



Article

The Evolution of the Diplomatic Vocabulary of the Persian Language

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Abstract: The article examines the diplomatic vocabulary of the Persian language from the point of view of its formation and development. Diplomatic vocabulary is one of the layers of the socio-political vocabulary of the Persian language and reflects all the changes taking place in the political and public life of the country. The article examines individual lexemes used in various historical epochs (mainly in Safavid and Qajar) to nominate positions and persons related to the performance of duties related to representatives of foreign states.

Keywords. Diplomacy. diplomatic language, diplomatic vocabulary, socio-political vocabulary of the language.

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Introduction. Diplomacy is an important tool of foreign policy activity of any state. Training of highly qualified specialists of the diplomatic service requires knowledge of the basic terms of protocol and etiquette of international communication. The concept of “diplomatic language” has two sides. On the one hand, it is the language in which various diplomatic events are conducted, various documents of international level are drawn up. In other words, the language of diplomatic

documents is the language in which a given state speaks to the outside world¹. On the other hand, it is a set of lexical units serving this sphere of human activity.

Diplomatic vocabulary is a complex dynamic system that changes under the influence of various linguistic and extra-linguistic factors. Changes in the composition of diplomatic

lexicon reflect the complex history of interaction between different cultures and states, as well as adaptation to the changing conditions of the international arena.

The history of the Persian language in the context of diplomacy starts from the time of the Achaemenid Empire, when it was used to record treaties, diplomatic correspondence and management documents. This period laid the foundations for the use of Persian as an important tool for interstate communication. In the Middle Ages, with the spread of Islam and the formation of new dynasties, the Persian language continued its development and its diplomatic vocabulary was enriched with new terms and concepts. New times brought with them European influence, which contributed to the incorporation of many foreign terms into Persian, reflecting new political, technological and cultural realities. With this development of the language, not only borrowing and the appearance of new lexemes, but also significant changes in the semantic structure of lexical units take place. In other words, lexemes may expand or reduce their semantic range, and some of them may change their semantic meaning and even go out of use due to the loss of the necessity to express this or that concept.

Linguistic and extra-linguistic factors influence the formation and replenishment of the lexical composition of a language. The need to nominate new realities appearing in society, change of socio-political formations, revolutions, including scientific and technological revolution, expansion of international relations, etc. contribute to changes in the vocabulary of a language, the development of its separate layers. Different strata of vocabulary are characterized by different degrees of development dynamics due to one or another reason.

Diplomatic vocabulary is a component part of the socio-political vocabulary of the language, and the development of these strata is characterized by different degrees of intensity and is connected with the appearance of new political realities² or their relevance. Let us trace the nature of the changes of meanings that have occurred in some words of the diplomatic lexicon of Persian.

صدر اعظم *sadr-e 'azam* "chief vizier" in the Safavid era, denoted the second person after the Shah in charge of all foreign affairs. Nowadays, the combination *صدر اعظم* *sadr-e 'azam* is preserved in the closely related Dari language and means "prime minister", while in modern Persian it has come to be used to translate the term "chancellor".

صدر اعظم آلمان در سخنانی از کامالا هریس تمجید کرده و تاکید کرد که وی را به خوبی می‌شناسد³

sadr-e azam-e ālmān dar soxanāni az kāmālā haris tamjid karde va tākid kard ke vey ra be xubi mišenāsad "The German Chancellor praised Kamala Harris and emphasized that he knows her well"

Throughout the Safavid era, *صدر اعظم* *sadr-e 'azam* was the key figure in charge of all foreign affairs. None of the internal and external affairs were taken without his authorization.

In the pre-Islamic period, a special ambassador called *فرسته* *fereste* was sent by the Shah to deal with international affairs outside the country. Ali Akbar Dehkhudo's dictionary gives such synonyms as *رَسُول* *rasul* "messenger", *اِلچی* *ilci* "ambassador", *قاصد* *qāsed* "messenger", "messenger" used in the past but dropped out of use in the present except *سفير* *safir* "ambassador".

