This thesis investigates the morpho-phonological dimensions of Persian simple verbs within the framework of Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky, 1993; McCarthy and Prince, 1993). The first issue under investigation concerns the strategies employed by Persian to resolve the problem of *HIATUS in the present simple stems (i.e. the verbs ending in vowels and belonging to Type I) under the notion of Generalized Alignment constraints which are interacting with familiar Faithfulness and Markedness constraints. Another central concern of this thesis is the alternations of the past morpheme in light of applying output-oriented theory as a new version of Optimality Theory. I argue that V-deletion as a more economic way is preferred to C-epenthesis to avoid hiatus, thus ONSET, DEP-IO >> MAX-IO are thought of as the preliminary ranking in which ONSET as a markedness constraint will also be satisfied. As a result of coincidence between the syllable edges (i.e. Pros Cat) and the stem edges (i.e. Gram Cat) in the structural patterns of such verbs, ALIGN-L and ALIGN-R constraints take part in the ranking argument; therefore, ONSET, DEP-IO>> MAX-IO>> ALIGN-L, and ONSET, DEP-IO>> MAX-IO>> ALIGN-R are proposed here to describe the morpho-phonological behavior of such verbs. Regarding FIAT constraints proposed by MacBride (2004), the input for stems Type II (i.e. past simple stems) is argued to consist of an imperative root bearing the syntactic features corresponding to past which is encoded in PAST:]stemi a FIAT-STRUC constraint. I conclude that the allomorphs for making stems Type II are the reflexes of nine distinct FIAT-STRUC constraints triggered by the same syntactic property.
Allomorphy is arisen through the action of multiple FIAT-STRUC constraints. Such constraints together with the effect of OO-correspondence constraints and the Faithfulness constraints account for phonologically conditioned allomorph selection.