

## **Relationship between Language, Religion, and Culture: A Close Look into The Functions of *Haji* and the Related Words in Persian<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Abstract**

Considering the salient role of language in shaping and changing the religious and cultural beliefs of people, the current research is seeking to dissect and analyze the word –Haji- and its collocations (related words). To achieve this purpose, three hundred contexts in which this label was used, were recorded in natural situations, transcribed, and later analyzed. Hymes' model of *speaking* was then applied, scrutinizing the aforementioned label. The functions of 'Haji' were divided into two groups of religious and non-religious, and also into psychological and social ones. Ultimately, the collocations of the labels were explored. The

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results of this study demonstrated that though ‘Haji’ was considered as a positive word in the past, it has undergone some metamorphosis and seems to be changed to a negative word. In the end, the probable causes of this change degradation and extension of meaning -such as media, society, different viewpoints of people - were examined and discussed in the context of Iran.

**Keywords:** *labeling, religion, culture, language, haji, haj khanum*