Currently, matters related to international affairs and foreign policy are the responsibility of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

¹ Pulodova N.Y. Raupova S.M. Structure of diplomatic communication and its lexical-phraseological composition. <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/struktura-diplomaticheskogo-snosheniya-i-ego-leksiko-frazeologicheskij-sostav>

² E.L. Gladkova. Ways of development of socio-political lexicon of modern Persian language. M.2013, p. 224

³ <https://donya-e-eqtesad.com>

وزیر vazir "minister". In the history of Iran, during the periods of domination of various ruling dynasties, there have always been famous ministers who, in addition to the ministry, were also among the great and revered people of Iran in the field of literature and various sciences.

The word وزیر vazir "minister" is one of the familiar and often repeated words associated with such concepts as "government", "authority", "state", etc. This word was widely used in Persian and Arabic in earlier times as well. In earlier periods of Iranian history, other words synonymous with it were also widespread. Under the Qajars, the word وزیر vazir "minister" was used to refer to the person who headed the Shah's office and carried out relations with foreign countries.

In Ali Akbar Dehkhudo's dictionary, the word وزیر vazir also has such meanings as معاون mo'āven, همپشت hampošt and مددکار madadkār, which are translated respectively as "deputy"; "comrade", 'friend and helper', as well as a special co-companion of the padishah who is his counselor and assistant in affairs; one who carries the valuable burden of the state; one who helps in the administration of the state⁴. In modern Persian, the word وزیر vazir is interpreted as a member of the government, heading some ministry in the state:⁵

وزیر، به سیاستمداری گفته می‌شود که در یک دولت، مسئول صدارت یکی از وزارتخانه‌ها می‌شود.

vazir be siyasatmadār-i gofte mišavad ke dar yek dowlāt mas'ul-e sedārat yek-i az vezāratxāneha mišavad "A minister is a politician who heads one of the ministries of the state".

In addition to the word وزیر vazir, the words حواجه xāje were used in the same sense in the combinations حواجه بزرگ xāje-ye bozorg and دستور dastur, which are now considered obsolete.

As for the combination وزیر امور vazir-e omur-e xāreje "foreign minister" although political exchanges and sending ambassadors from Iran to different countries were common in different periods of Iran's history, but there was no such title as foreign minister until during the time of Fath Ali Shah Qajar the title of foreign minister was created for the first time and a position with this title was created in the political system of the country.

With the expansion of the authority of the ministry and the office in charge of foreign policy issues was called by different names: دفتر غریباخانه daftarxāne - ye qorabā "Office of Foreign Affairs", دفتر خارجه omur-e xāreje "Office of Foreign Affairs" and دفتر امور خارجه omur-e dovval-e xareji "Foreign Affairs", وزارت خارجه vezātat-e dovval-e xāreje "Ministry of Foreign Affairs". Subsequently, the final name of the ministry وزارت امور خارجه vezārat-e omur-e xāreje "Ministry of Foreign Affairs" was formed⁶

منشی الممالک monši-ol-mamālek. This position under the Safavids can be equated with the modern foreign minister. This position was held by a very influential person in the court who was in possession of the secrets and mysteries of the royal council. In addition, part of the king's correspondence was in his charge.

Also under the Safavids, there was a special position at the court for receiving guests, which was called ندراباشی mehmāndārbaši. Since at that time Iran did not yet have a special body dealing with issues related to foreign powers and to receive foreign guests who came to Iran with various missions this post was established. The ندر mehmāndar was responsible for receiving, feeding and escorting the foreign envoy to the court of the Shah and was also responsible for making the stay of foreign guests at the court comfortable and pleasant.

بود سفرا و دربار میهمانان از پذیرایی مسئول باشی مهماندار <https://www.asriran.com>

Mehmāndārbaši masul-e pazirāyi-ye az mihmānān-e darbār va sofarā bud "" Mehmāndārbaši was responsible for receiving court guests and ambassadors.

