

The Additive Marker in Conversational Persian: A Case of Inflectional Spread  
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This paper starts with the syntax and pragmatics of the additive marker *-æm* in conversational Persian. This marker frequently occurs after the first constituent of an utterance as in (1):

- (1) *mæn-æm*      *ræft-æm*  
1SG+*æm*      go.past+1SG.SBJ  
'I went too.'

The marker *-æm* can be roughly characterized as a second-position clitic that marks the proposition as containing information to be added to a topic already under discussion. My primary interest in this talk, however, will not be on its distribution or its meaning but on its form. The marker *-æm*, derived from *hæm* (Stilo 2004), is homophonous with the first person singular agreement affix seen on the verb above. It is also homophonous with the first person singular possessive clitic which appears on nouns to index the possessor, as in (2). The same clitic also appears on non-verbal elements in predicates of psychological or physical states, to index experiencer subjects as in (3):

- (2) *ketab-æm*      *oftad*  
book.1SG.POSS fall.past.3SG  
'My book fell.'

- (3) *særd-æm*      *shod*  
cold.1SG.CLC      become.past.3SG  
'I got cold.'

The main point of the paper, then, is to explore the theoretical consequences of this type of homophony. I will briefly point to other languages in which we find the same phenomenon: pragmatic markers that take the form of frequently-used pieces of inflectional morphology. I will then talk about what a theory of morphology and syntax looks like if this type of homophony is **not** a coincidence?