

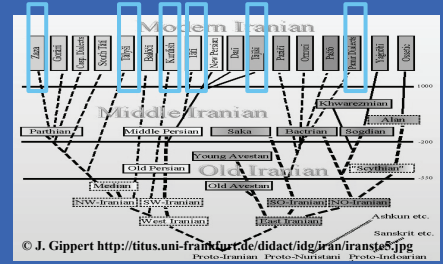
Why borrow verbs when you can borrow participles?

Turkic participles in the **Iranian** languages

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Geographically and genealogically divergent Iranian languages such as Tajik, Talysh, Kurdish, Zaza, Tati, and Sariqul all have verbs in the form of:

Turkic participle in *-miš* + Iranian light verb



Talysh
taništürmiš karde
meet.ptpl do.inf
'to meet'

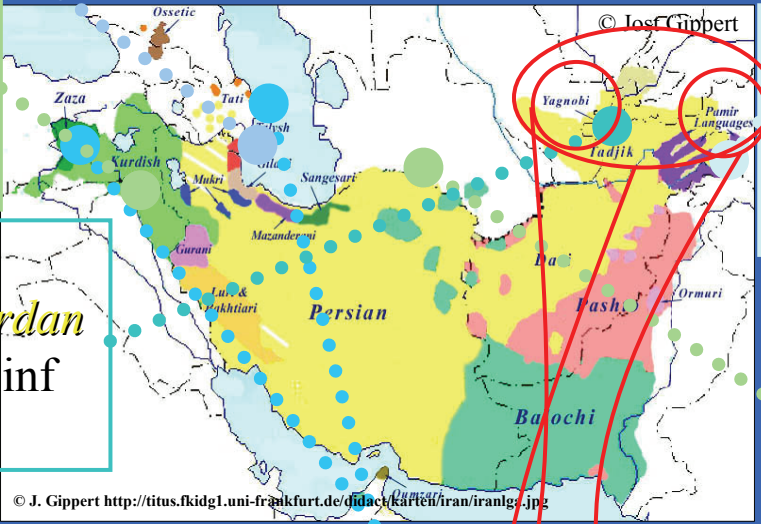
Kurdish
ermiš kirin
reach.ptpl do.inf
'to reach'

Tajik (northern)
tušunmiš kardan
understand.ptpl do.inf
'to understand'

Tati & Zaza also have '*-miš*+light verb's

- Orkhon Turkic (8 C) had gerunds/participles in *-miš*.
- The productivity of *-miš* was in decline in Chaghatay (14 C~).
- Tajik northern dialects have a number of verbs in the form of '*-miš kardan*'.
- Sariqul also has verbs with *-miš*.
- *-miš* is not productive in Modern Uzbek and Modern Uyghur.

→ Was *-miš* borrowed into Iranian from Turkic many centuries ago? Doerfer (232) and Soper (1996: 60)



Sariqul
bošlamiš tšeiğ
start.ptpl do.inf
'to start'

Kurdish (Kurmanji)
başlamiš kirin
start.ptpl do.inf
'to start'

The existence of *-miš* in the Iranian languages can be ascribed to borrowing. However, it is not clear why Iranian languages of wide geographical and genealogical divergence utilize the same strategy for borrowing Turkic verbs. This is particularly puzzling because, at least in some of the Iranian languages from which the examples above are taken, there exist other seemingly 'simpler' strategies (e.g. 'verb stem+light verb' in Bukharan Tajik *o'yla kardan* 'to think' < Uzbek *o'yla-* 'think') for borrowing Turkic verbs. This may hint at a cognitive and/or syntactic reason for participle-borrowing (e.g. 'verb stems are less readily identifiable than participles').

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