

- "*Studies on Rhythm in Classical Music of Iran: Review and questions*", in Honarha-ye-Ziba.

**Abstract:**

The theoretical background for Iranian Classical (traditional) music is somehow poor when it comes to the subject of Rhythm, mostly stopping at the preliminary stage of categorization its repertoire to metric vs. non-metric (the so-called *AVAZ*) parts. Although such categorization highlights the distinctions, it usually fails to answer theoretical basic questions like: Is there a structure or logic, organizing rhythmic phrases especially in non-metric parts? If so, what are the shaping rules and how do they apply? Is it possible that the so-called free rhythm (non-metric) lacks any kind of order or structure? How do the previous very few studies on rhythm of this music answer these questions?... Naturally, the first step towards an analytic examination of rhythmic structure in Iranian Classical Music would be to review the existing literature in a perspective.

The present review is trying to get to such point, reviewing each of the very few studies on rhythm of Iranian Classical Music and comparing their results, in order to clarify any possible route to answer those theoretical questions.

It is shown here that previous studies need to be revised from two points of view at least: one from the point of limitations that are applied by default to those studies but not noticed when coming to the final results, and the second for the noticeable rhythmic/metric variety in the repertoire that needs to be examined carefully in a more independent way first, and then we'll be able to search for the possible relations with poetic metrics (*ARUZ*) or cyclic meters (*IQA*).