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Journal of Researches in Linguistics

E-ISSN: 2322-3413

16(2), 1-18

Received: 09.12.2023 Accepted: 24.02.2024

Research Paper

## The Persian light verb *dādan* ‘to give’: Causation and more

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### Abstract

This paper aims to investigate the light verb constructions (LVCs) formed with the light verb *dādan* ‘to give’ in Persian by employing the principles of cognitive lexical semantics. It examines the semantic relationships between the heavy verb *dādan* and its uses as LVCs. The analysis of attested examples reveals that the use of *dādan* as a light verb (LV) is a function of the semantic structure of its simple verb counterpart. This suggests that its lightness status is highly systematic and can be explained in terms of cognitively driven motivations. In addition, a significant number of the LVCs express certain causation meanings, suggesting that Persian speakers tend to use the LV *dādan* to convey causative notions as newly emerged LVCs. This stance will constitute our line of argument to analyze the data in this study. By presenting a cognitive configuration of LVCs in Persian, the current paper can pave the way for a fine-grained theorization of typological aspects of LVCs in some other languages.

**Keywords:** *dādan*, light verb construction, semantic structure, cognitive lexical semantics, causation

### 1. Introduction

There are relatively a limited number of simple verbs that are commonly used to form complex predicates in Persian<sup>1</sup>. This usage has persuaded some linguists to argue that Persian is a sterile language (see for example, [Bateni, 1989](#)). This means that Persian is endowed with very few simple verbs. Therefore, in order to generate new verbs, Persian requires to rely almost entirely on compound structures, rather than derivational processes. This explains why the majority of new verbal concepts are built in the form of complex predicates consisting of a light verb (LV) plus a pre-verb component (e.g. nouns, adjectives, or prepositional phrases) which carries the main semantic load of a new light verb construction (LVC). Given the propositions as such, this paper will examine a group of LVCs that are formed by the Persian LV *dādan* ‘to give’ as in a NP+LV combination. The main objective, thus, is to demonstrate how the semantic structure of heavy *dādan* is reflected in LVCs. The paper also aims to uncover the underlying motives behind the construction of such LVCs.

Section 2 introduces LVs and provides a brief description of the literature. In section 3, different types of causatives in Persian are discussed. Data and methods are presented in section 4. Section 5 deals with analysis of the data in relation to the meaning of *dādan* and section 6 discusses the findings and concludes the article.

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<sup>1</sup> According to [Sadeghi \(1993\)](#) and [Karimi \(2008\)](#), there exist nearly 115 or 130 simple verbs commonly used in Persian, and only a handful of them are used for constructing complex predicates.



## 2. Theoretical preliminaries

LVs have been the subject of a large portion of research since the term was coined by Jespersen (1940). He argues that LVCs are a way to add descriptive information in the form of an adjunct, as in “take a hot shower”. This means that LVs provide little or no meaning for the sentence, but it is the pre-verb component that carries the main semantic load. Early studies approached LVs mainly through a syntactic perspective (for instance, see Cattell, 1984; Grimshaw & Mester, 1988; Mohammad and Karimi, 1992). In these studies, on the one hand, LV is considered as responsible for determining the argument structure of the sentence and, on the other hand,  $\theta$ -roles are assigned to the arguments. By studying the Japanese LV, Grimshaw and Mester (1988) argue that the argument structure of *suru* ‘to do’ is incomplete; therefore, the pre-verb must lend or transfer its arguments to *suru* so as to make it a  $\theta$ -marker. This line of argument was later adopted by Mohammad and Karimi (1992) in their study of Persian LVCs. However, the argument-transfer hypothesis fails when a pre-verb lacks any argument in the first place, such as the Persian noun *āks* ‘photo/picture’ in *aks gereftan* ‘take a picture’, or *rāh* ‘way’ in *rāh dādan* ‘allow to enter’. Considering both cases, Karimi (1997), then, concludes that both LVs and pre-verbs have meaning, and the majority of Persian LVCs are compositional in meaning.

In contrast to these syntactic accounts, cognitive linguists, by assigning a greater role to LVs, assume that there is a complex semantic relationship between LVs and their heavy counterparts. For example, Norvig and Lakoff (1987) provide a lexical network of different senses of heavy and light “take”. They argue that the associations among these senses are systematic and motivated by metonymy, metaphor, image-schema transformation, and profile shift, among other mechanisms. For example, the metaphor PERCEIVING IS RECEIVING is active in “John took a whiff of the coffee”. According to these authors, differences in the various senses of “take” are minimal, and, at the same time, semantic. Newman (1996) also provides a comprehensive account of “giving” in English and other languages. He states that there are systematic relationships between various usages of heavy and light “give” that can be attributed to the complex semantic structure of the prototypical “give”. This structure, forming the basic action of giving (i.e. the giver’s transferring of an entity to a recipient), can be metaphorically extended to the situations where “give” expresses concepts such as permission, enablement, and causation, among others. Therefore, the metaphorical transfer of “control” maps to more abstract situations like, *permitting* as in the Persian LVC *ejāze dādan* [permission give] ‘allow’. This line of argument is adopted in this paper to show how LVCs are related to the semantic structure of *dādan*.

The fact that LVs’ contribution is more than syntactic features has received much attention in the literature. For example, Brugman (2001) argues that English LVs keep force-dynamic properties (in Talmy’s term, 2000) of their heavy counterparts, including lexical aspect (Aktionsart), and the semantic roles which are typically extended from physical to psychological domains. This means that if a heavy verb is (a)telic, its LV usage will also be (a)telic. This appears to be true for some LVs in other languages such as Persian, for example, *gereftan* ‘take’ and *xordān* ‘collide’ or ‘eat’, which primarily express telic, self-oriented events (Soltani et al., 2017; Soltani, 2018), but it cannot be generalized to other LVs (see Folli et al., 2005; Samvelian & Faghiri, 2014; Soltani, 2018). Moreover, LVs tend to maintain semantic roles in LVCs, providing further evidence that such verbs contribute to LVCs’ semantics (Newman, 1996; Brugman, 2001; Soltani, 2018).

Other researchers have also shown that LVs have meaning; for instance, Family (2006; 2008) examines the semantic space of Persian LVCs in the form of what she calls *islands* or “clusters of LVCs, expressing similar verbal notions, based on the same LV and a specific type of PV [pre-verb]” (Family, 2006: 50). She then argues that Persian LVs are not void of meaning. Following Goldberg (1995), Family continues that the semantics of such constructions is a function of the meaning of LV, pre-verb, and the construction itself; consequently, LVCs are not purely compositional in meaning. In this connection, Samvelian and Faghiri (2014) further expand the idea of LVC compositionality. They state that the idiomatic feature of many LVCs does not preclude them to be categorized based on their syntactic and semantic similarities - (e.g. *sedā zadan* ‘call’, *dād zadan* ‘shout’ and *sut zadan* ‘whistle’ - and that they are LVCs formed with *zadan* ‘hit’ and all refer to a general EMIT construction that describe deliberate production of various sounds), thereby resulting in compositional constructions. The important point, they argue, is that compositionality should be viewed *a posteriori* rather than *a priori*, implying that the meaning of an LVC cannot be obtained simply from a single component, such as LV or pre-verb.

This overview of LVCs shows that although syntactically grounded studies paid only scant attention to the semantics of LVs, the studies drawing upon cognitive frameworks have recognized crucial aspects of LVs meaning (Newman, 1996; Brugman, 2001; Family, 2006; Samvelian and Faghiri, 2014). The contribution of LVs varies from argument structure and semantic roles to the telicity of event structure (which is language- and even verb-specific), and even the general meaning of an LVC. Therefore, replacing one LV with another can completely change the meaning of an entire LVC, as in *yād dādan* [memory give] ‘teach’ versus *yād gereftan* [memory take] ‘learn’ or *kotak zadan* [beating hit] ‘beat someone’ versus *kotak خوردان* ‘get beaten’. However, claiming that syntactic studies have entirely refused to account for LV’s meaning does not do justice to the contribution of this group of studies. For example, Karimi-Doostan (2001) states that LVs are responsible for aspectual properties or event roles in N+V complex predicates. He also suggests that LVs assign nominative and accusative cases (2005). He further continues by arguing that the (in)separability of LVCs is a function of the semantic and morphosyntactic properties of both the LV and the pre-verb (2011). Likewise, Megerdooian (2001) maintains that aspect is related to LVs, and, in the same vein, Folli et al. (2005) argue that agentivity of the subject, the eventiveness, and duration of LVCs are associated with LVs.

It is now a well-established idea that not only have LVs meaning (Brugman, 2001), but they also contribute to the semantics of LVCs as well. Moreover, since LVs are derived from simple heavy verbs (Butt, 2010), it is natural for them

to be semantically related to their heavy counterparts and retain various aspects of their semantics in LVCs. This may result in a phenomenon through which the LV acquires a new “specialized” function during the semantic bleaching process and is used to convey a particular concept. For example, the Persian LV *xordan* ‘collide/eat’<sup>1</sup> is mainly used in LVCs that express *reception* or *undergoing* as shown by the examples below:

1)

- a. *in tišert rāhat otu mi-xor-ad.*  
 this t-shirt easy iron IPFV-collide.PRS-3SG  
 ‘This t-shirt is easy to iron.’
- b. *havvā farib-e šeytān rā xord.*  
 Eve deception-EZ Satan OM collide  
 ‘Eve was deceived by the Devil.’
- c. *saqf-e xāne tarak xord.*  
 ceiling-EZ house crack collide.PST.3SG  
 ‘The ceiling of the house cracked.’

