



Extended Abstract

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The Dominant and the Dominated: An Unknown Prediction Method and an Unformed Genre

Mohsen Shafiei Ghahdarijani 

Mohsen Mohammadi Fesharaki* 

Introduction

Divination books (Faalnameh) form a Persian literary genre that has not been independently researched so far. This literary genre includes many subgenres, some of which have found an independent aspect and some have not been able to become an independent genre. The prediction of the dominant and the dominated (ghaleb va maghlub) is one of the genres that has not acquired its own literary aspect and has not become an independent literary form. As a prediction method used in war and sometimes in wrestling to predict the winner, it has been mentioned in many literary and historical texts, both implicitly and explicitly. Among the most prominent texts in which the prediction method of the dominant and the dominated are reflected are *Khosrow and Shirin* and *Sharafnameh* by Nizami. It is not possible to understand and comprehend Nizami's speech if we are not familiar with the structure and type of the prediction of the dominant and the dominated.

In this article, we have tried to examine the structure and types of this prediction method with regard to existing and available printed and handwritten texts and to explain how it works.

* Associate Prof in Persian language and literature, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran. (Corresponding author).
m.mohammadi@ltr.ui.ac.ir

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Research Methodology, Background, and Objectives

No independent research has been conducted on the subject of the prediction method of the dominant and the dominated. The only sources that can be referred to in this regard are the commentaries written on the works of Nezami Ganjavi, in which commentators have quoted what they have inferred from the verses of the text and have not conducted a deep exploration of its origin, history, and how it worked in prophecies. In this research, by the use of a quantitative and descriptive method, after examining examples of the dominant and the dominated in Persian printed and handwritten texts and surveying non-Persian sources, we have presented examples of this category in notable Persian texts. Then, using these sources, we will examine the structure and nature of this prediction method and how to use it to find the dominant and the dominated side before the war began.

The purpose of this research is to recognize and introduce this unknown type in order to both help understand the complexity and problems existing in literary and historical texts and to explore the social history and culture of ancient Iranians.

Discussion and Analysis

In *Khosrow and Shirin*, where Farhad is digging a mountain and laments the intensity of his love for Shirin, he says: “The number of letters in my name and Parviz, my love rival, are the same, but I do not know why in the prediction of the dominant and the dominated, Parviz is dominant upon me?” In *Sharafnameh*, Alexander and Aristotle's father talk about a geometric shape called the dominant and the dominated that Alexander's court scientists used to predict the wars; but in neither of these two texts do we encounter more details about this category. Hence, we are forced to turn to other texts to understand it.

The dominant and the dominated is mostly used in Persian texts under the name of *Hasab Ghalib and Maghlub* and in Arabic texts under the name of *Hasab al-Nim*. We have found three types of The dominant and the dominated in our searches: the first type is in the form of a table, not a circle, in which the numbers are written in three colors of red, green, and black, and by calculating the names of the parties involved in the battle using the arithmetic method and finding the odd number in the table, the color of the numbers determines their fate. The second type is a table of even and odd numbers, where the even and odd numbers of the letters of a person's name determine his victory or defeat in the war, and the third type is the prediction of the names of people according to a method called Nim, which is a special circle of letters with a method different from the arithmetic method. Another issue that should be considered is that in some texts this category is considered a type of science, and for this reason, complex and ambiguous calculation methods have been used for it.

Accordingly, this method has been attributed to famous people such as Ptolemy, Aristotle, Ali ibn Abi Talib, and Jafar al-Sadiq; however, its attribution to Aristotle is consistent in most existing texts. Studies have shown that in an ancient and fabricated book called *Ser al-Asrar* or *Politics*, which is the same name as Aristotle's *Politics*, this category has been attributed to Aristotle, which has led to the spreading of the belief in Islamic societies that this prediction method is created by Aristotle.

Conclusion

The prediction method of the dominant and the dominated is a type of fortune-telling that was used in war and sometimes in wrestling to predict the winner. Numerous copies of it are available in Persian, Arabic and Turkish languages in libraries around the world, which indicates its prevalence in certain periods of the history of the Islamic countries.

The results of this research are as follows: 1) The attribution of this calculation to famous people such as Greek scientists and some Shiite imams is not based on solid evidence and is merely to create credibility for this calculation; 2) There are various methods for making this prediction, from arranging numbers in nine-by-nine tables to calculating with letter circles, which seem to create a kind of ambiguity and complexity and a kind of difficulty in the method, to present it as a kind of science and to attribute a predictive aspect to it; 3) it can be considered a kind of precursor to the subgenre of books of fortune (falnameh) that has not transformed into an independent form either in prose or in verse.

Keywords: The prediction of the dominant and the dominated (ghaleb va maghlub), Nezami, books of fortune, Aristotle

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