Etymology of Some Plant Names in Persian Language Based on FerdowsiShahnameh

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Abstract: FerdowsiShahnameh has always been hailed as a pure treasure and irreproducible masterpiece in Persian language and literature. The invaluable treasure by Ferdowsi bears a rich, ancient legacy of Persian language and has ever been embraced by the literati of the world. This study, in a rare attempt, sets out with etymological and morphological analysis of some Persian plant names based on Shahnameh. It aims to communicate root meanings of the mentioned words in various Persian dialects and accents. Identifying the usage and origins of the words reflect the vast rich of native Persian lexicon in Shahnameh. The study follows the international transliteration and transcription system that applies to all languages. The plants names to be analyzed are ebony, millet, purple, grape, almond, quince, willow, barley, zarir, and colocynth. The etymological study inferred that the plant names mentioned in Shahnameh imply their significant uses in then popular culture and life.

Key words: Ferdowsi, Shahnameh, root meaning, plant names, Persian language.