In (1.a), *xordan* in *otu xordan* is roughly the opposite of *zadan* in *otu zadan* ‘iron’ and has a reverse relation with it. *Xordan* conveys the concept *reception* as in *kotak zadan / xordan* ‘beat/get beaten’. This is used to tell whether clothes are easy or difficult to iron (*otu naxordan*<sup>2</sup> means ‘hard to iron’). Besides, the contact is physical in (1.a), whereas in (1.b) and (1.c) *xordan* no longer denotes such a contact but shows that the subject has received the result/outcome of someone else’s act (1.b), or a change in its state (1.c). These examples indicate that *xordan* often takes a “patient” or “undergoer” in the subject position in LVCs.

Similarly, the LV *dādan* functions as a causative maker in many of the resulting LVCs. This function is directly related to the semantic structure of heavy *dādan* such that many of the LVCs have a causative component to their meaning. The important point here is that the LV along with the pre-verb contributes to causation. In other words, the entire LVC must be considered as causative. This is consistent with previous studies that also highlight the role of construction, rather than a single element in LVC semantics (e.g. Goldberg, 1995; Family, 2006; Samvelian and Faghiri, 2014). Nonetheless, the semantic nature of the LV plays a significant role in the formation of causative LVCs, but this does not imply that all the resulting LVCs will be causative. By taking these preliminaries into consideration, we are now able to explore those types of LVCs formed by *dādan* and their underlying cognitive motivations on the one hand, and to argue for the causative status of the LV *dādan* in LVCs, on the other. As causation will be a major concept conveyed by *dādan*, we need to provide a discussion of certain important issues associated with it.

### 3. Causatives in Persian

To form causatives, languages use a variety of formal strategies ranging from morphological devices to periphrasis (Dixon, 2012: 242-49). In this connection, Persian causatives are briefly discussed here according to Dixon’s (2012) typology. The discussion includes morphological, lexical causatives, and syntactic (i.e. periphrasis) causatives:

#### 3.1 Morphological causatives

As the label suggests, languages may use this type of causative by changing the morphological structure of the verb, including internal changes (e.g. in vowel quality), consonant repetition, vowel lengthening, reduplication, and affixation (Dixon, 2012: 242). Persian employs affixation by appending the suffix *-ān* to the present stem followed by the infinitive suffix *-an*. The suffix *-ān* transforms inchoatives (left) into causatives (right). Note that *-d* and *-id* turn the present stem into past stem to prepare it for the infinitive suffix *-an*:

(A)

- |      |                               |   |                                    |
|------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| i.   | <i>xor-d-an</i> (eat)         | → | <i>xor-ān-d-an</i> (feed)          |
| ii.  | <i>xāb-id-an</i> (sleep)      | → | <i>xāb-ān-d-an</i> (put to sleep)  |
| iii. | <i>xand-id-an</i> (laugh)     | → | <i>xand-ān-d-an</i> (make laugh)   |
| iv.  | <i>tars-id-an</i> (be scared) | → | <i>tars-ān-d-an</i> (frighten)     |
| v.   | <i>juš-id-an</i> (boil)       | → | <i>juš-ān-d-an</i> (bring to boil) |

2)

- a. *bače xābid.*  
 kid sleep.PST.3SG  
 ‘The kid has slept.’
- b. *mādar bače rā xāb-ān-d.*  
 mom kid OM sleep-CAUS-3SG.PST  
 ‘Mom put the kid to sleep.’

<sup>1</sup> *xordan* is a homonymous word, it can mean either ‘collide’ or ‘eat’.

<sup>2</sup> *na-* negates the verb.

### 3.2 Lexical causatives

In addition to the derivational process, there are two groups of causatives that do not require the affix *ān*. These include verbs that act as both inchoatives and causatives (B), and verbs whose causative counterpart is an intrinsically causative verb (C):

(B)

- |      |                         |   |                         |
|------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| i.   | <i>šekastan</i> (break) | → | <i>šekastan</i> (break) |
| ii.  | <i>poxtan</i> (cook)    | → | <i>poxtan</i> (cook)    |
| iii. | <i>rixtan</i> (pour)    | → | <i>rixtan</i> (spill)   |
| iv.  | <i>boridan</i> (cut)    | → | <i>boridan</i> (cut)    |

3)

- |    |                                       |                            |                |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| a. | <i>livān xord</i>                     | <i>zamin va</i>            | <i>šekast.</i> |
|    | glass collide.PST.3SG                 | ground and                 | break.PST.3SG  |
|    | ‘The glass hit the ground and broke.’ |                            |                |
| b. | <i>sārā livān rā</i>                  | <i>šekast<sup>1</sup>.</i> |                |
|    | Sarah glass OM                        | break.PST.3SG              |                |
|    | ‘Sarah broke the glass.’              |                            |                |

(C)

- |      |                       |   |                             |
|------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| i.   | <i>šodan</i> (become) | → | <i>kardan</i> (make)        |
| ii.  | <i>oftādan</i> (fall) | → | <i>andāxtan</i> (fell/drop) |
| iii. | <i>raftan</i> (go)    | → | <i>bordan</i> (take)        |
| iv.  | <i>āmadan</i> (come)  | → | <i>āvardan</i> (bring)      |
| v.   | <i>mordan</i> (die)   | → | <i>koštan</i> (kill)        |

4)

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | <i>omid besiār xošhāl šod.</i>          |
|    | Omid very happy become.PST.3SG          |
|    | ‘Omid became very happy.’               |
| b. | <i>sārā omid rā besiār xošhāl kard.</i> |
|    | Sara Omid OM very happy make.PST.3SG    |
|    | ‘Sara made Omid very happy.’            |

### 3.3 Periphrasis

A general way to form causatives in Persian is to use the LVC *bāes šodan* ‘cause’ in a superordinate clause followed by a complement clause. This is similar to “make” constructions in English with the causative verb “make” in the superordinate clause, as in “he makes her feel happy”:

5)

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | <i>omid xošhāl bud.</i>                                   |
|    | Omid happy be.PST.3SG                                     |
|    | ‘Omid was happy.’   |
| b. | <i>sārā bāes šod omid xošhāl šav-ad.</i>                  |
|    | Sara causer become.PST.3SG Omid happy SBJV.become.PRS-3SG |
|    | ‘Sara made Omid very happy.’                              |

In addition to these three types of causatives, there are both simple and compound verbs whose causative counterpart is a compound verb or an LVC. This type of lexical causative is frequently used with the verb *kardan*, and as previously stated, the light verb *dādan* can also be found in a significant number of lexical compound causatives:

(D)

- |       |   |   |  |
|-------|---|---|--|
| i.    | <i>didan</i> (see)                                | → | <i>nešān dādan</i> ‘sign give’ (show)                  |
| ii.   | <i>barxāstan</i> (stand up)                       | → | <i>boland kardan</i> ‘long do’ (make someone stand up) |
| iii.  | <i>qosse xordan</i> ‘sorrow eat’ (sorrow)         | → | <i>qosse dādan</i> ‘sorrow give’ (grieve someone)      |
| iv.   | <i>ātaš gereftan</i> ‘fire get’ (catch fire)      | → | <i>taš zadan</i> ‘fire hit’ (set on fire)              |
| v.    | <i>sorat gereftan</i> ‘speed get’ (speed up)      | → | <i>sorat dādan</i> ‘speed give’ (accelerate)           |
| vi.   | <i>gul xordan</i> ‘deceit collide’ (be fooled)    | → | <i>gul zadan</i> ‘deceit hit’ (deceive)                |
| vii.  | <i>pāyān yāftan</i> ‘end find’ (end)              | → | <i>pāyān dādan</i> ‘end give’ (put an end to)          |
| viii. | <i>anjām šodan</i> ‘fulfilment become’ (get done) | → | <i>njām dādan</i> ‘fulfilment give’ (do)               |

6)

- |    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| a. | <i>mājarā pāyān yāft.</i> |
|----|---------------------------|

<sup>1</sup> Some inchoative verbs like *šekastan* and *boridan* can also take the causative suffix, as in *šekāndan* and *borāndan* respectively.



- controversy end find.PST.3SG  
 ‘The controversy ended.’  
 b. *ānhā mājārā rā pāyān dād-and.*  
 they controversy OM end give.PST-3PL  
 ‘They put an end to the controversy.’

Such examples of LVCs show that the light verb *dādan* is the causative counterpart of LVs such as *xordan* ‘collide/eat’, *gereftan* ‘take’, *yāftan* ‘find’, and *šodan* ‘become’. This, however, does not imply that every LVC formed with these LVs can be turned into a causative using *dādan*, but rather that *dādan* can be a causative LV in Persian.

#### 4. Methods and materials

In this study, more than 220 LVCs were collected from the two well-known Persian dictionaries, namely, *Farhang-e Bozorg-e Sokhan* (Sokhan Comprehensive Dictionary) (Anvari, 2003) and *Farhang-e Farsi-e Emrooz* (Contemporary Persian Dictionary) (Sadri Afshar et al., 1998). The data were obtained from the internet through browsing various inflected forms of *dādan*. The dataset also involves some instances derived from previous studies. It is worth noting that numerous unexamined novel LVCs can be found through browsing the internet webpages. Such new cases are usually coined by analogy with existing LVCs and may contribute to further lexicalization or grammaticalization of a concept.

