



Schematic Embodiment of *Perseverance* in Persian

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Abstract

A group of Persian speakers were asked to talk about the concept of perseverance in semi-structured interviews. Gestures that participants used to talk about this concept were analyzed. The results showed that the concept of perseverance was primarily embodied in upward head gestures, fist-shaped hand gestures, forward hand gestures, and forward leg gestures. In a significant number of cases, these four elements occurred together. This suggests that the embodiment of perseverance can be distributed in several gestures in several body parts. Although these gestures had different directions in various body parts, the pattern of occurrence of these gestures was the same in a significant number of cases. We call this process *schematic embodiment*. These four elements create a *gestural scheme* that represents the embodied realization of *perseverance*. We define *gestural scheme* as a set of dynamic, sequential, and coordinated gestures that collectively represent a concept or an event.

Keywords Embodiment · Gestural scheme · Metaphor · Schematic embodiment