He was also responsible for keeping a record of gifts given by foreigners. He was assisted in this task by the so-called "recorder of gifts" called نویس کش پیش piškašnevis. Another position that existed under the Safavids and had to do with foreign affairs was called مجلس نویس majlesnevis or نگار وقایع vagāye'negār "chronicler", whose task was to inform the Shah and courtiers about current

علی اکبر دهخدا. یغتنامه، تهران، ۱۹۹۸، ص. ۲۳۱۸۰ ۴

سید علی رضوی بهابادی. فرهنگ زبان فارسی- تهران، ۱۳۸۳. ص. ۵۱۰۴۹

<http://irdiplomacy.ir/fa/news>

events in the country, as well as to keep track of the country's relations with foreign countries and bilateral treaties. Therefore, foreign ambassadors were in constant contact with the "chronicler" and handed him documents to be registered. It was also his duty to record the date of arrival, the purpose of the meeting, the nature of the foreign envoys' requests, the decisions taken and the answers given to them. In addition, he publicly read out the letters of foreign ambassadors in the presence of the royal council, and was present at the negotiations of the chief minister *صدر اعظم* *sadr-e azam* with the arriving ambassador. He also wrote letters to be sent to foreign powers. In this he was assisted by a special group of scribes called *نگارنده* *negārānde* from the Secretariat, which was called *دارالانشاء* *dār-ol-enšā* or *دبیرخانه* *dabirxāne*. In modern diplomatic vocabulary, many of these positions have either ceased to exist or have been given a different name. For example, the position of *مهمانداریباشی* *mehmāndārbaši* - responsible for receiving foreign guests and all matters related to their stay in the country in modern diplomatic vocabulary is called *تشریفات رئیس* *rais-e tašrifāt* "head of protocol department", the duties of *مجلس نویس* *majlesnevis* or *نگار وقایع* *vagāye'negār* are currently performed in the ministry by the press attaché, *صدر اعظم* *sadr-e azam* "chief minister" in charge of all affairs related to foreign countries with the formation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs became known as *وزیر امور خارجه* *vazir- omur-e xāreje* and most of the functions that he performed in previous eras were redistributed among the various departments of the Foreign Ministry.

قاضی *qāzi* "judge, qāzi." In the Islamic legal tradition, the *قاضی* *qāzi* "judge, qāzi" also dealt with legal matters related to foreigners. The *قاضی* *qāzi* "judge, qāzi" acted as a judge and decided disputes both between Muslims and between Muslims and non-Muslims, including foreigners. In some cases, if the case involved foreign subjects, the qadi had to take into account international agreements and the laws of the country from which the foreigner came. If foreigners belonged to non-Muslim communities, they were subject to special legal rules that ensured their rights and obligations in Muslim society. The qadi's decisions in such cases were often based on the Shari'ah and on local laws, but could also take into account the customs of the foreigners in order to observe justice.

7 باشد ایران عمومی نظم یا قوانین با مغایر اگر کند رد را خارجی قضایی حکم است ممکن قاضی

qāzi momken ast hokm qazā-yi ra rad konad agar maqāyer ba qavānin yā nazm - omumi-ye irān bāšad "A judge may reject a foreign decision if it is contrary to the laws or public order of Iran".

The *شهیندر* *šahbahdar* in the Middle Ages was an official who represented the interests of foreign merchants and was responsible for managing the ports and cities through which trade routes passed. He assisted foreign merchants, provided them with protection, regulated customs duties, and settled disputes. In fact, the *شهیندر* *šahbahdar* performed a diplomatic and administrative function. Later, during the Ottoman era, the role of *شهیندر* *šahbahdar* became more like that of consuls who represented the interests of foreign trading communities. Therefore, the title *شهیندر* *šahbahdar* was often associated with the consular service, and over time came to be thought of as "Turkish consul". The Consul maintained contact with the Persian authorities, discussed and concluded agreements on trade, the movement of citizens and conflict resolution, which made it possible to strengthen diplomatic relations. With the development of international relations and the strengthening of European influence on Iran, the position was transformed and the functions previously performed by *شهیندر* *šahbahdar* were transferred to the consul, called by the French loanword *کنسول* *konsul*, who was engaged in representing the interests of his country's citizens abroad, protecting economic interests, facilitating trade and settling disputes.