A major challenge in dealing with LVCs is to distinguish them from other verb phrases such as direct object-verb combinations. As noted in the literature, *dādan* is one of the most frequent Persian verbs (Karimi-Doostan, 1997: 91-92), with a large number of LVCs<sup>1</sup>. To differentiate LVCs from non-LVCs, the data are restricted to LVCs formed with a noun as pre-verb (N+LV). Moreover, in most cases, LVCs have been selected according to the criteria proposed by Tabatabaei (2005) and Seifollahi and Tabibzadeh (2013) for differentiating complex predicates (CPs) from verbal phrases:

1- If the NP can be modified with quantifiers (e.g. *čandtā* ‘several’) and numerals (*dotā* ‘two’, *yek* ‘one’), the phrase is less likely to be an LVC:<sup>2</sup>

7)

- a. *dāvar be u yek emtiāz dād.*  
 referee to him/her one score give.PST.3SG  
 ‘The referee gave him/her one point.’  
 b. *hame-ye mā rā farib dād/ \*čandtā farib dād.*  
 all-EZ we OM deceit give.PST.3SG/ several deceit give.PST.3SG  
 ‘S/he deceived all of us.’

2- If the direct object can be replaced with other nouns, the phrase is less likely to be an LVC:

8)

*hedie / pādāš / jāyze / kādo dādan*  
 to give gift / bonus / reward / present

3- If the unmarked (generic) object can be turned into direct object using the object marker *rā*, the phrase is less likely to be an LVC:<sup>3</sup>

9)

- a. *peyqām rā be-de va bi-ā.*  
 message OM SBJV-give.PRS.2SG and SBJV-come.PRS.2SG  
 ‘Give the message and come back.’  
 b. *xeyli left-eš mi-d-i / (\*xeyli left rā midi)*  
 very procrastination-it IPFV-give.PRS-2SG  
 ‘You procrastinate too much.’

4- If the combination of NP and transitive verb requires a direct object, the phrase is more likely to be an LVC:

10)

- qeymat-hā rā kāheš dād-and.*  
 price-PL OM decrease give.PST-3PL  
 ‘They lowered the prices.’

5- If the combination of NP and transitive verb is an intransitive verb, the phrase is an LVC:<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ‘Give’ is also among the most frequent LVs in English (Tu and Roth, 2011) and it is used more as an LV than a heavy verb (Wittenberg et al., 2014).

<sup>2</sup> These criteria are not always decisive, and even definite cases of LVCs can override them as in *hol dādan* ‘push’ → *do tā hol bede* [two CLF push SBJV-give.PRS.2SG] ‘Give a couple of pushes’ or *fekr kardan* ‘think’ → *az dišab hezār tā fekr kardam* [from last night thousand thought DO.PST.1SG] ‘A thousand thoughts have crossed my mind since last night’.

<sup>3</sup> It will fail when the pre-verb is modified as in *fekr kardan* ‘think’ → *in fekr rā kardam ke ...* [this thought OM DO.PST.1SG that] ‘I had a thinking that ...’. Many of the pre-verbs in definite LVCs can be used this way.

11)

*omid dar dādgāh šahādat dād.*  
 Omid in court testimony give.PST.3SG  
 ‘Omid testified before the court.’

Although these criteria cannot draw a sharp distinction between complex and simplex predicates, they seem to show which word chain exhibits more CP-like characteristics. More precisely, apart from definite cases of LVC, namely N+V combinations with non-compositional or idiomatic meaning (in the sense of Nunberg et al., 1994 and Karimi, 1997)<sup>2</sup>, borderline cases are also selected according to the above criteria. Moreover, linguistic intuition is also consulted because these criteria are not without flaws, as pointed out in footnotes (2) and (3). The criteria (4) and (5), however, seem to provide more reliable results.

The selected LVCs are described according to the principles of cognitive lexical semantics, including conceptual metaphor (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980; Lakoff and Turner, 1989), image-schema (Johnson, 1987, 1991, 1993; Lakoff, 1990) and foregrounding (Lakoff, 1987). Talmy's (2000) notion of force-dynamics has also been used to show the force interactions in order to account for causative constructions formed with *dādan*. The use of *dādan* in LVCs conveying concepts ranging from physical to psychological causation can be explained by mappings between elements of physical transfer and those of a causative event, including possession, control, imposition, and reception among others. The image-schemas also help to explain how the elements of a prototypical event of giving can be the basis for forming new senses while showing minimal differences with related senses. The general idea behind these principles is that various senses of a word form a radial category (Lakoff, 1987) in which different senses are systematically linked to a central meaning and exhibit a prototype effect (Rosch and Mervis, 1975; Rosch, 1978). These links can be explained by the principles of cognitive lexical semantics. We then aim to show how the verb *dādan* is bleached semantically and used as a light verb, as well as how it is specialized in conveying a more nuanced notion, in this case causation.

### 5. Analysis of data

As a heavy verb, *dādan* is a ditransitive verb that requires a subject, an object, and an indirect object in a prototypical act of giving. Such a prototypical use depicts a kind of event where the subject or agent (NP1) takes an object (NP2), initiates an action, and transfers that object by hand to a recipient or an indirect object (NP3). This is shown in the argument structure of *dādan*:

NP1<sub>(SUB)</sub> NP2<sub>(DO)</sub> NP3<sub>(IO)</sub> *dādan*

12)

*omid ketāb rā be man dād.*  
 Omid book OM to me give.PST.3SG  
 ‘Omid gave me the book.’

This structure shows that the most fundamental concept articulated by *dādan* is the giver's transferring of an object to a recipient. This can also be illustrated by using an image-schema (Figure 1) where the square represents the grammatical subject or giver (source), the dashed line rectangle is the direct object (theme) being transferred, the circle denotes an indirect object or a recipient (target), and the arrows indicate the direction of the object's movement from the source to the target.<sup>3</sup>

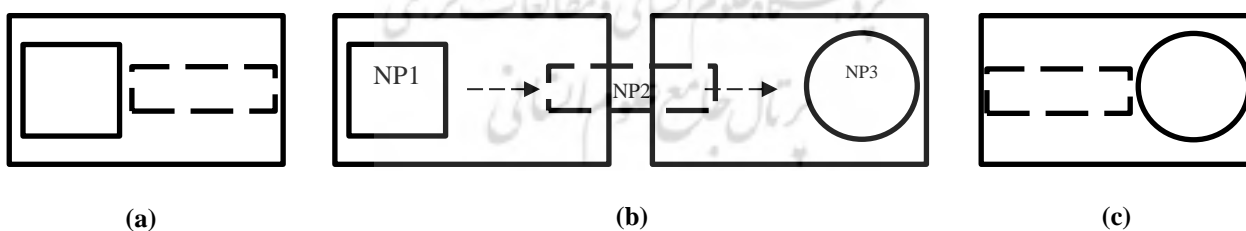


Figure 1- The Image-schema of prototypical *dādan*

This schema is composed of three parts: (a) shows when the giver has the object in his control; (b) depicts transferring of the object; and (c) is the end-state of the event in which the recipient is in control of the object. As for the large rectangles, they show the domain over which one has control and is called *sphere of control* (Newman, 1996: 43). When giving something to another person, along with the transfer of an object, the giver may also transfer control over

<sup>1</sup> Four and five are mutually exclusive. However, some LVCs may not follow this like *sor'at dādan* 'speed up' → *be kār-hā sor'at dād* [to work-PL speed give.PST.3SG] / *kār-hā rā sor'at dād* [work-PL OM speed give.PST.3SG] 'He speeded things up'. This may further support the bleaching of *dādan* in cases with a direct, instead of an indirect object.

<sup>2</sup> Karimi argues that many Persian LVCs are idiomatically combining expressions.

<sup>3</sup> NP labeling is added for clarification and clearly not part of the schema.

that object to the recipient, as in *ejāze dādan* [permission give] ‘permit’. It could be argued that the shift of control is part of the meaning of *dādan* and can be interpreted as a shift in the object’s position in relation to the sphere of control of elements involved in an event (Newman, 1996: 47).

Another dimension of the concept ‘transfer’ can be explained in terms of *force-dynamics*, which deals with notions such as energy and force interactions (Talmy, 2000; Brugman, 2001). As can be noted, the prototypical event of *dādan* requires at least three elements: a giver, an object or a transferee, and recipient. The basic force-dynamics of *dādan* can be described as follows: the giver is at the outset of energy flow, thus called the energy source, and the recipient is at the end of the energy flow, making it sink (Brugman, 2001). As such, the former is the initiator and agent of the action, while the latter is the beneficiary of the action’s outcome. The very agentivity of the subject and the act of transferring the object to the recipient are two fundamental elements that serve as the basis for metaphoric extensions and causative LVCs. This semantic structure could be entirely present, or parts of it could be foregrounded, with the rest being backgrounded. Therefore, the semantics of LVCs with *dādan* can be a function of all these components or a particular dimension of semantic structure of *dādan*. The following section discusses *dādan* LVCs and their relation to the semantic structure and force-dynamics of the heavy verb *dādan*. The subsections (a) to (m) are the semantic categories of the various LVCs examined in this article.

