ You saw	toxeli::	xæridid/you bought
3 RD /PL	šodi	didænd/ They saw	šoxeli:	xæridænd/they bought

As seen, Lari demonstrates differences in the conjugation of past tenses in transitive and intransitive verbs.

5.1.2. Past Progressive

This tense denotes an action with a kind of duration, for example [dâštæm television negâh mikærdæm] (I was watching T.V) (Marzbanrad, 1979, p. 84). Thomson and Martinet (1986) expresses some applicability of this tense, the most important of which are as following:

- For an action done in the past but with a kind of duration but its scope cannot be exactly determined.
- For an action beginning from a point in the past and is likely to proceed to the future time. For example, ‘I was getting darker’.²
- For expressing gradual development without mentioning the time, e.g. ‘At right he was having breakfast’.
- For describing something, e.g. in a story or a novel.

In Persian, adding the derivational affix like ‘[mi]’ to the past simple results in past progressive. However, the structure is different for transitive and intransitive verbs in Lari. To make the past progressive of transitive verbs, we add affix /æ/ to the past simple (Khonji, 2009, p. 102).

Table 5: Conjugation pattern of Past progressive of transitive verbs as /čedæ/ ‘to go’ and /ondæ/ ‘to come’

PER/NUM	LARI	PERSIAN/ENGLISH	LARI	PERSIAN/ENGLISH
1 ST /SG	æčedom	miræftæm/ I was going	ædændom	miâmædæm/ I was coming
2 ND /SG	æčedeš	miræfti/ You were going	ædændeš	miâmædi/ you coming
3 RD /SG	æčedæn	miræfti/ He/She was going	ædæmæ	miâmæd/ he/she was coming
1 ST /PL	æčedæm	miræft/ We were going	ædændem	miâmædim/we were coming

² In English, present participle (verb+ Participle) is used to make progressive or continuous tenses. It covers present participle and gerund both. The present participle (V+ing) is always constructed by adding ‘ing’ to the stem. The main role of present participle is in the formation of progressive aspect, e.g. ‘they were crying uncontrollably’. Gerund or ‘verbal noun’ is used in sentences like ‘crying can’t help’. We call verbal noun because it is like a verb in the form and like a noun in its function. (Collins and Hollo, 2000, p. 67).

2 ND /PL	æčedi:	miræftim/ You were going	ædændi:	miâmædid/you were coming
3 RD /PL	æčeden	miræftænd/ They were going	ædændet	miâmædænd/they were coming

5.1.3. Present Perfect

Swan and Walter (2001, pp. 51-6) indicate that present perfect is used to talk about past actions with some importance in the present time, or to tell people about new things happened, or to give news. For example: 'I've written to John, so he knows what's happening' (past action with importance) or 'A plane has crashed at Heathrow airport' (news feed). Additionally, in sentences like 'Up to now, he has saved \$150', present perfect is used to show how much we have done up to know. Furthermore, this tense is made of 'have/has + past participle' in English. Some additional examples can be as "I have studied Physics", or "John has eaten lunch". What is worth mentioning is that the action in present perfect is performed in the past but the result continues to the present. The result of the action is important, namely for example [hâmed be mædrese ræfte æst] (Hamed has gone to school) means that 'he has gone there and he is there right now' (Khanlari, 2009, p.34).

In Lari, present perfect is represented in a different way for different infinitives; namely the infinitives ending in /tæ/ are exemplified in table 6:

Table 6: Conjugation pattern of past progressive of an intransitive verb as /ondæ/ 'to come'

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	ondestom	ondesteš	onde	ondestem	ondesti:	ondestet
PERSIAN/ ENGLISH	âmædeam/ I have come	âmædeiy/ You have come	âmæde ast/ He/She has come	âmædeim/ We have come	âmædeid/ You have come	âmædeænd/ They have come

But for transitive verbs, the final /æ/ changes into /e/ in the root and then the prefixes added to intransitive verbs are added similarly to the root of transitive verbs. For instance we conjugate [dædæ] meaning 'to give' as following.

