Semantic Roles of Dative Case in Russian and Ways of Expressing Them in Persian

Reza-Morad Sahraei [1]**, Kristina Buiakevych** [2]

1. INTRODUCTION

Grammatical case in the agglutinative and inflected languages is described as a tool that has two functions: 1. determining the syntactic roles of a structure in a sentence, such as subject, direct object, indirect object, and so on. 2. defining the semantic roles of a structure in a sentence such as agent, patient, beneficiary, recipient, etc. In Russian, the grammatical case is also considered as a way to show the syntactic relationship between the elements of a sentence or syntactic group. At the level of the sentence and the syntactic group, the verb or other word that act as head of the group government on its obligatory and optional arguments or complements with the help of grammatical cases. Russian language defines six grammatical cases: nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, instrumental, prepositional. The dative case has a particular importance among the six grammatical cases because it has its own meaning. In Russian, with the help of dative case, five semantic roles are expressed: recipient, addressee, experiencer, beneficiary/malefactive and second member of the relationship. Since Persian does not have the category of "case", it uses other syntactic tools to express the concepts that are expressed in Russian by the grammatical cases: simple and compound prepositions, postposition «را», ezafe, word

order and conjunctions. In Russian, the dative case has four main semantic roles: recipient, addressee, experiencer, beneficiary/malefactive, and a secondary semantic role, i.e., the second member of the relationship. Since Persian language does not have a category "case", the structures of Russian language that are used in the dative case are expressed in Persian language in different ways. In the present article, we examined each of these roles and identified the methods of expressing them in Persian.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the present article, using linguistic methods such as contrastive analysis and analytical-descriptive methods and in the framework of Valency Theory, we tried to

[1] Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Persian literature and foreign languages, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Iran, Tehran; sahraei@atu.ac.ir
[2] PhD student in linguistics, Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Persian literature and foreign languages, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Iran, Tehran (corresponding author); kristina_buiakevych@atu.ac.ir

present the main methods of expressing five semantic roles in Persian. This research is basically of the contrastive type, from which a specific linguistic structure of the Russian language - the dative case and the way of expressing it in Persian has been studied. Of course, this research has tried to make it easier for readers to understand the content with the help of contrastive analysis. Therefore, the research method was based on selection and comparison in order to obtain a clear and definite result from the collected samples. Russian examples of Persian-Russian dictionary by Rubinchik (1985) and Persian examples of *Russian Persian dictionary* by Voskanyan (Voskanyan, 2002) have been selected.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

These five semantic roles: recipient, addressee, experiencer, beneficiary/malefactive and second member of the relationship **t**hat in Russian with help of dative case are expressed, in Persian are expressed in different ways depending on the type and meaning of their head. Recipient and addressee, if they act as a complement to the verb, are mainly expressed as indirect object with prepositions «به» and «برای».

Semantic role of beneficiary/malefactive depending on the meaning of its verb can be expressed in the following three ways: the indirect object, the direct object, and the genitive complement. When the semantic roles of recipient, addressee and beneficiary/malefactive are considered as nominal complement «و» in Persian these roles are expressed with the help of prepositional group that acts as posterior dependent of the noun group. When the experiencer is the complement of verb and predicative adverb, it is expressed as an enclitic pronoun in impersonal sentences or as a subject in a personal sentence. If the experiencer is a complement of the short adjective, in the Persian language it plays the role of indirect object. The semantic role of the second member of the relation, depending on the type and meaning of its head, is expressed as a genitive complement, an indirect object, a predicate and a posterior dependent of the nominal group.

4. CONCLUSION

In this article, we have studied and identified the main ways of expressing semantic roles, which in Russian are formalized by the dative case into Persian. The key factor influencing the way of translating semantic roles into Persian is the valence structure of the main word. We found that the main words, which in their valence structure contain semantic roles as recipient, addressee, experiencer, beneficiary/malefactive and second member of the relationship, are a verb, a noun, an adjective, short adjectives, predicate adverbs. It is the type of the main word, its semantics and, as a result, the valence structure that influences the way of translating Russian constructions in the dative case into Persian.

Keywords: Addressee; Beneficiary/Malefactive; Dative Case; Experiencer; Recipient; Second Member of the Relationship; Semantic Role