#### (a) Payments, financial transactions, (moral) compensation

The first group of LVCs are constructions in which *dādan* is closely related to the prototypical meaning of the heavy verb. In these LVCs, the pre-verb may be either the theme that is being transferred or the type of payment being made (e.g. *rešve* ‘bribe’; *anām* ‘tip’; *bāj* ‘ransom’) or a transfer being made (e.g. *ejāre* ‘rent’; *rahn* ‘mortgage’; *vām* ‘loan’):

(E)					
i.	rešve dādan	bribe	ii.	nozul dādan	lend on interest
iii.	sadaqe dādan	give alms	iv.	anām dādan	tip
v.	kaffāre dādan	expiate	vi.	tāvān dādan	atone for
vii.	bāj dādan	pay ransom	viii.	zakāt dādan	pay poor rate (zakāt)
ix.	xoms dādan	pay xums	x.	qest dādan	pay installments
xi.	qarz dādan	lend	xii.	vām dādan	loan
xiii.	ejāre dādan	rent	xiv.	rahn dādan	mortgage

Considering the semantic structure of *dādan*, it is interesting to note that force-dynamics is preserved in these LVCs in such a way that the transferee leaves the giver’s sphere of control and enters that of the recipient. This means that the transferee is literally given to a recipient. However, this is not always the case, as in *kaffāre dādan* ‘expiate’, and *tāvān dādan* ‘atone’; these verbs originally implied that someone is given things like money as compensation or in retaliation. They are also used figuratively to mean *atone for one’s actions*. Therefore, there is no third element as a recipient in such LVCs. This is also true for *sadaqe / zakāt / xoms dādan* which can also be used generically without any known recipients:

13)	<i>tāvān-e</i>	<i>gonāh-ān-am</i>	<i>rā</i>	<i>mi-dah-am.</i>
	atonement-EZ	sin-PL-1SG.POSS	OM	IPFV-give.PRS.1SG
	‘I expiate my sins.’			

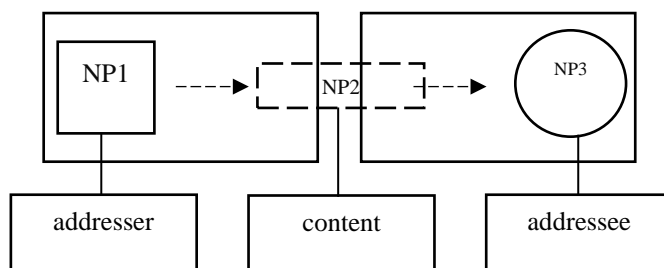
14)	<i>bāyad</i>	<i>zakāt-e māl-at</i>	<i>rā</i>	<i>be-dah-i.</i>
	must	zakat-EZ asset-2SG.POSS	OM	SBJV-give.PRS.2SG
	‘You should pay the poor-rate of your assets.’			

#### (b) Acts of communication, content and knowledge transfer

The second type of LVCs are similar to the LVCs in group (a) in that they both involve some sort of transfer between a giver and a recipient. They, however, differ in that the pre-verbs here designate various forms of communication, and therefore the transfer is more of a metaphorical kind, with the pre-verbs ranging from more concrete (*alāmat* ‘sign’) to more abstract (*yād* ‘memory’) notions where the noun could hardly be conceived as a transferee:

(F)					
i.	etelā dādan	inform	ii.	āgāhi dādan	create awareness
iii.	možde dādan	bear good tidings	iv.	qol dādan	promise
v.	salām dādan	salute	vi.	nedā dādan	call
vii.	fohš dādan	curse	viii.	došnām dādan	blaspheme
ix.	alāmat dādan	signal	x.	hošdār dādan	warn
xi.	tazakat dādan	admonish	xii.	extār dādan	warn
xiii.	šarh dādan	describe	xiv.	tozih dādan	explain
xv.	pāsox dādan	respond	xvi.	javāb dādan	answer
xvii.	gozāreš dādan	report	xviii.	nazar dādan	comment
xix.	kāment dādan	comment	xx.	pišnāhād dādan	suggest
xxi.	šahādāt dādan	testify	xxii.	govāhi dādan	attest
xxiii.	dars dādan	teach	xxiv.	yād dādan	instruct
xxv.	āmuzeš dādan	teach	xxvi.	konferāns dādan	lecture
xxvii.	erāe dādan	present	xxviii.	mošāvere dādan	counsel
xxix.	pand dādan	advise	xxx.	dastur dādan	command
xxxi.	farmān dādan	order	xxxii.	sefāreš dādan	order (like food)

These LVCs refer to different types of interpersonal communication which require at least three elements to be present: an addresser, a content or a message, and an addressee<sup>1</sup>. Following Newman (1996: 138), the use of *dādan* in such LVCs can be explained by drawing on the *conduit metaphor* (Reddy, 1979; Lakoff and Johnson, 1980: 9-12). Based on this type of metaphor which is made up of three components, namely *ideas are objects*, LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS ARE CONTAINERS, and COMMUNICATION IS SENDING (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980: 9), the addresser puts ideas in the words, and transmits them through the language to the addressee, who then decodes and understands them. Similarly, these elements could be described by mappings of the addresser onto the giver, the communicative content onto the transferee, and the addressee onto the recipient (Figure 2).



**Figure 2- Metaphorical mappings between prototypical *dādan* and interpersonal communication**

Based on such mappings, *možde* ‘tidings’, *salām* ‘hello’, *tazakor* ‘admonition’, *šahādat* ‘testimony’, and similar forms that refer to communicative content are conceived as transferrable objects. Even in a more recent LVC, like *konferāns dādan* ‘lecture’ (possibly in analogy with *erāe dādan* ‘present’, or *dars dādan* ‘teach’, or a loan translation from English (i.e. *give a conference*), the transfer of communicative content in the form of speech is evident. A further point relates to verbs like *yād dādan* ‘teach’ or *erāe dādan* ‘present’, where the pre-verbs do not represent content (unlike *āmuzeš* ‘teaching’), but the entire LVCs require a second object referring to content. This is not to say that other LVCs do not require a direct object, but that it implies that in a verb like *yād dādan*, where *dādan* is probably lighter than in *āmuzeš dādan*, we can use the pre-verb as a direct object and generate sentence (15) but not for *yād dādan* or *erāe dādan* (16).

15)

<i>āmuzeš-hā-i</i>	<i>ke</i>	<i>man</i>	<i>mi-dah-am.</i>
teaching-PL-REL	that	I	IPFV-give.PRS.1SG
‘Things that I teach.’			

16)

* <i>yād-hā-i</i>	<i>ke</i>	<i>man</i>	<i>mi-dah-am.</i>
memory-PL-REL	that	I	IPFV-give.PRS.1SG

The ability of some pre-verbs to become direct objects suggests that associated LVCs are most possibly formed through noun incorporation (Dabir-Moghaddam, 1997); it can then be used as a criterion to determine the degree of lightness of a given LV. This, however, requires further investigation of various LVCs with different LVs, which is beyond the scope of the present paper.

### (c) Causation – state of body and mind – positive

The verbs in this category represent various types of physical and psychological events in the sense that a given LVC can be used with a subject that could be either an action (17), a state or situation (18) or an entity, but the result is often a condition of the body that ultimately creates a particular mental state in the recipient:

(G)

- |       |                      |            |       |                      |            |
|-------|----------------------|------------|-------|----------------------|------------|
| i.    | <i>niru dādan</i>    | energize   | ii.   | <i>jān dādan</i>     | enliven    |
| iii.  | <i>qovvat dādan</i>  | strengthen | iv.   | <i>qodrat dādan</i>  | empower    |
| v.    | <i>enerži dādan</i>  | energize   | vi.   | <i>ārāmeš dādan</i>  | tranquil   |
| vii.  | <i>qarār dādan</i>   | place      | viii. | <i>etminān dādan</i> | assure     |
| ix.   | <i>tasalli dādan</i> | console    | x.    | <i>taskin dādan</i>  | mollify    |
| xi.   | <i>eltiām dādan</i>  | relieve    | xii.  | <i>šafā dādan</i>    | heal       |
| xiii. | <i>behbud dādan</i>  | improve    | xiv.  | <i>deldāri dādan</i> | solace     |
| xv.   | <i>hāl dādan</i>     | bring joy  | xvi.  | <i>keyf dādan</i>    | exhilarate |

17)

<i>davidan</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>man</i>	<i>ārāmeš</i>	<i>mi-dah-ad.</i>
running	to	I	tranquility	IPFV-give.PRS-3SG
‘Running comforts me.’				

<sup>1</sup> And of course, the medium of communication which does not concern the present paper.



18)

<i>čašm-ān-e</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>man</i>	<i>ārāmeš</i>	<i>mi-dah-ad.</i>
eye-PL-EZ	s/he	to	I	tranquility	IPFV-give.PRS.3SG
‘His/her eyes comfort me.’					

As previously stated, a major element of giving is transfer. Note that this transfer is not physical here, but there is a mapping from the concrete onto the abstract world. To put it differently, the transferee is an emotion or mental state that the sender transfers to the recipient. This mapping is captured by the metaphor STATES ARE OBJECTS (Kövecses, 2008), which maintains that due to an action or situation (the energy source), abstract notions like the states of mind or feelings are conceived in terms of transferable objects moving from the giver (the energy source) to the recipient (the energy sink). This mapping is depicted in Figure (3):

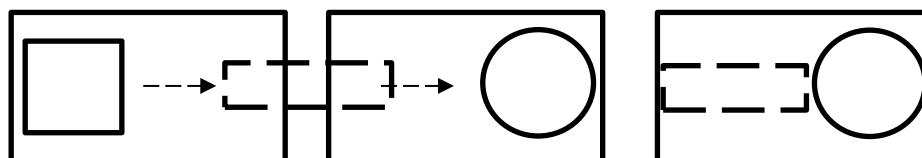


Figure 3- Transfer of states or emotions

What makes LV different from heavy *dādan* in these LVCs is that, with the literal meaning, the sender has the transferee in his sphere of control (part (a) of Figure 1) and then gives it away, while, as Figure (3) shows, the sender does not possess the transferee, but induces a feeling he may or may not have himself. In other words, the giver is the source of a feeling; this source may be a condition (sleeping), an event (a party), or an action performed by a person (talking). As a result, the recipient or energy sink will be in a state of mind s/he did not expect before.