Under the Qajars, there was a special body functioning in all major cities of Iran, also under the governors-general of the border provinces and called *کارگزاری* *kārgozāri* "Chancellery". Numerous officials of this body were employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and were called *کارگزار* *kārgozār* *karguzār*, i.e., employees of the Chancellery, and were in charge of

قانون اجرای احکام خارجی. (مصوب ۱۳۸۶) 7

relations with foreign consuls in all judicial matters concerning foreigners and Iranian subjects. The Consul maintained contact with the Persian authorities, discussed and concluded agreements on trade, the movement of citizens and conflict resolution, which made it possible to strengthen diplomatic relations. The Consul maintained contact with the Persian authorities, discussed and concluded agreements on trade, the movement of citizens and conflict resolution, which made it possible to strengthen diplomatic relations. In the modern diplomatic lexicon, the word کارگزاری kārgozāri has lost its original meaning and is translated as “agency (for banking or commercial transactions), business, management”, “office management”, and کارگزار kārgozār as “clerk”⁸. And the division of the Foreign Ministry dealing with legal matters is called اقتصادی و کنسولی، حقوقی امور اداره کشور⁹ ye irāniyān xārej az kešvar -e hoquqi, konsulgari va eqtesādi-ye omur-edāre “Department of Legal, Consular and Economic Affairs of Iranians Abroad”.

The word مشاور mošāver, formerly denoting the diplomatic position of “counselor”, has now been replaced by the word رایزن rāyzan. The term مشاور mošāver denotes positions in other governmental structures and the position of military advisor نظامی مشاور mošāve-e nezāmi, for example: رئیس مشاور قومی امور در مشاور mošāver dar omur-e qowmi “tribal (national issues) advisor”; رئیس مشاور امنیت امور در جمهور mošāver -e raisjomhur dar omur-r amniyat “national security advisor to the president”.

<https://www.dw.com> شد کشته سوریه در اسرائیل حمله در ایران نظامی مشاور دومین

dovommin mošāver-e nezāmi-ye irān dar hamle-ye esrāil dar suriye košte šod “Iran's second military adviser killed in Israeli attack in Syria”

<https://radio.ir> اقتصادی های رایزن جایگاه و نقش موضوع با گو و گفت رادیو ی برنامه با گفتگو در بازگانی اسبق وزیر

vazir-e asbaq-e bāzargāni bā ba barnāme-i radio goft-o-gu bā mowzu-ye naqš va jāygāh-e rāyzanhā-ye eqtesādi.... “Former Commerce Minister talks to radio about the role and position of economic advisors....”

The same character of meanings is reflected in the derived words, for example, in combinations related to the diplomatic sphere the word “consultations” is translated by the word رایزنی rāyzani: سمرقند نشست حاشیه در تاجیکستان و پاکستان دیپلماسی های دستگاه مقامات رایزنی <http://www.raaznews.com/articles/>

rāyzani-ye maqāmāt-e dastgāhā-ye diplomasi-ye pākestan va tājikistān dar hāšiye-ye nešast-e samarqand “Consultation of officials of the diplomatic apparatuses of Pakistan and Tajikistan on the margins of the Samarkand meeting”.

Persian language, due to a number of historical conditions and geographical location of the country, has been in constant contact with many related and unrelated languages. Since the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as a result of constitutional reforms and the development of new forms of statehood, a significant layer of vocabulary of European origin has penetrated into the Persian language system, relating to various aspects of life in Iranian society. Borrowings from European languages, especially French, have considerably enriched the social and political vocabulary, of which diplomatic vocabulary is an integral part. Although the work of the Third Academy of Language and Literature is aimed at replacing European loanwords with words created according to Persian word-formation models¹⁰, the diplomatic lexicon is the most resistant to the changes occurring in general in the socio-political lexicon of the Persian language. Let us give some examples.

“Diplomacy”. Abu Hamza Al-Mohajer in his book “The Relationship between Islam and the Religion of Secularism” gives a definition of the word “diplomacy”. The author writes that the word comes from the Greek root of the word diploma, which literally means a folded page or sheet, and the term “diploma” refers to a document by which a person was given a rank or privilege.

⁸ Е.Д. Островенко. Русско-персидский словарь дипломатической лексики. «МГИМО_Университет», 2013, стр. 98

⁹ <https://web.archive.org/web/https://iranian.mfa.ir/portal/viewpage/14477>

¹⁰ Е.А. Гладкова. Пути развития общественно-политической лексики современного персидского языка. М.2013, стр. 224

Later the word came to be used to refer to the charter or official document of ambassadors and envoys to other states.

