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Enclitic pronouns in the Anbarāni dialect of the Talysh language

Talyshi, classified as belonging to the Northwestern Iranian group of languages, includes a wide range of dialects, which, based on phonological, grammatical and lexical factors, are traditionally divided into three main clusters: Northern, Central and Southern [Bazin 1980; Stilo 1981; Yarshater 1996]. Anbarāni is a Northern Talyshi dialect spoken in Anbarān district (baxš) of Namin sub-provincial district (šahrestān) (Ardabil province) of Iran, in the city of Anbaran and adjacent villages. This paper is based on the fieldwork carried out in Aminjān (now a part of Anbarān city [Bazin 2012]) and Minābād villages in 2015-2016, and aims to analyze the functions of the enclitic pronouns in Anbarāni.

The enclitic pronouns of Anbarāni are the following:

	Sg.	Pl.
1 st	-əm	-əmun
2 nd	-e	-eun
3 rd	-əš	-əšun

The forms of 1sg. and 3sg., like the New Persian enclitic pronouns (resp. -am, -aš), derive from Old Iranian genitive/dative pronominal clitics *-mai, *-šai [Korn 2009]. The origin of the form for 2sg is unclear [Miller 1953: 115]. The plural enclitics are formed from the singular forms by adding the plural suffix -un (=Az.Tal. -on, NP. -ān) < OIr. Genitive pl. ending *-ānām [Yefimov, Rastorgueva, Sharova 1982: 103]. Although in these two languages these enclitic pronouns generally have common origin, they are completely different from each other in their functions. While in the Persian language, especially in colloquial speech, pronominal enclitics have a very broad usage [see Samvelian, Tseng 2010], in Anbarāni their use are quite limited.

The expression of possession is one of the main functions of the Persian enclitic pronouns. In my database collected during the fieldworks such a function of the Anbarāni enclitics is not found, still, the use of pronominal enclitics in possessive function rarely occurs in Anbarāni, and D. Paul calls it “an innovation borrowed from Persian”:

- (1) čaš-əš ba vača hamu-anda a-gini.
 eye-3Sg. to kid goat field-LOC PVB-fell.3Sg.
 “His eye fell on a kid goat in the field” [Paul 2011: 80]

Thus, in the Anbarāni dialect of the Talysh language enclitic pronouns have two functions:

1. Enclitic pronouns, combining with the existential verb *heste* “to be, to exist, there be”, express the state of having, owning, controlling something (cf. NP *dāštan* “to have”), e.g.

- (2) ila ve yul-a ka-mun heste
 A very big-LNK house-1Pl. exist
 “We have a very big house”.

It must be noted that this structure obviously is a result of the Turkic influence on the Talysh language: in Azarbaijani the meaning of the verb “to have” aslo is expressed by the means of possessive suffixes and the verb *var* “there is/there are”, e.g. *mənim qardaşım var* – I have a brother [Xudazarov 2006: 38]. Along with this Turkic form, in Anbarāni the meaning of the verb “to have” is expressed with the postposition *ro* (cf. NP. *rā* < OIr. **radi*), instead of the enclitic pronouns, and the verb *heste*.

2. In Anbarāni the enclitic pronouns mark the agent of ergative constructions:

- (3) zina əştə dust-əm məktəb-əndə vində
 yesterday your friend-1sg. school-LOC see
 “Yesterday I saw your friend in the school”.

The placement of enclitic pronouns in Anbarāni displays great variety, it can attach to any component part of a sentence, except the agent itself (if it is not omitted). Thus, the example [3] can also have the following structures: “*zina-m əştə dust məktəb-əndə vində*”, or “*zina əştə dust məktəb-əndə vində-m-e*” etc.. This feature of the enclitics has led to one of the most important differences between Anbarāni and the Northern Talyshi dialects spoken in the Republic of Azerbaijan: in Anbarāni the whole system of personal endings is influenced by this peculiarity of pronominal enclitics, thus the personal endings can attach to various components of the sentence also in the accusative constructions:

- (4) hār tıvəstun āz bə rəstə-m şı-nə
 every summer I to villag-1sg. go.Pst-LOC
 “Every summer I go to the village.”

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