#### (d) Causation – state of body and mind – negative

The reason these verbs are in a different category from the verbs in (c) despite the same underlying process (emotion/mental state as the pre-verbs), is the difference in the type of concepts they convey. The LVCs in group (c) express mainly positive emotions, whereas the following LVCs cause the recipient to suffer.

(H)

i.	šekanje dādan	torture	i.	gorosnegi dādan	keep hungry
ii.	tešnegi dādan	keep thirsty	ii.	zajr dādan	torment
iii.	zahmat dādan	discomfort	iii.	dardesar dādan	trouble
iv.	āzār dādan	annoy	iv.	azāb dādan	torment
v.	deq dādan	sadden	v.	hers dādan	pester
vi.	esteres dādan	cause stress	vi.	delšure dādan	give jitters
vii.	farib dādan	deceive	vii.	šekast (defeat) dādan	defeat

Here, the giver or initiator of the action causes the recipient to experience a condition or situation. In other words, the recipient’s experience (e.g. *torment*) is the result of the giver’s action, which is transferred to him/her. This is even more evident in *gorosnegi* or *tešnegi dādan* where the agent causes the recipient to suffer by actually “not giving”.

#### (e) Causation – accomplishment – status change

Another group of LVCs with causation at their core consist of verbs that convey more tangible or physical concepts, as opposed to the previous causatives that often denote abstract and psychological notions:

(I)

i.	piši dādan <sup>1</sup>	cause to precede	ii.	sebqat dādan	cause to precede
iii.	šetāb dādan	accelerate	iv.	sorat dādan	speed up
v.	virāž dādan	swerve	vi.	jolān dādan	gallop
vii.	mānovr dādan	maneuver	viii.	erteqā dādan	promote
ix.	afzāyeš dādan	increase	x.	kāheš dādan	reduce
xi.	tanazzol dādan	reduce	xii.	fāsele dādan	separate
xiii.	ozlat dādan	isolate	xiv.	soq dādan	channel
xv.	jahat dādan	direct	xvi.	rošd dādan	grow
xvii.	parvareš dādan	bring up	xviii.	ronaq dādan	boom
xix.	sāmān dādan	organize	xx.	tartib dādan	arrange
xxi.	nazm dādan	regulate	xxii.	anjām dādan	finish/do
xxiii.	pāyān dādan	end	xxiv.	xāteme dādan	end
xxv.	rasmīāt dādan	officialize			

<sup>1</sup> This is an archaic usage which means to cause or help someone to be ahead of others. It is synonymous with *sebqat dādan* (also archaic).

The pre-verbs here denote the state of affairs of the recipient, resulting from an action on behalf of the subject. In other words, the subject does something whose effect is transferred and imposed on the other party in the form of these pre-verbs. The source of energy can be either a causing agent (19) or a causing event (20) as in other causative LVCs:

19) *modir-e jadid be kār-hā šetāb dād.*  
 boss-EZ new to work-PL acceleration give.PST.3SG  
 ‘The new boss speeded things up.’

20) *tavarrom qeymat-hā rā afzāyeš mi-dah-ad.*  
 inflation price-PL OM increase IPFV-give.PRS-3SG  
 ‘Inflation will raise prices.’

*Virāz dādan* (for cars), *mānovr dādan* (for operations) and *jolān dādan* (for horses) are now mostly used intransitively through metonymical extension (rider for a moving vehicle), with the latter having a new figurative meaning (to govern or rule). As causative LVCs, they could be conceived as giving the status of movement to the recipient like in *jolān dādan* where *jolān* meant the status of a running animal (usually a horse).

#### (f) Causation – physical change

The following LVCs also denote change, but the change is physical and visible. The pre-verbs mainly refer to physical attributes that describe the kind of action the subject or agent does to the recipient (mostly inanimate):

(J)

i.	šekl dādan	shape	ii.	surat dādan	form/perform
iii.	form dādan	form	iv.	taqir dādan	change
v.	tarh dādan	make patterned	vi.	naqš dādan	make patterned
vii.	zinat dādan	adorn	viii.	pič dādan	twist/curl
ix.	tāb dādan	twirl	x.	fer dādan	curl
xi.	boreš dādan	cut	xii.	tarāš dādan	shave (as in wood)
xiii.	xarāš dādan	scratch	xiv.	čāk dādan	rip
xv.	jer dādan	tear up	xvi.	šib dādan	make slanted
xvii.	labe dādan	make rimmed	xviii.	jalā dādan	make gleaming

Nevertheless, as in the following sentences, some of these verbs can convey more abstract and figurative changes in an animate recipient, wherein *jalā dādan* means both *make something gleaming in look* (21) and *purify one's soul* (22). Even in these cases, causation is evident:

21) *hame-ye goldān-hā rā jalā dād-am.*  
 all-EZ vase-PL OM gleam give.PST-1SG  
 ‘I made all the vases glossy.’

22) *adabiāt ruh-e ensān rā jalā mi-dah-ad.*  
 literature soul-EZ human OM gleam IPFV-give.PRS-3SG  
 ‘Literature purifies human soul.’

#### (g) Causation – motion (literal and figurative)

Motion verbs are the most salient types of verbs (Miller and Johnson-Laird, 1976: 527) and constitute a significant part of the human lexicon (Diller, 1991). The fact that *dādan* has ‘transfer’ as part of its meaning makes it an appropriate candidate for forming LVCs with motion-related pre-verbs:

(K)

i.	enteql dādan	transfer	ii.	serāyat dādan	transmit/contaminate
iii.	pās dādan	pass	iv.	harekat dādan	move
v.	tekān dādan	shake	vi.	qalt dādan	roll
vii.	qel dādan <sup>1</sup>	roll	viii.	parvāz dādan	make/help to fly
ix.	fārār dādan	make/help to escape	x.	rahāi dādan	free
xi.	kuč dādan	make/help to migrate	xii.	obur dādan	make/help to cross

The LVCs are examples of caused-motion constructions (Goldberg, 1995) in which the subject causes the recipient of the force to move, and the pre-verbs specify the type of movement. In other words, the subject is the agent of a caused-motion event (Kodama, 2004). Motion can range from directly moving the recipient (*harekat dādan*) to a less direct movement, but more apparent causation (*rahāi/kuč dādan*). Figurative movement is still implied when the caused movement is less evident, as in *rahāi dādan* (24). This is mainly because freeing means ‘causing or helping someone to move out of an enclosed area’ (whether physical or psychological confinement):

<sup>1</sup> Informal use of *qalt dādan*; both mean to roll something.

22)

*bāyad say kon-i pā-yat rā harekat be-dah-i.*  
 must try SBJV.do.PRS.2SG foot-2SG.POSS OM movement SBJV-give.PRS-2SG  
 ‘You should try to move your foot.’

24)

*u rā az miān-e afkār-aš rahāi dād.*  
 s/he OM from between-EZ thoughts-3SG.POSS freedom give.PST.3SG  
 ‘It freed/unleashed him/her of his/her thoughts.’

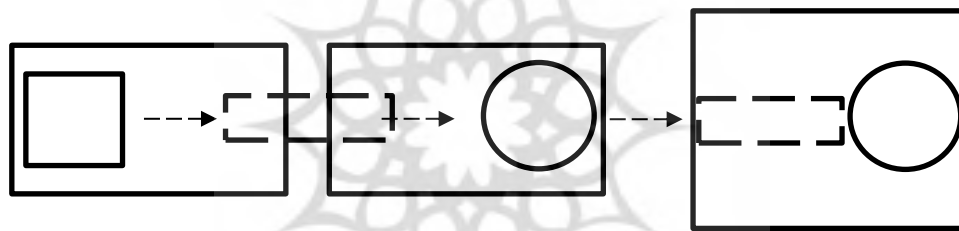
**(h) Causation – expansion – spatial and temporal**

The following LVCs are additional examples of causative constructions sharing similarities with some of the previous LVCs discussed so far. For example, they exhibit both accomplishment-like properties like *sorat dādan* ‘speed up’, and motion-like characteristics analogous to those of the previous category in (g). The difference, however, lies in the preverbs that denote different types of spatio-temporal expansion:

(L)

i.	bast dādan	extend	ii.	gostareš dādan	broaden
iii.	entešār dādan	propagate	iv.	vosat dādan	expand
v.	tosee dādan	develop	vi.	ravāj dādan	spread
vii.	ešāe dādan	promulgate	viii.	tamim dādan	generalize
ix.	edāme dādan	continue	x.	tul dādan	lengthen
xi.	keš dādan	stretch/prolong	xii.	left dādan	procrastinate

The agent causes the recipient on the energy path (the direct object) to expand either spatially (e.g. *vosat dādan* ‘expand’) or temporally (e.g. *edāme dādan* ‘continue’). The expansion is conceptualized in terms of transferring and giving the possession to the recipient, much like the metaphor STATES ARE OBJECTS. However, this does not imply possession on the part of the subject or agent. Rather, it suggests that the agent causes the recipient to be in a state where it has not been before or transfers and imposes the state onto the recipient.



**Figure 4-** Causation and expansion of sphere of control

Additionally, expansion entails movement from a source location onward, thus these LVCs can be viewed as examples of figurative motion in which a single entity (e.g. a company, theory, etc.) is conceptualized to continue moving onward and cover larger areas (e.g. the expanded sphere of control in Figure (4) depicts caused expansion). Moreover, movement in space implies movement in time and, therefore, expansion can be used figuratively for prolongation of time:

25)

*efrāti-un dāyere-ye amal-e xod rā vosat dād-and.*  
 extremist-PL circle-EZ function-EZ self OM extent give.PST-3PL  
 ‘The extremists expanded their circle of activity.’