As the number of sovereign states grew and foreign relations expanded, the work related to the establishment, maintenance and implementation of foreign policy activities became more complicated, the number of persons conducting this work grew, diplomatic traditions and norms of drafting documents and conducting events were developed. All this contributed to the fact that the meaning of the word "diplomacy" expanded and acquired new connotations. Therefore, it is not surprising that in the modern world it is also used in relation to matters outside the framework of international relations.

و قلب در "آنها انسانی کرامت حفظ کنار در کارکنان رصد" و "مثبت روابط برقراری با کارکنان بین نفوذ" که داد نشان یافته‌ها
https://shrm.journals.umz.ac.ir/article_4839.html دارد قرار دیپلماتیک انسانی منابع مدیریت مفهوم جوهره

yāftehā nešān dad ke nofuz beyn-e kārgarān bā bar-qarāri-ye ravābet-e mosbat va rasad-e kārkonān dar kenār-e hefz-e karāmat-e ensāni-ye ānhā dar qalb va jowhar-e mafhum-e modiriyat-e manābe'-ye ensāni-ye diplomatic qarār dārad "The results showed, that "influence between employees by establishing positive relationships" and "controlling employees while preserving their human dignity" are at the heart and core of the concept of diplomatic human resource management."

However, the basic meaning of the word is related to international relations.

The word دیپلماسی diplomāsi "diplomacy" has been defined in different ways. In Ali Akbar Dehkhudo's dictionary, "diplomacy" is the science and practice of negotiating to reach a compromise acceptable to the other side between nations, as well as the customs and methods of conducting these negotiations. In political encyclopedia¹¹, diplomacy is defined as the knowledge of communication between politicians and leaders of the world. Moin's dictionary equates diplomacy with political knowledge, and Amid's dictionary defines diplomacy as political methods and techniques of communication with other countries.

The Academy of Language and Literature of Iran on its website offers the following more diverse definition of diplomacy¹²: "The art of managing and directing international relations in the hands of official representatives of a country to maintain and protect national interests".

Apparently, all these definitions of "diplomacy", which contain an indication of its inextricable connection with politics, are the reason why in Persian the adjective "diplomatic" is mostly translated as سیاسی siyāsi "political".¹³, e.g. روابط سیاسی ravābet-e siyāsi "diplomatic relations", و مزایا سیاسی roādid mazāya va masuniyat-e siyāsi "diplomatic immunities and privileges", and روادید ravādid-e siyāsi "diplomatic visa", etc.

Among the European loanwords which, according to the Principles and Criteria of Terminology developed by the Iranian Academy of Language and Literature, are not subject to replacement by Persian equivalents, as they have acquired international status and are used in all languages, we should mention such words as دیپلمات diplomāt "diplomat", کنسول konsul "consul", veto "veto", ویزا vizā "visa", دیسمیسل dismisl "dismisl", etc.

In addition, there are common European loanwords in Persian diplomatic vocabulary that have Persian equivalents used simultaneously: ویزا vizā and روادید ravādid "visa", پاسپورت pāspurt and گزرنامه gozarnāme "passport" (foreign), اگرمآن agremān and پذیرش pazireš "aggreman", and مقیم moqim "accredited"

From what has been said, the following conclusions can be drawn.

1- The history of Iran's diplomatic relations has an ancient history, starting from the Achaemenid Empire to the present day.

¹¹ دایوش آشوری. دانشنامه سیاسی

¹² <https://lamtakam.com/dictionaries/farhangestan>

¹³ Е.Д.Островенко. Русско-персидский словарь дипломатической лексики, «МГИМО- Университет, 2013, стр 118

Diplomacy, being the most important element of interaction between states, includes both the development and implementation of political decisions and the use of language to create and maintain international relations.

2. Diplomatic language has two sides. It is a language used for drafting documents and conducting events, as well as a set of specialized vocabulary reflecting the uniqueness of diplomatic activity.

3. The diplomatic vocabulary of modern Persian reflects the political processes and phenomena that took place in the history of Iran and goes through various stages of its formation.

4. The diplomatic lexicon, being a part of the social and political lexicon, is subject to changes that give rise to the need to nominate new realities and the loss of words that have fallen out of use due to the withdrawal from the political arena of this or that concept.

5. Lexemes can expand, contract or lose their semantic meaning and even go out of use because of the need to express a concept or to transfer the expressed meaning to other lexemes.

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