

Lesson 6

Postpositions

The pronoun *wat* *وت*

Postpositions

In English and Swedish we are used to prepositions (see lesson 2, slide 7), but in Balochi, in addition to a few prepositions, there are numerous postpositions. These words have the same function as preposition, namely to express spatial or temporal relations (e.g. *in, under, towards, before*) or to mark other roles in the sentence (e.g. *of, for*), but they come AFTER their headword (object) instead of before.

Balochi postpositions

In Balochi the postpositions take their object in the genitive case.

tahá تها 'in'

ketábay tahá کتابے تها 'in the book'

ketábéay tahá کتابیے تها 'in a book'

ketábáni tahá کتابانی تها 'in the books'

Some more postpositions in Balochi

poshtá پشتا 'behind'

lógay poshtá لوگئے پشتا 'behind the house'

sará سرا 'on'

kóhay sará گوہئے سرا 'on the mountain'

chérá چیرا 'under'

sáhegay chérá ساہگئے چیرا 'in the shadow'

(note that Balochi says 'under the shadow' - prepositions and postpositions are very language individual and sometimes not totally logical, think about English: *in the car, on the train, at five o'clock, in the evening, on May 1 etc.*)

More postpositions

tóká توکا 'in' (frequently used in Pakistan)

lógay tóká توکا لوگئے 'in the house'

démá دیمّا 'in front of'

mardománi démá مردمانی دیمّا 'in front of the people'

gwará گورا 'beside, to, with (about people)'

mani gwará منی گورا 'beside me, with me, to me'

Mani gwará nendit. منی گورا نندیت. 'He sits down beside me.'

Mani gwará kayt. منی گورا کئیت. 'She comes to me.'

Ketáb mani gwará ent. کتاب منی گورا انت. 'I have the book with me (lit. The book is with me).'

The reflexive pronoun *wat* وٲ

A reflexive pronoun “reflects back” in the clause, in the case of Balochi to the subject. There is a Swedish reflexive pronoun “sig, sin, sitt, sina” used only for 3rd person:

Han såg sig själv i spegeln ‘He saw himself in the mirror.’

De tog sina saker och gick ‘They took their stuff and left.’

wat وٲ in Balochi

wat وٲ in Baloch works in ALL persons and must be used when the subject is the same as e.g. the object or the owner.

I myself came

I saw **my** brother

They ate **their** food

etc.

Forms of *wat* وت

wat وت is the nominative form, but also the oblique form used after prepositions

watá وتا is the object form, used for the direct object

wati وتى is the genitive form, also used before postpositions

Examples with *wat* وت

Man wata káyán. (NB! the a on wat is the a of the present indicative verb form)

‘I myself will come.’ من وت کایان.

Gón wat ché karay? ‘What will you bring with you?’

گۆن وت چه کارئے؟

Á hamé ketábá pa wat gechéna kant. ‘She chooses this book for herself.’

آ همے کتابا په وت گچین کنت.

(gechén kanag گچین کنگ ‘to choose’)

Examples with *watá* وِتا

Pa ché watá negrána kanay? ‘Why do you worry (lit. why do you make yourself worried)?’

پہ چے وِتا نگرانِ کُنئے؟

(negrán نگران ‘worried’)

Watá tayára nakanay? ‘Don’t you make yourself ready?’ وِتا تئیارِ نِکُنئے؟

(tayár تئیار ‘ready’)

Examples with *wati* وتی

Man wati ketábá wánán. 'I read my book.'

من وتی کتابا وانان.

Taw wati ketábá wánay? 'Do you read your book?'

تئو وتی کتابا وانئے؟

Á wati ketábá wánit. 'He/she reads his/her book.'

آ وتی کتابا وانیت.

Má wati ketábá wánén. 'We read our book.'

ما وتی کتابا وانین.

Shomá pa ché wati ketábá nawánét? 'Why don't you read your book?'

شما په چه وتی کتابا نوانیت؟

Á wati ketábá wánant. 'They read their book.'

آ وتی کتابا واننت.

(note that the only difference between the 3rd person singular and plural is the verb ending)

An example with *wati* **وتی** before a postposition

Wati bárawá ché gwashay? ‘What do you say
about yourself? (What are your claims about
yourself?) **وتی بارئوا چے گوشئے؟**

(bárawá **بارئوا** ‘about, concerning’)