Table 7: Conjugation pattern of present perfect of a transitive verb as /dædæ/ 'to give'

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	omdæde	otdæde	ošdæde	modæde	todæde	šodæde
PERSIAN/ENGLISH	dâdeam/ I have given	dâdeie/ You have given	dâde æst/ He/She has given	dâdeim/ We have given	dâdeid/ you have given	dâdeænd/ They have given

5.1.4. Past Perfect

Trudy Aronson (2004) states past perfect to be used in sentences with two past actions in order to show that one of the actions was completed before the other. The past perfect formula is 'had + past participle of the verb' in English. He continues that 'we should use past perfect for the action that was done and completed firstly and the past tense for the second completed action'. For example 'they play had already begun by the time they arrived' (p. 19). Here, the played was begun and then they arrived; so the play is within the past perfect while they are in the past tense. The past perfect expresses an activity that was completed before another activity or time in the past (Schramper Azar, 1999, p. 45). She gives an example clarifying the point: "Sam *had* already *left* when Ann got there." So there is two stages here, the first one is the going of Sam and the other is the arriving of Ann.

In Lari, we should keep in mind that the structure is different for transitive and intransitive verbs again. Therefore, for intransitive verbs we add specific suffixes to the root but for transitive ones the suffix of */-estu:/* is added to the present perfect of transitive verbs. Have a look at Table 8: and

Table 9: for more information.

Table 8: Conjugational pattern of past perfect of an intransitive verb like /čedæ/ ‘to go’

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	čestodem	čestodeš	čestu:	čestodem	čestodi:	čestodet
PERSIAN/ENGLISH	ræfte budæm/ I'd gone	ræfte budi/ You'd gone	ræfte bud/ He'd/She'd gone	ræfte budim/ We'd gone	ræfte budid/ You'd gone	ræfte budænd/ They'd gone

Table 9: Conjugational pattern of past perfect of a transitive verb as /dedæ/ ‘to watch’

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	omdedestu:	otdedestu:	ošdedestu:	modedestu:	todedestu:	šodedestu:
PERSIAN/ ENGLISH	dide budæm/I'd watched	dide budi/ You'd watched	dide bud/ He/She had watched	dide budim/ We'd watched	dide budid/ You'd watched	dide budænd/ They'd watched

5.2. Present Tense

Generally, there are some differences between the conjugation of past tense and that of present tense. We mean in past tense, we are to adopt different affixes for transitive (prefixes) and intransitive (suffixes) to make the past tenses. Additionally, the past root for the past tense is different for the transitive and intransitive verbs, namely the former is derived from the infinitive but the latter is irregular. But in present tense all the affixes are suffixes, no matter it is transitive or intransitive. Furthermore, the root in present tenses is derived from the infinitive. Therefore, the form of present tense for all of the verbs including transitive and intransitive is the same due to the fact that the roots are alike.

5.2.1. Present Simple

Quirk et al (1985) indicate various uses of this tense, including its usage for State Present that is utilized with stative verb senses³, where the present is used without reference to any specific time, i.e., there is no inherent limitation on the extension of the state into the past and future. State present includes general timeless statements, or so-called ‘eternal truth’. For example, ‘Honesty *is* the best policy’. The second usage is for habitual present expressing inherently unrestricted time span in which the verb refers to the whole sequence of events repeated over the period of question, e.g. she *makes* her own dress. It should be mentioned that this type of present tense includes dynamic verb meanings⁴ and is the most common meaning of present tense. The third one represents instantaneous present where verb refers to a single action begun and completed approximately at the moment of speech. For example,

³ Stative verb meaning refers to the state resulting from that event. For example, ‘I have a book’ (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 178).

⁴ Dynamic verb meaning refers to an event. For example, ‘I have dinner’ (ibid).

‘we go to Brussels every year’. He distinguishes between the first and the second use of present tense. State present always refers to something obtaining at the time of speaking; this is not necessary or even usually true of habitual present (p. 179-80). He finally concludes that “English present tense, by no means always, signifies present time” (p. 175).

In Lari, adding prefix ‘æ’ to the present root⁵ in addition to the inflectional suffixes makes this tense (Khonji, 2009, p. 159). Table 10 shows an example of this tense.

