

**Acquisition of Genitive Case by Bilingual Guilaki-Persian English Learners****Ali Akbar Jabbari***Yazd University, Iran, Islamic Republic of***Abstract**

The present study focuses on recognition and production of the English genitive cases with similar structure in a Persian language of the north of Iran, Guilaki (i.e., possessive determiners and possessive relations) or Persian (i.e., non-possessive relations) at initial state of English as Foreign Language third language (EFL) acquisition. In this regard, the researcher selected the most proficient Guilaki and Persian speakers-beginner EFL learners who were comparably aware of the structures under study to establish L3 and L2 groups. Both groups equally comprised 30 female third-grade junior high school English learners. The statistical analyses on Grammaticality Judgement Test (GJT) and Translation tests of the L3 group suggested different levels of cross-linguistic influence, and hence partially supporting Full Transfer/ Full Access (FT/FA) hypothesis, L2 transfer hypothesis or Cumulative Enhancement Model (CEM) for each form of genitive case. Moreover, the findings indicated a possible association between the L3 group's poor performance and their incomplete Guilaki (L1) acquisition due to the intense contact with the majority language (i.e., Persian as L2). Consequently, EFL teaching through learners' language background can improve their English and preserve their background languages.

Keywords: Natural Bilingual, Genitive Cases, Majority Language, Persian, Guilaki & English languages