

THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSIAN LANGUAGE IN UNDERSTANDING CLASSICAL EASTERN LITERATURE

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Annotation. Persian has been a carrier of knowledge, culture, and poetry in the East for centuries, not merely a language. This article discusses why students should study Persian if they wish to adequately understand classical Eastern literature. It seeks to address how an understanding of the language grants the students immediate access to the authentic works of the poets Saadi, Hafez, and Rumi and how it facilitates an actual link with the cultural and moral foundations of the texts. The article also refers to the common literary heritage between Persian and Central Asian civilizations.

Keywords: Persian, classical literature, cultural heritage, Central Asia, poetry

Annotatsiya. Fors tili asrlar davomida Sharqda faqat aloqa vositasi emas, balki bilim, madaniyat va she'riyat tashuvchisi bo'lib kelgan. Ushbu maqolada fors tilini o'rganish sharq mumtoz adabiyotini to'laqonli anglashni istagan talabalar uchun nima sababdan muhim ekani muhokama qilinadi. Unda tilni bilish Sa'diy, Hofiz va Rumi kabi shoirlarga oid asl asarlarga bevosita kirish imkonini berishi, shuningdek, bu matnlarda mujassam bo'lgan madaniy va axloqiy qadriyatlar bilan chinakam bog'lanish hosil qilishga xizmat qilishi bayon etiladi. Maqolada, shuningdek, fors tili va Markaziy Osiyo sivilizatsiyalari o'rtasidagi umumiy adabiy meros haqida ham so'z yuritiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: Fors tili, mumtoz adabiyot, madaniy meros, Markaziy Osiyo, she'riyat

Introduction

When the students read classical Eastern literature, they usually find the names Rumi, Hafez, Saadi, and Ferdowsi. These writers left their impact on the literary and ethical ideals of the region, and all but a few of their writings were written in Persian. Translations have their uses, but they lack the emotional tone, rhythm, and latent meaning of the original work. That is why studying Persian is not only worthwhile—it's essential to anyone wishing to enjoy this literature in all its glory.

One of the first things one learns when studying Persian is that the language has an internal cadence and grace. Persian, unlike many modern languages, possesses a musicality that enhances the joy of reading poetry and prose. This is no coincidence—Persian evolved along with the poetry that developed it. The shape-shifting form of the word, its metaphorical potential, and its cultural associations with beauty and richness render it especially well-suited to literature.

To read Persian poetry in its own tongue is to be able not just to appreciate the meaning of the words but their sound, rhythm, and deeper symbolism as well. A couplet from Hafez, for example, can have multiple meanings: mystical, emotional, philosophical, political. These levels are flattened out in translation, even in the most carefully crafted English renditions. By knowing the language, students can extract meanings that might slip the notice of translators.

For Central Asian, particularly for Uzbek, students this education goes further. For several centuries in the region Persian was a hegemony of culture. Numerous famous classical Uzbek writers were bilinguals or heavily impacted by Persian conventions and forms. Alisher Navoi, while famous for writing in Chagatai Turkic, admired Persian poets and took great liberties with the stylistic conventions of theirs. Without knowledge of Persian, students may miss these connections and struggle to fully understand the roots of their own literary tradition.

Moreover, Persian literature serves as a mirror of Eastern ethics and philosophy. Works like Saadi's *Bustan* or Rumi's *Masnavi* are not just beautiful—they are full of lessons about human behavior, spiritual growth, and social values. These texts write about themes such as justice, humility, compassion, and love in language no less relevant today. They often utilize the application of tale, parables, and metaphor that encourage self-reflection and identification. When they are read in Persian, their moral and emotional resonance is at once and profoundly felt.

It should also be noted that the learning of Persian unlocks an enormous wealth of original sources beyond poetry. Classical Persian was used for scientific, historical, and philosophical works during the Islamic Golden Age. Students interested in these areas of study benefit immensely from being able to read original documents. Even today, numerous valuable works remain untranslated or exist only in antiquated editions. Language proficiency, in this sense, becomes an academic advantage and a tool for future research.

Lastly, studying Persian has implications that extend outside the classroom. Students typically find that speaking a second culture's language broadens their horizons. They begin to notice how different cultures explain universal ideas like love, death, honor, and community. This sense of intercultural understanding makes students more tolerant and adaptable—qualities that are growing more important in today's interconnected world.

In short, Persian is more than a language of communication. It's an insight into the minds and hearts of some of the best minds in the history of the East. For anyone serious about reading classic books or understanding the cultural heritage of the region, learning Persian is an essential step. It introduces students to the spirit of the text and turns them into thoughtful, well-read, and culturally aware individuals.

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