Table 10: Conjugational pattern of intrans Present Simple of /čeda/ ‘to go’

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	æčom	æčeš	æče	æčem	æči	æčet
PERSIAN/ENGLISH	mirævæm/ I go	mirævi/ You go	mirævæd/ He/She goes	mirævim/ We go	mirævid/ You go	mirævænd/ They go

As said earlier, the form of present tense for transitive and intransitive verbs are the same, so the same rules are imposed on a transitive verb like /dedæ/ meaning ‘to watch’ as following:

Table 11: Conjugational patterns of transitive Present simple of /dedæ/ ‘to watch’

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	æbinem	æbineš	æbine	æbinæm	æbini	æbinen
PERSIAN/ENGLISH	mibinæm/ I watch	mibini/ You watch	mibinæd/ He/She watches	mibinim/ We watch	mibinid/ You watch	mibinænæd/ They watch

5.2.2. Present Progressive

The action in progress is expressed by this kind of tense (Anvari & Givi, 2007). Swan and Walter (2001) believe that it’s used with a future meaning, especially when we talk about plan for a fixed time or place. For example, “what are you doing this evening?” which is answered as ‘I am studying’ (p. 36). However, in Lari it’s different. Khonji (2009) indicates the tense as “simple present continuous”; he explains it as “simple” because it doesn’t need any auxiliary. Accordingly, this tense is different from that of English or Persian, since they both require a kind of auxiliary (e.g. in English, say ‘I am writing’) or modal verb (e.g. in Persian, say [dâræm mirævæm] (I am going) where ‘dâræm’ is a modal meaning ‘to be’). To elaborate more, we give an example clarifying the issue: [čedæ] meaning ‘to go’ is an infinitive which turns into [čedâm] (I’m going) (It should be mentioned that these are some affixes added to the present root). Here the conjugation is also the same for transitive and intransitive verbs.

Table 12: and

⁵ There is no comprehensive and exact rule from which the roots are derived. However, some rules are predictable and can be applied to the verbs for obtaining the roots. This is more obvious about past roots of intransitive verbs, i.e. the past roots of such verbs are ‘the infinitive –a’ (infinitive maker), for example ‘cheda – a = ched or onda – a = ond’ to which inflectional suffixes are added to make past tenses. For transitive verbs, the verbs are of no exact rule to determine the roots, for instance the root of *kharda* [xærdæ] is ‘kha’ but *kerda* [kerdæ] meaning ‘to do’ is ‘ke’ or *deda* [dedæ] meaning ‘to watch’ has the form ‘di’. Present root is not approximately systematic; we mean that we can’t have a specific rule to determine the present roots of verbs, but for some verbs in which the present root has a dominant rule we can have some rules as omitting /–eda/ or /–ada/ from the end of these kinds of verbs. For example ‘xeleda’ [xeledæ] meaning ‘to buy’ has the root like ‘xel’, or ‘čeda’ has ‘č’. However, it should be mentioned that Khonji (2009) believes it’d better memorize and learn the verb roots, both the past and the present, to have a more subtle understanding of these structures (p. 160).

Table 13: show this claim:

Table 12: Conjugational patterns of present progressive of an intransitive verb like /čedæ/ 'to go'

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	čedâm	čedâš	čedâe	čedâem	čedâei	čedâet
PERSIAN/ENGLISH	dâræm mirævam/ I am going	dâri mirævi/ You are going	dâræd mirævæd/ He/She is going	dârim mirævim/ We are going	dârid mirævid/ You are going	dârænd mirævænd/ They are going

To clarify the point, the present progressive tense is exemplified in table 13 for a transitive verb:

Table 13: Conjugational patterns of present progressive of a transitive verb like /dedæ/ 'to watch'

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	dedâm	dedâš	dedâe	dedâem	dedâi	dedât
PERSIAN/ENGLISH	dâræm mirævæm/ I'm watching	dâri mirævi/ You're watching	dâræd mirævæd/ He/She is watching	dârim mirævim/ We're watching	dârid mirævid/ You're watching	dârænd mirævænd/ They're watching

5.3 Subjunctive Mood

Frank (1993) describes this tense to indicate unreality, wishes, conjecture, or urgency and expresses the following items:

- An unreal condition, with the conjunction if, unless, etc. For example: If I **were** you, I would go to bed early
- A wish, only after the verb wish. For Example: I wish that I **had been** you yesterday.
- Some degree of conjecture, after verbs like act, talk that may be followed by as if or as though. For example: He acts as if he **were** a king.
- Some degree of urgency, after verbs of requesting, commanding, urging, and recommending, and after adjectives like important, necessary. For example: It is necessary that he **be** on time (pp. 56-57).