26)

*talāš-am rā edāme mi-dah-am.*  
 effort-1SG.POSS OM continuance IPFV-give.PRS-1SG  
 ‘I keep up my efforts.’

**(i) Causation – linking**

The following LVCs are instances of relations, links, connections, or bonds between entities conceptualized as a state-of-being linked, given (caused) by the sender to the recipient. However, what distinguishes these LVCs is the requirement of at least two entities for the link or connection to happen. Figure (5) depicts this type of causation.

(M)

i.	peyvand dādan	link	ii.	ertebāt dādan	connect
iii.	rabt dādan	relate	iv.	tamās dādan	cause to touch
v.	āšti dādan	reconcile	vi.	sāzeš dādan	make compromise
vii.	solh dādan	reconcile	viii.	nesbat dādan	attribute
ix.	ādat dādan	accustom	x.	vefq dādan	accommodate
xi.	ons dādan	create fondness	xii.	juš dādan	weld

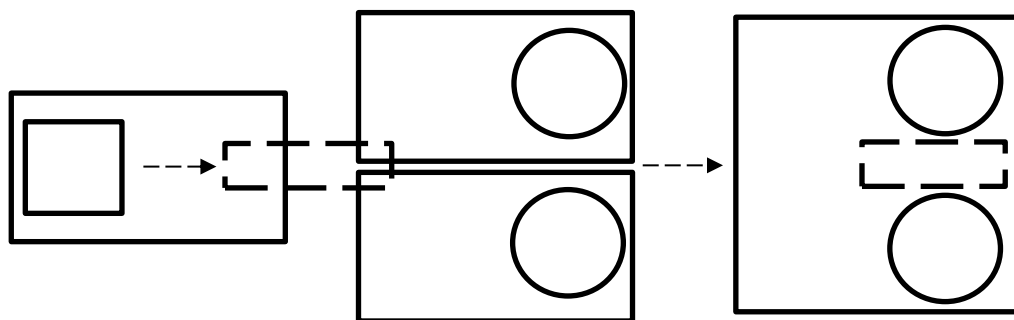


Figure 5- Causative linking

According to Figure (5), each recipient has his/her sphere of control and by, metaphorically giving the transferee, the sender or agent causes him/her to share the same sphere of control over the transferee, thereby creating a connection between the two (27). Same as the group (h), the agent is not a possessor, but causes others to be in a particular state. Although the image-schema holds when both the recipients are human (or animate at least), as they can have control over their affairs, it can be extended to other scenarios where the recipients at the other side of the force path are not human (28a) or even animate (28b).

27)

*zan va šohar rā āšti dād-and.*  
 wife and husband OM reconciliation give.PST-3PL  
 ‘They made the couple reconcile.’

28)

a. *u rā bā adabiāt ons dād-am.*  
 s/he OM with literature fondness give.PST-1SG  
 ‘I made him/her fond of literature.’

b. *zamin o zamān ro be ham rabt na-deh.*  
 earth and time OM to each other relation NEG-give.PRS.2SG  
 ‘Don’t try to relate everything [unrelated things].’

#### (j) Enablement – permission – shared control

To have an object in one’s sphere of control implies the exertion of control over it. Besides, by transferring an object to the recipient, the sender also may transfer the control over that object. Moreover, when someone is in control of something, s/he may be able to do things that could not be done otherwise (Newman, 1996: 182). In other words, by giving control to the recipient, the sender permits or enables him/her to act upon it. The following LVCs are examples of events in which the agent enables or allows an entity (mainly human) to perform an activity:

(N)

i. <i>ejāze dādan</i>	allow	ii. <i>roxsat dādan</i>	permit
iii. <i>mojavez dādan</i>	authorize	iv. <i>rezāyat dādan</i>	consent
v. <i>extiār dādan</i>	authorize	vi. <i>vekālat dādan</i>	delegate/empower
vii. <i>rāh dādan</i>	admit/allow	viii. <i>meydān dādan</i>	include/give opportunity
ix. <i>šerkat dādan</i>	include	x. <i>forsat<sup>1</sup> dādan</i>	give a chance/time
xi. <i>emkān dādan</i>	allow/enable	xii. <i>ehtemāl dādan</i>	expect/suppose <sup>2</sup>
xiii. <i>bāzi dādan</i>	allow to play/include		

LVCs such as *ejāze / roxsat / forsāt dādan*, in which the pre-verbs virtually mean *permission*, indicate the semantic compatibility of *dādan* with this concept. Furthermore, if one has *meydān* ‘arena’, *rāh* ‘way’ or *bāzi* ‘game’ in his possession<sup>3</sup>, he has control over it. Importantly, the control is implemented through metaphorical transfer. But as the pre-verbs imply, this transfer is more of a sharing, than simply relinquishing one’s control, because one can deprive the recipient of such privileges at his/her own will (e.g. *šerkat dādan* ‘include, make involved’ is a prime example). Figure (6) illustrates a shared sphere of control similar to Figure (5) but, instead of two recipients, it is between the sender and the recipient. *Ehtemāl dādan* is an exception to Figure (5), because probability is not in anyone’s control. Therefore, although the giver has no control over it, he attributes it to a phenomenon (roughly corresponds to the recipient of the force) based on his assumptions to supposedly make it happen.

<sup>1</sup> Other synonyms with the same structure are *vaqt* (time)/*zamān* (time)/*mohlat* (deadline) *dādan* meaning to give (more) time.

<sup>2</sup> The more accurate English equivalence would be *to think of* something as probable.

<sup>3</sup> Expressions like *meydān-dār* ‘arena-possessor’ and *sāheb-extiyār* ‘possessor-(of)-authority’, both meaning ‘to be in charge of’, suggest that control is possession.



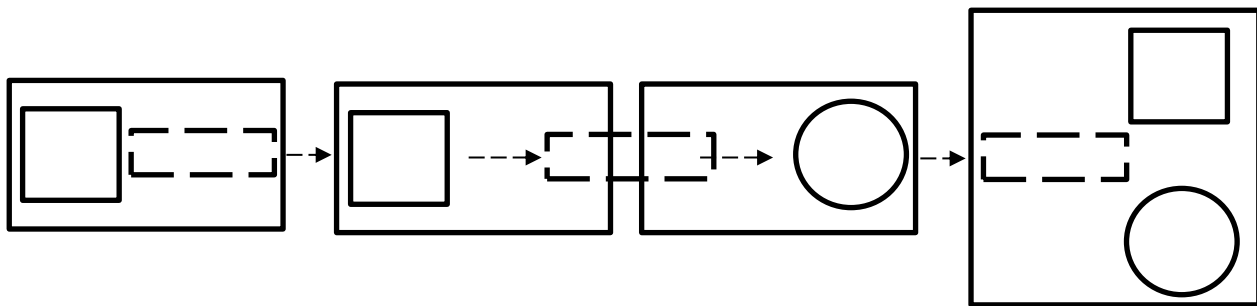


Figure 6- Sharing the control in permission and enablement

29)

*dolat*            *be*            *javān-hā*            *meydān*            *ne-mi-dah-ad.*  
 government    to            young-PL            arena            NEG-IPFV-give.PRS-3SG  
 ‘The government does not give a chance to the youth.’

30)

*lotfan*    *u*            *rā*            *ham*            *bāzi*            *be-dah-id.*  
 please    s/he            OM            too            game            SBJV-give.PRS-2PL  
 ‘Let him/her play with you, please.’

A question that may arise is how to differentiate causation from enablement, the answer to which is not particularly clear for Persian. Copley et al. (2015) argue that in causation, the agent’s force is greater and not in concordance with the patient’s force, while in enablement, both the agent and patient exert force toward the same direction or end-state. However, Persian does not seem to encode the distinction, and context is needed to determine if a verb like *sor’at dādan* ‘increase’ is causing or enabling an event. However, enablement can be seen as a subtype of causation in that the sender causes the transfer of control to the recipient.

#### (k) Emission – exposure

The sphere of control also accounts for another group of LVCs. As was pointed at the beginning of this section, the transferee leaves the giver’s sphere of control and enters that of the recipient (Newman, 1996: 144). In the LVCs below, the exit from the sphere of control is mapped metaphorically on the exit from a container, resulting in exposure to a third party. Therefore, coming out and being exposed seem to be the basis for the following LVCs:

(O)

i.	<i>birun dādan</i>	emit	ii.	<i>rang dādan</i>	bleed (as with color)
iii.	<i>bu dādan</i>	smell	iv.	<i>nam dādan</i>	dampen
v.	<i>boxār dādan</i>	steam	vi.	<i>sedā dādan</i>	make a noise
vii.	<i>barg dādan</i>	come into leaf	viii.	<i>gol dādan</i>	bloom
ix.	<i>mive dādan</i>	Bear fruit	x.	<i>šokufe dādan</i>	blossom
xi.	<i>samar dādan</i>	yield	xii.	<i>natije dādan</i> <sup>1</sup>	yield
xiii.	<i>bār dādan</i>	bear fruit	xiv.	<i>šekam dādan</i>	sag (as with ceilings)
xv.	<i>suti dādan</i>	make a gaffe	xvi.	<i>gāf dādan</i>	make a gaffe

(P)

i.	<i>nešān dādan</i>	show	ii.	<i>namāyeš dādan</i>	display
iii.	<i>boruz dādan</i>	demonstrate	iv.	<i>poz dādan</i> <sup>2</sup>	boast
v.	<i>rox dādan</i>	happen	vi.	<i>ruy dādan</i>	Happen

The first group are events where something comes out of a source location<sup>3</sup> (e.g. *bu* ‘smell’ of food; *mive* ‘fruit’ of tree). Therefore, they mean *emit* or *produce* a material. The LVC *birun dādan* differs from others in that *birun* does not denote a transferee but coming out of the transferee from its earlier location (the difference is in transitivity). Others are more figurative as in *samar/natije dādan* where giving results relates to giving fruits, or *šekam dādan* in which a big stomach is the basis for being saggy (as in ceilings or wall). Producing or making something is also active in *suti / gāf dādan*, both meaning *gaffe* (to make a gaffe), while the element of *exposure* (becoming embarrassed in front of others) is evident as well.

