

## Exploring Persian and French Relative Structure Based on the Typology and Contrastive Analysis Interaction

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### Abstract

Relative Structure (RS) is on the core attention of both Typologists and experts in Second Language Acquisition (SLA). There are two reasons for this attention including the RS role in the typological classification of languages and the difficulty of foreign language's RS for second language learner. This study aimed to provide a contrastive analysis of Persian and French RS based on typological criterion for facilitating the process of learning French by Persian speaking learners. The results of contrasting syntactic structure show that both languages have external-headed/postnominal RS. This means that Relative Clause (RC) is embedded to the main clause in both languages. The position of Persian and French in the Noun Phrase Accessibility Hierarchy (Keenan & Comeri 1977) is almost the same. However, relative marker, relativization strategies and RC extraposition are the main syntactic differences of the two languages. Persian uses just one complementizer (ke) as its relative marker but French has 6 relative markers which are either relative pronoun or complementizer. Persian has gap and pronoun retention strategies while French uses just relative pronoun strategy. Furthermore, French RC has more constraints for being extraposed to postverbal position in comparison to Persian one. As the last point, RCs are linguistic habit in French and have a higher frequency of usage than Persian RC.

**Keywords:** Typology, Contrastive Analysis, Relative Structure, Persian, French.

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