In Lari, the rule in composing this tense is to replace the prefix /a/ from the present simple with the prefix 'be-' (Khonji, 2009, p. 175). You can remember from the last discussion that the present tenses for transitive and intransitive verbs are the same. Examples in table 14 clarify the matter:

Table 14: Conjugational pattern of subjunctive mood of an intransitive verb as /oftædæ/ 'to fall'

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	beftom	befteš	befte	beftem	befti	beftet
PERSIAN/ENGLISH	ægær bioftæm/ (if) I fall	ægær biofti/ (if) You fall	ægær bioftæd/ (if) He/She falls	ægær bioftim/ (if) We fall	ægær bioftid/ (if) You fall	ægær bioftænd/ (if) They fall

Similarly, the conjugation of transitive verb is the same:⁶

Table 15: Conjugational pattern of subjunctive mood of a transitive verb as /dedæ/ ‘to watch’

PER/NUM	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	bebenom	bebeneš	bebene	bebenem	bebeni	bebenet
PERSIAN/ ENGLISH	ægær bebinæm/ (if) I watch	ægær bebin/ (if) You watch	ægær bebinæd/ (if) He/She watches	ægær bebinim/ (if) We watch	ægær bebinid/ (if) You watch	ægær bebinænd/ (if) They watch

5.4 Future Tense

Quirk et al (1985) claim that there is no special tense called the future tense in English but what we call future is merely the ‘auxiliary + infinitive’. However, it’s possible to express this tense using modals like *will, shall, be going to, etc.*

In Lari, the future tense doesn’t have any independent form so this concept is conveyed by the use of simple present. Phrases like ‘mæe čedæ’, ‘tæe čdæ’ ... (which literally means ‘I want to go’, ‘you want to go’) are used for do this intention (Khonji, 2009, p. 159).

Some Lari researchers like Eghtedari (1997) believe that ‘[ævessæ] (a modal verb meaning ‘to want’) + infinitive’ is used to express the future tense. For example, ‘mævi čedæ’ which means ‘I will go’. Consider the following example:

Table 16: The future tense of ‘xætæ’ conjugational pattern of future tense of an intransitive verb as /xætæ/ ‘to sleep’

PER/NU M	1 st /SG	2 nd /SG	3 rd /SG	1 st /PL	2 nd /PL	3 rd /PL
LARI	æxætæm	æxæteš	æxæte	æxætæm	æxæti	æxætæn
PERSIAN /ENGLIS H	xâhæm xâbid/ I will sleep	xâhi xâbid/ You will sleep	xâhæd xâbid/ He/She will sleep	xâhim xâbid/ We will sleep	xâhid/ xâbid/ You will sleep	xâhænd xâbid/ They will sleep

6. Conclusion

Lari as one of the middle Iranian languages possesses a different conjugational system in comparison to Persian. This fact gets more obvious when we examine the past tense conjugation because the system for conjugation of past tense is specific and certainly different for transitive and intransitive verbs. It means for intransitive verbs, only suffixes (inflectional) are used (as demonstrated in tables 3, 6 and 8), whereas for transitive verbs both suffixes and prefixes are used (as indicated in tables 4, 5, 7 and 9). However, the case is different in the conjugation of present tense (exemplified in tables 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) as for both kinds of verbs (i.e. intransitive and transitive) some special prefixes are used. In general, there are some differences between the tense of Lari and Persian because the same system of conjugation is not dominant on them. Moreover, the research findings illustrate that

⁶ It should be mentioned that this rule is the general for subjunctive mood in Lari, however, there are some other verbs the conjugation of which is different and to somewhat irregular. For example, [čedæ] (to go), [rostædæ] (to stand up), and [xondæ] (to read) and some other verbs have another conjugation system. They are to be discussed in another article thanks to the fact that their system is about completely different.

grammatical tense in Lari has a unique system which is distinctive from many other familiar languages like English and Persian. In showing the grammatical tense, Lari possesses different systematic patterns in demonstrating past and present tenses; i.e. for the past tense transitive verbs use prefixes, while intransitive ones employ suffixes (table 3 vs. table 4; 6 vs. 7; and 8 vs. 9). However, the systematic pattern of present tense employs suffixes for both transitive and intransitive verbs, indicating a unique system in present tense conjugations in Lari (as tables 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15).

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