The second group LVCs are also close in meaning to emission, but the focus is more on exposure. Two interesting examples are *rox/ruy dādan* [face give], which idiomatically mean “to happen”. When a phenomenon happens, the phenomenon or its impacts will become exposed and visible to others, which is probably the basis for such constructions.<sup>4</sup> Figure (7) gives a graphical view of the above LVCs. Unlike the previous verbs that often require a

<sup>1</sup> *Samar* originally means fruit, but it is now often used to mean result.

<sup>2</sup> From French pose (posture).

<sup>3</sup> This implies fictive motion, much the same as expansion.

<sup>4</sup> Or they might be truncated versions of *rox/ruy nešān dādan*.

recipient, the emphasis here is on the transferee's leaving the sphere of control of the source location, and therefore it does not necessarily end up in the recipient's sphere of control. Nevertheless, a recipient is understood to exist in the background as the exposure could lead to entrance to the perceptual or cognitive field available to the recipient.

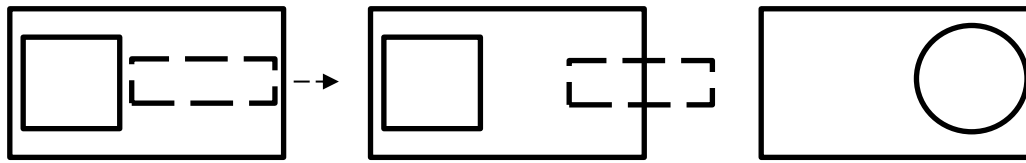


Figure 7- Emission – exposure

Emission is mostly involuntary<sup>1</sup> (31) because the subject cannot exert force in the sense that humans do (even in *suti/gāf dādan*, the human subject cannot control their action), but exposure can happen both intentionally (*namāyeš dādan*) (32) and unintentionally (*rox dādan*).

31)

*havās-aš na-bud ke suti dād-e.*  
 attention-3SG.POSS NEG-be.PST.3SG that gaffe give.PST-PRF  
 ‘S/he didn’t notice he/she had made a gaffe.’

32)

*honar-e xod rā be hame nešān dād.*  
 art-EZ self OM to all sign give.PST.3SG  
 ‘S/he showed his/her art/skills to everyone.’

#### (l) Give up control – submission

The following LVCs have body parts or associated notions (e.g. *savāri* → to lift and carry/ride) as their pre-verbs. Everyone is in control of their body, and giving up body or a body part, although metaphorically, means losing the control over it. Therefore, the metaphor CONTROL IS POSSESSION (Gibbs et al., 1997) is primarily at work, much like other LVCs. That is why these LVCs are also closely related to the concept *permission*:

(Q)

- |      |            |                   |       |              |                    |
|------|------------|-------------------|-------|--------------|--------------------|
| i.   | tan dādan  | give in           | ii.   | gardan dādan | obey               |
| iii. | sar dādan  | give up life/obey | iv.   | guš dādan    | obey/listen        |
| v.   | del dādan  | fall in love      | vi.   | pā dādan     | give up resistance |
| vii. | kuli dādan | get exploited     | viii. | savāri dādan | get exploited      |

33)

*doxtar-e belaxare be-š pā dād.*  
 girl-DEF finally to-him foot give.PST.3SG  
 ‘The girl finally gave up [and agreed to go out with him].’

#### (m) Addition - implementation

The following LVCs denote two types of actions but appear to be on a continuum. At one extreme, the verbs are instances of adding the transferee (the pre-verb) to a recipient. The transferee is a material (*dud*), a form of energy (*harārat*, *fešār*), or even an end-state (*juš*). At the other extreme, the transferee is the activity or the end-state (*varzeš*, *tamrin*) performed as the result of the subject's action:

(R)

- |       |                         |              |       |               |                      |
|-------|-------------------------|--------------|-------|---------------|----------------------|
| i.    | boxur dādan             | inhale steam | ii.   | dud dādan     | smoke (food)         |
| iii.  | juš dādan               | boil         | iv.   | harārat dādan | heat up              |
| v.    | taft dādan              | sauté        | vi.   | fešār dādan   | press/push           |
| vii.  | hol dādan               | push/jostle  | viii. | šok dādan     | shock                |
| ix.   | māleš dādan             | rub          | x.    | māsāž dādan   | massage              |
| xi.   | šostošu dādan           | wash         | xii.  | qosl dādan    | baptize/wash someone |
| xiii. | narneš dādan            | flex/warm up | xiv.  | varzeš dādan  | exercise             |
| xv.   | tamrin [practice] dādan | train        |       |               |                      |

There are also middle cases that exhibit attributes of both ends; for instance, *māleš/māsāž dādan* ‘rub, massage’ are close to *fešār dādan* ‘press/push’ and *narneš dādan* ‘flex’ in that they both encode addition of a force and, at the same time, the end-state of the implementation of the force. In all these LVCs, however, the object which is at the end of the energy path is the beneficiary of the action. Therefore, some of these verbs also behave as causatives in certain contexts, where the object is not merely passive and can act on the force transferred from the subject (35):

<sup>1</sup> *birun dādan* can be voluntary for humans.

34)

*dast-am*      *rā*      *māsāž*      *dād-am.*  
 hand-1SG.POSS    OM      massage      give.PST-1SG  
 ‘I massaged/rubbed my hand.’

35)

*hāmeye*      *bače-hā rā*      *tamrin*      *dād-am.*  
 all-EZ      kid-PL    OM      train      give.PST-1SG  
 ‘I exercised all the children.’

The list of LVCs discussed so far is not exhaustive, but it reflects the processes underpinning the formation of different concepts using *dādan*. However, other LVCs may not fall into the above categories, and yet share some of their properties. One example is *tahvil* [delivery] *dādan* ‘deliver’ which is very similar to prototypical *dādan*. Others, like the list below, are less obvious but show that the subject’s action is beneficial to the recipient. In other words, the recipient receives the benefits from the giver’s action:

(S)

- |      |                    |             |     |                                |             |
|------|--------------------|-------------|-----|--------------------------------|-------------|
| i.   | komak <i>dādan</i> | help        | ii. | yāri <i>dādan</i>              | aid         |
| iii. | pās <i>dādan</i>   | guard       | iv. | negahbāni <i>dādan</i>         | guard       |
| v.   | kešik <i>dādan</i> | keep sentry | vi. | šift <i>dādan</i> <sup>1</sup> | be on shift |

Newman (1996: 51-52) argues that the typical scenario of giving has a benefactive effect on the recipient, like the above examples, but, on the other hand, a large part of the LVCs with *dādan* act neutral or have a negative impact on the recipient, especially in causative constructions. LVCs like *gušmāli* [ear-rubbing] *dādan* ‘punish’, or *gir* [trap] *dādan* ‘pick on’, again not fitting the groupings, also show a negative impact imposed on the recipient. This might be attributed to the fact that causation can be both positive and negative.

## 6. Discussion and Conclusion

The analysis of the heavy verb *dādan* has shown that it has a straightforward semantic structure consisting of a giver, who is in possession (and thus in control) of an entity (transferee) and transfers it to a recipient, who then will be in possession and control of the transferee. Along with other cognitive processes, this structure, can account for a wide variety of LVCs, ranging from more literal (*rešve dādan* ‘bribe’) to highly figurative instances (*vosat dādan* ‘expand’). The data also show that *dādan* can be used as an LV in several ways. Firstly, the most literal LVCs roughly correspond to the image-schema of heavy *dādan* (Figure 1) in that they retain its semantic structure. For example, financial transactions (e.g. *ejāre dādan*) involve a physical give-and-take, and by semantic extension, a metaphorical transfer of possession and control (see the green line in Figure (9) connecting box (a) to *control*). The same schema applies to linguistic communications in which there are giver-addresser, transferee-content, and recipient-addressee mappings, though the physical transfer is not always present. This is also true of other languages like English, German, Italian, Bulgarian (Newman, 1996: 141-142), and French (Bouveret, 2012), suggesting that this is a cognitively motivated process.

Second, a great deal of the LVCs, as proposed in this paper, convey causation. Seven groups of causative LVCs were identified, each with its own set of idiosyncratic properties, including positive or negative impact, physical or mental change, motion, expansion, or linking. These causative LVCs can be accounted for as follows: the metaphor STATES ARE OBJECTS is present in all these groups, shown by the blue links between box (c) and other causative groups in Figure (9). States (e.g. speed, change, torture, expansion, etc.) are construed as transferable entities given to target recipients, *making* them *have* those states. Nolan (2015) also argues that transfer is the basis for using Irish *thug* ‘give’ in causative constructions, and Newman (1996: 173-175) has shown the same for Finnish, Thai, Polish, Cambodian, and Mandarin. Bouveret (2012) also states that French *donner* ‘give’ is used to communicate causative constructions. Another aspect is the force-dynamics of *dādan*; both causation and *dādan* depict other-oriented actions (Brugman, 2001), where the flow of energy moves from the giver to the recipient. Even in LVCs without a recipient, the energy flow moves away from the giver or the grammatical subject. Another important point about causative LVCs is that, as illustrated in Figure (3), causation does not require the subject to possess the transferee, but to be the source of the energy that causes the recipient to be in a particular state. Thus, the image-schema in Figure (3), with the giver’s possession eliminated, underpins the causative LVCs.

