

## A Study of Idioms and Enigmas in Xollar Dialect

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**Abstract:** Considering increasing development of Persian Language in the capital as well as immigrating villagers to metropolitans, there is a fear that many of authentic words, idioms and riddles in the ancient cultures will be forgotten and obsolete. Therefore in this paper for the first time it has been tried to collect idioms and riddles in one of original dialects survived from Middle Persian in southwest Iran, subset of dialects in Fars Province or Xollari dialect and additionally, to present their transcription, pronunciation, meaning and equivalent in Persian. Also, before dealing with the subject, a summary description about Xollar dialect has been provided for the eager reader. This study is based on field studies, interview, questionnaire, library compilation as well as analysis and comparison of Xollar dialect's idioms, riddles, their meanings and their equivalents in Persian in comparison with formal Persian spoken in the capital, Tehran.

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### 1. Introduction

Deep bond between people lives of countries and their popular idioms is undeniable. Idioms have a long history in Iran and Iranians traditionally has been known as idiom developers [5].

Idiom is part of a language, behind of which the history and an instructive story is hidden in some cases. Many of these stories are obsolete and the histories of some idioms are not obvious for some people, although they are used in conversations. Idiom means parable (or allegorize) and some describe it as a brief statement consisting of metaphor or wise context which is popular among the people because of its clear meaning, smooth pronunciation and elegant combination and they use it in everyday dialogues. It can be said that knowing idioms makes speaking and writing easy because these statements are brief and beautiful, are attractive, make long conversations summarized and if proper use, add effectiveness. Of course, using in right place is itself an art provided that it is accorded with respective issue; otherwise, it is a kind of josh. On the other hand, historically, the scientists and sociologists have also used popular idioms within spiritual analyses and ethics [3].

All that nowadays accounted for idioms are originally allegory in some cases from eloquence view point but these are famous allegories in Persian that due to frequency of use, with some tolerance are considered as idiom. By the way, these allegories are even still accounted for as idiom [13]. Therefore, it should be known that beside verbal and dialectic sources, the importance of recording and literally writing idioms, wisdoms, idiomial expressions and allegories should no longer be ignored.

In this paper, for the first time, it has been investigated the idioms and riddles for one of original Persian dialects survived from Middle Persian language in southwestern Iran, a subset of Fars Province dialects, known as Xollar dialect and it has been indicated to pronunciations, transcription and their equivalent in Persian.

Considering that it has been no longer conducted any researches in this regard and no paper is issued at all, therefore, this issue is an innovation. Before dealing with the issue, it is required to provide some descriptions about Xollar dialect for more information.

### 2. Xollar dialect

Xollar is the name of e village 50km from northwestern Shiraz, Iran. this is one of villages in central Homqaijan rural district, subsidiary of Sepidan town, Ardakan city in 52:10 at longitude and 29:55 at latitude. Around this village are mountains and Xollar is located in a plain surrounded by Calxersi, Komey, Sarow and Tosar mountains.

From 331 B.C. (death of third Achaemeind Darius) to 867 A.D. (Jacob Safari throne year) is middle era for Iranian languages [2].

Middle Persian is a form of Persian language which is direct interface between ancient Persian and modern Persian [12]. There have always been some consistencies between this language and local dialects around Fars areas with regard to grammar and words [9], a subset of which is Xollar dialect and based on the historical records and observations, is a survivor of Middle Persian language [8].

Historically, verbal culture, the constructions and people originality back is attributed to Pishdad Kings

in more than 400 years ago in Shiraz but the most ancient written record for this claim is a written letter from Hajjaj-ben-Yusuf to his underlying governor and also it is indicated in Aghani and Taj-ol-Xorus as follows [3]:

Sending me honey from Xollar;  
from those young bees;  
a concentrated yet soft;  
which the fire didn't touch it.

Another written work in which the word Xollar has been observed is Khamriat from Abonavas, a famous Iranin Arabic-spoken poet such that he says heaven name is among Kholiar's habitants. Then, Xollar is indicated geographers 's work such as Estaxri, Ebn-hogal, Moghadasi, Ghodame, Ebn-ol-Balkhi, Hamdolla mostofi and etc. and we can see some descriptions for its wine, grapes, honey and mill stone. Idiom is a brief popular statement that represents a divisive story or lesson instead of more description. In fact, they are short pithy saying in general use, stating a general truth or piece of advice. Although many of stories have become obsolete and their histories are no longer obvious for some people, they are used in conversations. Then, they are identified and promising examples of a culture, whether used in short musical prose or in bits and hemistiches as compressed and brief words and they in some cases are a summary of a long popular story which as shortest and the most beautiful words as possible, are used in the language.

