



PERSIAN PROVERBS IN BILINGUALISM

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Introduction

- Proverbs in languages differ, but they often have the same meaning or moral behind them.
 - In the cases of some bilingual children, they are able to comprehend one of the language's proverbs and not the other.
 - In this presentation, I will be elaborating on:
 - What some of the Farsi proverbs are in this presentation,
 - Where they come from and,
 - How some bilingual children cannot understand what they mean (given some difficult circumstances).
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Proverbs

- Proverbs are usually a moral story, a line from a poem or a piece of wisdom that is very common in both Arabic and Farsi languages, unlike English.
 - They are a part of the culture.
 - It comes from ancient times, when literature was the best source of learning.
 - Farsi uses these proverbs on a daily basis, much like the idioms used in the English language that have become very common.
 - Since being Bilingual may depend on a dominant language, knowing English deprives the Farsi proverbs to make sense to the children or vice versa.
 - In the next slides, I will show some examples.
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History

- Proverbs date back to ancient times, where there were only the words of mouth.
 - Each city and town has different proverbs that may be alien to another place.
 - Each may have a different lesson or moral.
 - Hence the reason why some bilingual children cannot understand them when they hear it around them.
 - There were different weapons and tools in every town, so if one towns person said something the other might not know what that is.
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Examples

- نرود میخ آهنین در سنگ
Na rawad mix ahanin dar sang
 - Not + go + nail + iron + through + stone
 - Literal translation: An iron nail can't go through a stone
 - Equivalent: Nothing goes through one's head.
 - If a child does not know the moral story behind this proverb, he or she may not be able to understand the meaning behind it.
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وقت گل نی

- Vaght (e) gole nay
- Time (sub) + of(preposition) + flower + straw .“Flower straw” = Weed (obj)
- Literal translation:
- When the weed blooms
- English equivalent: When pigs fly
- Meaning: Never
- A child who does not know what a “nay” is will literally wait and hope that it will bloom when it will never bloom.

فیلش یاد هندوستان کرده

- Fi(lesh) yad (e) Hindustan Karde
- Elephant (his) possessive + remember (s) indefinite+ India + do
- Literal translation: His/her elephant remembers India.
- English equivalent: a nostalgic feeling about someone or something and a longing to go back.
- Moral story: An elephant was taken away from its home, very intelligent animals so it got depression and reminisced to his beloved home, India.
- There are many more examples that you can find on this website: <http://oaks.nvg.org/persian.html>

Conclusion

- Many of these proverbs have a reason behind them that makes them special.
 - People in the country who learn these in their high school will know when and how to use them in their daily lives unlike the bilingual children who are not good at Farsi.
 - I hope you enjoyed these few examples that I have presented, I hope to do more research about this in the future.
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THANK YOU!



Resources

- <https://www.mypersiancorner.com/12-persian-idioms-and-proverbs-animals/>
 - <http://oaks.nvg.org/persian.html>
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