

Anaphoric and Deictic use of Demonstrative expressions in Old Persian

Fr 11.30 – 12.00

The Persian language used in cuneiform inscriptions of the Achaemenian dynasty is called Old Persian (600-300 BC.) This language belongs to the Iranian branch of Indo-Iranian, which is one of the main divisions of the Indo-European family of languages.

In the existing literature on Old Persian, there is no mention of two kinds of demonstratives. We want to make a distinction between these two different kinds of demonstratives, since the present explanations for demonstratives are not adequately applied to all the sentences including demonstrative expressions.

The main premise of this paper is to establish the hypothesis that there were two kinds of demonstratives in Old Persian: deictic and anaphoric. The following evidences will be presented to justify that hypothesis.

1. The derivation of Old Persian demonstratives from Proto Indo-European demonstrative.
2. The declination of the demonstrative which is the same as Sanskrit and Avestan declination.
3. The syntax of demonstrative in Old Persian.

In order to test the validity of the above premise, four demonstratives in Old Persian, namely, *hauv*, *ava-*, *iyam* and *aita-* in DB inscription (Darius <in> Behistan) are examined. DB inscription is a trilingual inscription; the Old Persian texts are inscribed in 5 columns, containing 96, 98, 92, 92, 36 lines respectively. It is The Great Inscription that is completely preserved, and linguistically can be considered as a whole text and discourse, and thus, a proper source to study the references of the demonstratives. By comparing the results, we can make a distinction between the anaphoric and deictic use of demonstratives in the text.