There is no information how to populate these idioms and expressions. Statements, which are today popular

among people, were previously temporal words said from thoughtful persons and because of effectiveness, accuracy and attractiveness, are recorded on general minds and iterated repeatedly. Therefore, the person who has used the idiom is as unknown as the historical folkloric speakers, poets and myths are.

Also, famous linguistics and scientists have yet found a comprehensive meaning and definition for the idiom. Although there has been conducted many researches with this regard and there are valid interpretations, Dekhoda in an introduction for "Adage" writes: "In French language, there are 17 words that are translated as idioms in Arabic and Persian cultures and the definitions available in large French dictionaries are no longer satisfied and discriminated by those definitions [6].

Many idioms contain all personal and social values in a society and they are in deep people livings [7]. Also, it can be said that in all the languages of the world, there are idioms with some similarities and the longer the national history and civilization, more idioms can be found. As the same, in Persian language there are thousands idioms, whether a simple statement or a poem but in any case, knowing idioms, makes writing and speaking more easier so as they are attractive, make conversations brief and if proper use, they have more effectiveness.

In Xollar dialect, there are also popular idioms, some of which are available in Persian language without any difference except some phonetic ones and some other is different from Persian's. Some samples of idioms popular in Xollar language are as follows:

Xollar Idioms	English Equivalent	Considerations
1. Âsiyow a nuvat.	First come, first served.	The first people to arrive will be able to get the best choices.
2. Adar migut divâr bešnavet.	Beat one to frighten another.	An ironic word to be indirectly conveyed to the audience
3. Aftow a kođom var a dar adan?	Which side the sun has risen?	Unusually and unexpected action
4. A gardešam nimrâse	He can't hold a candle to him.	Not [to be] equal to someone; unable to measure up to someone.
5. Engâr mâ: tu tava	<b>The pot call the kettle black</b>	Used humorously to say that you should not criticize someone for something, because you have done the same thing or have the same fault
6. Owr amey vara: vara: meymune mâ vari bera Gul gulu pašmin a sar meymuna injon tâ sâl a sar	Fish and guests stink after three days	Having guests in your home after three days gets tiresome.
7. Ow ke rext rext	A word spoken is an arrow let fly.	A <i>word spoken</i> is past recalling
8. Ow vavođan eštân a tu zimin	Tail between one's leg	On the image of a frightened or defeated dog going off threatened or humiliated
9. A har das hâde a hamu das misone	As the question, so the answer	A form of words addressed to a person in order to elicit information or evoke a response; interrogative sentence
10. A yar bande mane bidel nešessi Boro fekri bokon ke vel nešessi	Dash one's hopes	To ruin someone's hopes; to put an end to someone's dreams or aspirations.
11. Aya namirom napirom	All is well that ends well	An event that has a good ending is good even if

		some things went wrong along the way.
12. Bâdo bif kê šamsali bošo tu xunaš va:zeš bivin	<b>Beauty is only skin deep</b>	Something that you say which means a person's character is more important than their appearance
13. mivaxšet Poš ju	It's easy to be generous with another man's money	Do what you ought to do before you do things that you want to do; pay your debts before you give money away.
14. Pârna ya qâteri boðem emsâl ya xarîsem	Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know	Something that you say to mean it is better to deal with a person or thing you know, even if you do not like them, than to deal with a new person or thing who could be even worse
15. Tâ:li haftâ moške kur a xowš ditan	In the arms of Morpheus.	Asleep
16. Tal taxa hosmet	Death dreams	
17. To ke mene hâro hâr das boko tu jivet pu:l a darâr.	Blue are the hills that are far away	Comparable to distance lends enchantment to the view.
18. Tu de: ra:š šu nimiðâ sorây xuney kaðxoðâš migero	<b>A Bad workman always blames his tools</b>	Something that you say when someone blames the objects they are using for their own mistakes
19. Tooš xom eš koştan dareš mardom	Show off	
20. Jâ tareno baça ni	Water under the bridge	If a problem or an unpleasant situation is water under the bridge, it happened a long time ago and no one is upset about it now
21. Ći a çeš nayitan	Cool-handed	
22. Xar vâmonda bandurša howšen	Slowcoach	
23. Tâ kur yarâq bokond eyš a saren	His fingers are all thumbs	To be awkward with your hands and keep making mistakes
24. Xoðâ dar taxa mizuneš kerdan	Every jack has his Jill	Every man will eventually find a woman to be his romantic partner.
25. Daryâ hezâr dor šeno dam nimizend Juja morx ya xâg šeno hezâr na:ra mizend	As proud as the peacock	Overly proud; vain.
26. Doz a sâv mâl zuren	a windbag	
27. Doz ke a doz bezend yorya dozen	Look before you leap.	Think carefully about what you are about to do before you do it.
28. Daz del masuz kê mikond	Careless	
29. Del bira: biru: a xom	Helpless	
30. Delom xašen čakma a pâm / a ra: mišem lengom a tân.	A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush	Having something for certain is better than the possibility of getting something better.
31. Dig a dig migut rut se	The pot calls the kettle black.	Something that you say which means someone should not criticize another person for a fault that they have themselves
32. Digi keš ni asi mo ba:ra / çe sar sag a tuš bujušet çe sar ka:ra	Charity begins at home	You should take care of family and people close to you before you worry about helping others.
33. Ra: sar setârey bisyakom	To dig one's own grave	To be responsible for one's own downfall or ruin.
34. Ruyan rexta narze emumzâda mikond	You can't grease a "pig" so many times that he can't be greased one more time.	
35. Sag ke vâvi se: vo safið eš ni	Virulent	
36. Sageš ba: za xošen	Better the head of a dog than the tail of a lion	It is better to be the leader of a less prestigious group than to be a subordinate in a more prestigious one.
37. Šâ: ke pâvi nuvey vaziren	A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.	If you only know a little about something, you may feel you are qualified to make judgments when, in fact, you are not.
38. Šarik dozo rafiq qâfelan	You can't run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.	To support both sides of a dispute.
39. Šolla besmellâš ni	Useless	
40. Šivane xar šâdiye sag	After night comes dawn , after sorrow comes joy	
41. Qowm gušet boxord osoyundet nimvât a dur	Loyalty	

