

Persian verbs, such as طلبیدن from the Arabic verbal noun طلب, or Hindi *tahsilnā*, 'to collect', from the Arabic noun تحصیل (Beames. Comp. Gr. I, p. 40. Temple. Gloss. p. 213) are formed in exactly the same manner.¹

While strongly asserting the phonetic value of the Pehlevi letters, when they represent Semitic words, I readily grant that these words could be and were really very often, especially in modern times and by the illiterate, replaced by their Iranian equivalents. This is also the opinion of the best Pehlevi scholar, West, whose words are: 'The Semitic portion of the Pehlevi writing — seems to have formed no part of the spoken language, at all events in later times.' 'We have no reason to suppose that the spoken language of the great mass of the Persian people ever contained the Semitic words'. — as the actual sounds of these Semitic words were rarely pronounced.' 'The compilers of the glossary² had in some instances lost the correct pronunciation of these old Semitic words.' 'There is every reason to suppose that the Semitic portion of the Pehlevi was never pronounced by the Persians as it was written, unless, indeed, in the earliest times'. (S. B. E. t. V, pp. XIV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, t. XVIII, p. XXI). Quite recently the same view has been expressed by Huart (Rev. crit. 1902, t. I, p. 382).

This method of translating a foreign or obsolete word by a native one could very appropriately styled 'spelling', and that, methinks, is the meaning of the term 'Xuzvareš', which may be derived from *xuzvan* 'tongue',³ by the side of which we can suppose **xuzvar*, cf. skr. *pīvan*, *πίλον*, *pīvarī*, *πίερα* and *ahan*, *ahar*. It is true that *n* and *r* are also written by the same sign, so that supposing *xuzvan* to be the primitive form, *xuzvar* could arise by a misunderstanding of the final letter, but, on the one hand, I am not aware of other examples

¹ In Germany one may hear *er hat geschöt* 'he played', from the French *jeu*, and in Vienna *er verneglischiert sich* 'he neglects himself', from the French *négliger*.

² The Pehlevi-Pazend glossary published by Haug.

³ On different opinions regarding the etymology of this word see Jamasp Asana's Pahlavi-English dictionary, t. I, pp. XLIV sqq.