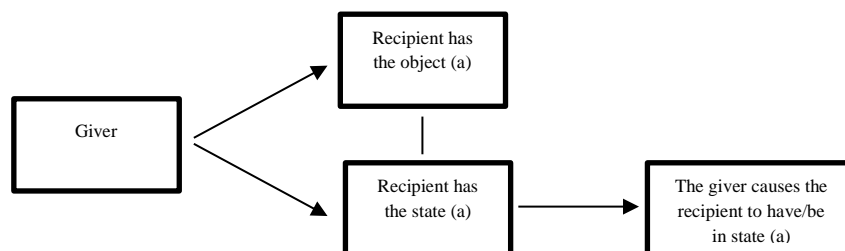


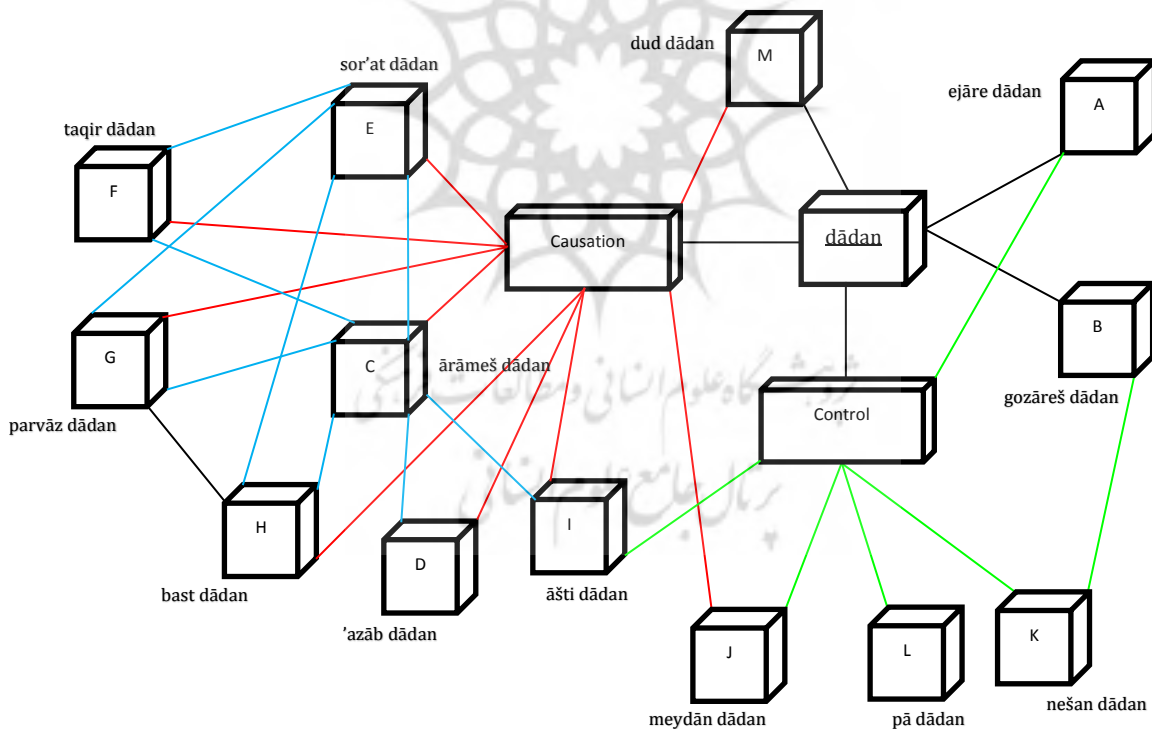
Figure 8- *dādan* and causation

<sup>1</sup> A seemingly more recent LVC, very probably formed by analogy to *kešik dādan* (the word *kešik* originally referring to Mongolian royal guards).

Figure (8) summarizes how *dādan* is used in causative LVCs. It is worth noting that the overarching term *causation* does not imply that the causative LVCs are of the same type. The distinction between intentional and unintentional or agent and author causation, event or instrument causation, etc., as termed by Talmy (2000: 514-16), is beyond the scope of this paper. More fine-grained distinctions, however, would provide valuable insight into the nature of such LVCs.

The third aspect is the notion of control and possession (and the metaphor CONTROL IS POSSESSION), which are specifically active in LVCs that denote: (a) *expansion* (as the sphere of control expands spatially and temporally), (b) *linking* where there are at least two recipients at the end of the energy path made to share a sphere of control, (c) *permission*, and *enablement*, in which both giver and sender would share control over an event, (d) *submission*, in which the subject would give up control and surrender to a third party, and finally (e) *exposure*, where coming out of the sphere of control is foregrounded. Therefore, the sphere of control can be expanded, shared, or given up on, resulting in LVCs that denote these and related concepts. Control is also relevant for causation, as was shown in the analysis. Fujiwara et al. (2014) also maintain that *possession* is the reason why “have” is used causatively in English, arguing that controllability of an event is required for “have” to be used as a causative verb.

The types of concepts represented by the LVCs are illustrated in a radial category in Figure (9). The LVCs are either directly related to *dādan* (showing close association with the heavy verb) or grouped around the two concepts causation and control. Box (c) interconnects, through the blue lines, to the other causatives showing the ubiquity of STATES ARE OBJECTS metaphor. The red lines indicate causative usage, and the green ones highlight the role of control and possession in LVC formation. The Figure shows that, despite being divided into different groups, the LVCs form various paths or continuums of interrelated concepts. For example, *tārtib dādan* ‘order’ and *šekl dādan* ‘form’ in (e) and (f), ‘*ozlat dādan* ‘isolate’ and *rahāi dādan* ‘free’ in (e) and (g), or *serāyat dādan* ‘transmit/contaminate’ and *entešār dādan* ‘propagate’ in (g) and (h) respectively appear to be closely related but put into different groups. It is, however, beyond the scope of this paper to determine accurately which group an LVC belongs to or how the continuums interconnect because of the semantic nuances between even two closely related concepts. For example, although *sor’at dādan* ‘speed up’ is a motion verb, and thus a candidate for caused-motion LVCs (group g), the difference lies in the fact that it implies an earlier state of motion, while the LVCs in the group (g) do not assume earlier motion. The issue is also addressed by Collins (2015), who introduces “semantic distances” or intermediating related senses that come between two distinct senses of a word and bridge them across a continuum.



(A) Payments-financial transactions-(moral) compensation; (B) Acts of communication-content and knowledge transfer; (C) Causation-state of body and mind-positive; (D) Causation-state of body and mind-negative; (E) Causation-accomplishment-status change; (F) Causation-physical change; (G) Causation-motion (literal and figurative); (H) Causation-expansion-spatial and temporal; (I) Causation-linking; (J) Enablement-permission-shared control; (K) Emission-exposure; (L) Give up control-submission; (M) Addition-implementation.

**Figure 9- Radial category of *dādan* LVCs**

A final point regarding the analysis of the LVCs is the use of image-schemas. Since the LVCs are conceptually interrelated to each other and to the heavy verb, it is reasonable to expect that the image-schemas will be related to a core image-schema, which is exactly what happens in our analysis. All the image-schemas are related to the image-schema (1), and Figure (3) is the basis for the causative LVCs including the image-schemas (4) and (5). Figure (1)





shows the path of *dādan*, while Figure (3) and causative LVCs focus on the end of this path. It is, therefore, safe to assume an end-point focus or end-of-path image-schema transformation (Lakoff, 1987: 423-4 and 441), focusing on the end-state of the recipient, while Figure (7) has a start-point focus highlighting the beginning of the *giving* process.

To summarize, the image-schemas are related to the main schema through the elimination of the source location or destination of the transferee, addition of at least two recipients, and sharing the transferee and the sphere of control. However, these findings do not imply that all the LVCs can be accounted for in this way. Analogy is another important factor in work in language change, especially when a given construction becomes frequent enough in language. In this way newer forms become generated based on frequent existing forms such that they cannot be explained in the same manner as those basis forms. Therefore, one should always keep in mind that not all LVCs are describable with a predetermined set of rules and principles.

In general, this paper shows that LVCs can be accounted for by the principles of cognitive lexical semantics, and that many of the *dādan* LVCs are causative, suggesting that it functions as a causative verb in Persian. In fact, *dādan* is sometimes used in situations where an LVC with *kardan* ‘do, perform’ is not causative as in *rošd kardan/dādan* ‘grow/make grow’, *tamrin kardan/dādan* ‘exercise/train’, *obur kardan/dādan* ‘cross/make cross’, etc. This process is still active and visible in rather new LVCs like *xande* [laughter]/*gerye* [weeping] *dādan* ‘make laugh/cry’, *boqz* [sob] *dādan* ‘make one’s voice look sad’ or the completely new and highly ironic LVC *xodkoši* [suicide] *dādan* ‘make someone suicide’ as opposed to *xodkoši kardan* ‘suicide’.

### Abbreviations

CAUS	Causative Marker	PFV	Perfect
CLF	Numeral Classifier	PL	Plural
DEF	Definite Marker	POSS	Possessive Suffix
DO	Direct Object	PRS	Present Tense
EZ	Ezafe Marker	PST	Past Tense
IO	Indirect Object	REL	Relative Marker
IPFV	Imperfective	SG	Singular
NEG	Negation	SUB	Subject
OM	Object Marker	SBJV	Subjunctive

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