

Relative clause extraposition in Persian narrative text with a functional approach: Evidence from fifth to seventh volumes of Tārix-e Bayhaqi

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Relative clause extraposition happens whenever relative clause moves from its normal position - near the head - to the final position of the sentence. Analyzing relative clause extraposition has taken great attention since the functional grammar appeared. Due to the fact that Persian sentences remain grammatical in the case of occurrence or non-occurrence of this process, most linguists believe that this movement has a non-syntactic motivation. Having hypothesized that the occurrence of this phenomenon could have functional reasons such as the relative clause length, information structure, sameness of the verb in the main and the relative clause and the type of the verb, the extraposition process in 66 out of 150 clauses, extracted from parts of **Tārix-i Bayhaqi** have been examined so that the comparison of the results of this process in the narrative and literary texts with the contemporary formal texts would be possible. The results showed that from the four factors mentioned, except the information structure, the other three ones have direct impact on the relative clause extraposition. The relative clause length was the most important factor in this process in **Tārix-i Bayhaqi** which verifies the Howkins' claim on the tendency of the heavy constituents in verb final languages to move to the end of the sentence and occur after the verb. Comparing these results with Rāsekhmahand et al (1391), it became clear that there is not a significant difference between the function of the relative clause extraposition in modern formal Persian and in the **Tārix-i Bayhaqi**.

Key words: Relative Clause Extraposition, Tārix-i Bayhaqi, Informative Structure, Relative Clause Length

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