# Investigating the borrowing of prepositions and pronouns in Kalhori Kurdish in Kurdish-Farsi bilinguals

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## 1. Introduction
Language contact may have a lot of repercussions for the languages involved. Lexical or structural borrowing can be among the results of language contact. Accordingly, the present study investigates the local and borrowed prepositions and pronouns in Kalhori Kurdish due to language contact.

## 2. Materials and methods
To fulfill this goal, a researcher-made questionnaire (list) was used to determine the local and borrowed pronouns and prepositions in Kalhori Kurdish. This list included 35 items: 11 frequent Kurdish prepositions and 24 Kurdish pronouns. The data was collected through interview. Regardless of their education, all the subjects were fluent in both Kurdish and Farsi and were regarded as active bilinguals. In terms of age range, the young participants were between 20-35 years old, and the old participants were between 50-70 years old. Based on age, gender and educational background, the selected subjects were assigned to 8 groups. Each group consisted of 10 people. Totally, 80 people responded to the items in the list through a targeted interview. The data was collected in Ilam (Eyvan) province. Kalhori Kurdish is the mother language of the people. Three-way ANOWA was employed to assess the significance of the probable variations.

## 3. Results and discussion
As indicated, the present study investigates the effect of dominant Farsi on Kalhori Kurdish prepositions and pronouns. In other words, we are examining whether the native speakers use local prepositions and pronouns or their Farsi counterparts. Table 1 presents the relevant data regarding the subjects' use of Kurdish prepositions.

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**Table 1**
*Mean and std. deviation of subjects using local prepositions*
*Dependent Variable: prepositions*

| Gender | Education | age | Mean | Std. Deviation | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | Educated | 20-35 | 88.1818 | 7.48430 | 10 |
| | | 50-70 | 90.0000 | 7.95995 | 10 |
| | | Total | 89.0909 | 7.57735 | 20 |
| | Uneducated | 20-35 | 97.2727 | 4.39133 | 10 |
| | | 50-70 | 100.0000 | .00000 | 10 |
| | | Total | 98.6364 | 3.33043 | 20 |
| | Total | 20-35 | 92.7273 | 7.57735 | 20 |
| | | 50-70 | 95.0000 | 7.50525 | 20 |
| | | Total | 93.8636 | 7.53251 | 40 |
| female | Educated | 20-35 | 82.7273 | 15.71673 | 10 |
| | | 50-70 | 92.7273 | 9.38905 | 10 |
| | | Total | 87.7273 | 13.60443 | 20 |
| | Uneducated | 20-35 | 100.0000 | .00000 | 10 |
| | | 50-70 | 100.0000 | .00000 | 10 |
| | | Total | 100.0000 | .00000 | 20 |
| | Total | 20-35 | 91.3636 | 13.98284 | 20 |
| | | 50-70 | 96.3636 | 7.46166 | 20 |
| | | Total | 93.8636 | 11.34847 | 40 |

Table 1 indicates that in all groups, the subjects employed a high degree of Kurdish local pronouns. Old uneducated men and old and young uneducated women used the highest amounts of local prepositions (%100). In almost every situation, they used the local preposition. Young educated women employed %82.72 of local Kurdish prepositions, the lowest among the groups. In other words, they used the highest amount of Farsi prepositions in their speech. Another point is the fact that generally, uneducated men and women have employed a higher number of Kurdish prepositions. The employed three-way ANOVA proves that gender is not statistically significant in the attested variations, while age and education were found to be statistically significant. Table 2 presents the same statistics for pronouns.

**Table 2**
*Mean and std. deviation of subjects using local prepositions*
*Dependent Variable: pronouns*

| Gender | Education | age | Mean | Std. Deviation | N |
|--------|-----------|-----|------|----------------|---|
| Male | Educated | 20-35 | 80.8696 | 9.65700 | 10 |
| | | 50-70 | 86.0870 | 9.34755 | 10 |
| | | Total | 83.4783 | 9.62949 | 20 |
| | Uneducated | 20-35 | 99.5652 | 1.37490 | 10 |
| | | 50-70 | 100.0000 | .00000 | 10 |
| | | Total | 99.7826 | .97220 | 20 |
| | Total | 20-35 | 90.2174 | 11.70688 | 20 |
| | | 50-70 | 93.0435 | 9.60880 | 20 |
| | | Total | 91.6304 | 10.66758 | 40 |
| Female | Educated | 20-35 | 76.0870 | 4.69619 | 10 |
| | | 50-70 | 87.8261 | 7.61387 | 10 |
| | | Total | 81.9565 | 8.61230 | 20 |
| | Uneducated | 20-35 | 98.2609 | 3.04003 | 10 |
| | | 50-70 | 100.0000 | .00000 | 10 |
| | | Total | 99.1304 | 2.27456 | 20 |
| | Total | 20-35 | 87.1739 | 12.00893 | 20 |
| | | 50-70 | 93.9130 | 8.15236 | 20 |
| | | Total | 90.5435 | 10.69027 | 40 |

As for pronouns, almost the same pattern emerged. The young and old educated men used %80.87 and %86.09 of Kurdish local pronouns respectively. On the other hand, almost in all instances, the young and old uneducated men used the local pronouns (%100 and %99.56 respectively). The young and old educated women used %76.09 and %87.82 of Kurdish local pronouns, respectively, which is almost like educated men. This finding indicates that the young educated women are more affected by the dominant Farsi language in their speech. Like uneducated men, young and old uneducated women employed a high degree of local pronouns (%98.26 and %100, respectively). The results of the three-way ANOVA indicated that, unlike gender, age and education had a statistically significant influence on the attested variations.

## 4. Conclusion

The results indicated that the subjects in different groups employed %82.7 to %100 of local prepositions on average. In the same vein, they employed %76.08 to %100 of local Kurdish pronouns. Young educated women employed the highest amount of borrowed Farsi prepositions (%17.3) and pronouns (%12,92). The employed three-way ANOVA proved that unlike gender, educational background and age, alone and in interaction with each other, played a statistically significant role in attested variations in terms of the use of the local or borrowed pronouns and propositions.