42. Ka: xot ni ka:dun xo a xoten	Never trouble till trouble troubles you	If you think something might cause trouble, leave it alone and wait until it actually causes trouble.
43. Koffa to koffa vaxša to vaxša sik sikak to če margeten?	To fool around	To waste time doing something unnecessary or doing something amateurishly.
44. Kom xâla xânbagi xođ âš tu nâlvagi?	Make a pig out of oneself	To eat too much of something; to make a pig of oneself.
45. Ko:yi andan de:yi a dar bokond	Usurper	
46. Gađâ hâde nun o duş çuyş a bâloy çuyet bu	<b>I saw a saw that saw a saw</b>	
47. Laçaktam doşman sarten	Untrusted	
48. Mâl tâya dâr rikora rikow mâl bi tâyaş bezano borow.	Better a lock than doubt	
49. Malet seft bigi mardom a doz mako	Good fences make good neighbors.	It is easier to be friendly with your neighbor if neither of you trespasses upon the other's property or privacy.
50. Meymun çeş meymun eş ni sâvxuna çeş har doş	a gatecrasher	
51. Meymunak har či zeštaren bâziş a hamma bištaren	The worst wheel of a cart makes most noise	
52. Har či a nâzoki mipuket merd a kolofti	Still waters are the deepest.	Quiet people are often very thoughtful.
53. Har ka mixord nun o panir to bošo tu konj beftâ bimir	To fool around	To waste time doing something unnecessary or doing something amateurishly.
54. Har ka mâdan nunş âmâdan har ka naren darvâdaren	A great ship must have deep water	
55. Hergi ow xaş a guliş duman nara	One never has a carefree moment	
56. Ya xâg dârom jâş nađârom	Upstart	
57. Ya farmunbar ba:rey haftâ aziz mixord.	Assorted	
58. Yeki morda vi a binavâyi yekiş migo xânom zardak mixâyi?	He can't make both ends meet	To earn and spend equal amounts of money. (Usually in reference to a meager living with little if any money after basic expenses.)
59. Yeki rişeş taş gerofta vi yek daş migo valla vel ta mo a ruş ya qovdey balali bonem	Fall out of the frying pan into the fire	From a bad situation to a worse situation.
60. Ya gol a risom do gol a risom om dâ dişow dasma lisom.	You can't have your cake and eat it too.	

### 3. Riddles

<b>Xollar riddles</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1. Sa:râye tang o târiken poreş muri sar bariken	A narrow, dark Sahara full of narrow-head ants	Matches can
2. Sa:râye larde larden poreş gerdala barden.	Very soft Sahara full of round and circular shape aggregates	Paste
3. Do çiş bis angos	Two eyes with 20 fingers	Human
4. Çar pâ a ru gel do pâ tu âsemun ey xar bozen	Four feet on the ground, two in the sky	Goat

### 4. Conclusions

Having collected idioms and riddles in Xollar dialect, in addition to maintain originality, they can be compared with the replacements in Persian language and other dialects and their similarities and differences can be investigated. In Xollar idioms and

riddles considering the history which is survived from Middle Persian language, it can be obtained many ancient words and their correct pronunciation. For the first time in this study as well as with regard to immigrations to metropolitans, they can be

preserved against obsolescence and maintained for posterities.

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