TÍTULO: Clasificación de los atributos culturales que influyen en los comportamientos de votación en las elecciones según el enfoque funcional estructural de Gabriel Almond.

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RESUMEN: El objetivo del presente estudio es encontrar una respuesta a la pregunta sobre cuáles son los factores culturales (de actitud) más importantes y las barreras para exhibir un comportamiento de voto basado en la racionalidad individual y social en las elecciones. El presente estudio es una investigación aplicada y se realiza en base a un método analítico descriptivo. Los resultados obtenidos son indicativos de la idea de que los factores culturales, el lenguaje y el dialecto (con un coeficiente de impacto de 0,97 y un valor de significación igual a 17,26) tienen el mayor efecto positivo, y por lo tanto, el primer rango.

PALABRAS CLAVES: participación política, cultura política, comportamiento electoral, cultura étnica, estructuras políticas.

TITLE: Ranking the cultural attributes influencing Voting Behaviors in Elections based on Gabriel Almond's Structural Functional Approach.

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ABSTRACT: The objective of the present study is finding an answer to the question as to what are the most important cultural (attitudinal) factors and barriers of exhibiting a voting behavior based on individual and social rationality in elections. The present study is an applied research and carried out based on a descriptive-analytical method. The obtained results are indicative of the idea that, amongst the cultural factors, language and dialect (with an impact coefficient of 0.97 and a significance value equal to 17.26) have the highest positive effect hence taking the first rank.

KEY WORDS: political participation, political culture, voting behavior, ethnic culture, political structures.

INTRODUCTION.

Participation is the vital force of democracy (Taimuri et al, 2015). As a political reaction, Elective behavior is expressive of a degree of people's political participation in the social system and it is deemed as a ground on which the individuals' political identities can be scientifically studied (Emam Jom'ehzadeh & Karami Raad, 2012).

The elective behavior of the society members that is based on their political understanding and its interpretation, can be somehow exhibited parallel to the support, correction and fundamental change of the social system; so, this is one of the most important aspects defining the type of the political society and elaborating the quality of its overall structure (Eyvazi, 2003). In fact, the healthiness of democratic systems and satisfactions thereof can be useful for making decisions in political, economic and social areas (Taimuri et al, 2015). That is because elections are processes during which an

individual is elected from amongst a larger group (Dorosti, 2015; Anartin, 1997) and, unfortunately, the voters of a great many of the urban and rural regions of the countries worldwide pay more attention to language, ethnicity, origin and personal interests and some other characteristics of this type in the candidates in lieu of their abilities, knowledge and insight, truthfulness and proper deed, experience, familiarity with the global issues, realism, solidarity and forbearance (Kalantari, 2005; Mendonça & Andrade, 2018).

Of course, the effects of these factors are not fixed rather they have varying degrees of effects and different results can come about during various times in variegated places; thus, a set of causes bring about changes in the elective attitudes (Jom'ehzadeh & Karami Raad, 2012) and this is the most important issue and concern of the present research paper that tries offering solutions, even minimal, to overcome such harms (Aziziyan Sharif Abadi, 2013).

Moreover, the culture, itself, is the greatest need of a human community and it is the main factor contributing to the dynamicity, happiness and striving of the communities and it has currently drawn the attentions of the experts, thinkers and elites as the most important factor giving rise to economic, social, political, human and ethical development of the countries because culture is a ground of redefining, retrieving and perfecting of all the abilities, values, identities, beliefs, norms, traditions and myths (Rashidi & Daneshfard, 2016; Jahanbakhsh Ganjeh, 2017; Mussabekov et al, 2018).

On the other hand, Iran is in a state of transition from a traditional to a modernist society. Obeying this transition stage's rules, the political culture in Iran, as well, is positioned somewhere between two culturally opposite forms, namely subordinate culture and participation culture, and disorders occur in the political culture of the society by the superimposition of these occasionally opposite cultures.

In order to put an end to this disorganization in the political culture and create the preliminary conditions of change and alteration in the political life, it is incumbently necessary to recognize its contributive elements and indicators in a scrutinizing manner so that it can be subjected to criticism. It has also been always confirmed by research and experience that ethics constitute a central point capable of curbing, in their own favor, the most inauspicious natural conditions and the worst of the regulations (Alexy De Tokoyle, 1968); also, the collecting of field data in the arena of the political elections decreases the constraints of theorization about social issues in a country (Ebrahimi, 2017). Based thereon, the present study seeks investigation of the most important cultural factors and barriers of exhibiting a voting behavior based on individual and social rationality in a study sample volume in cultural (attitudinal) area related to the citizens' voting behaviors within the format of four indicators, named culture and political Socialization, ethnicity and race, language and dialect and religion and creed to accomplish the following study objectives:

- What are the most important cultural factors and barriers of a voting behavior based on individual and social rationality?

- Is there a significant relationship between the cultural attributes and voting behavior, including the four indicators of culture, namely culture and political Socialization, ethnicity and race, language and dialect and religion and creed, based on the pattern?

There are two rival perspectives for the elucidation of the political participation and, essentially, any sort of political behavior in its most general level: rational choice and sociological school.

In the rational choice, that owes a vast part of its theories to Anthony Downs, every potential voter acts based on a rational calculation and makes a choice in an election battle course via evaluating the government holding the tenure and comparing it with the claims and programs of the opposite political parties in consideration of the interests s/he is expecting to gain after its victory (Ghaffari

Hashjin et al, 2010; Razavi et al, 2015). Olson considers rationality as the strongest factor for political participation (Raash, 1998).

The main sociological pattern is of the belief that the structures and situations influence the people's political orientations and that the people have fixed tendencies rooted in their familial environments, occupational life and cultural environments (Ayyubi, 1998).

From this perspective, the social and cultural structure and the social texture join forces to make a given political attitude govern and last for many years in a region. In sociological school, individual and collective actions stem from the values and norms existing in a society; thus, political participation analysis can be made feasible in the light of the study of such factors as individuals' political socialization, political culture, group systems as well as the other conditions related to the social environment (Sayyed Emami, 2007; Aguilar-de Borja, 2018).

In regard of choosing Almond's structural functionalism, it has to be pointed out that Gabriel almond is one of the most famous experts in political culture and its relevant analysis. The reason for choosing such an approach has been the avoidance of a unidimensional analysis. Based thereupon, political culture in political and social sciences literature lends its emergence to the behaviorist researches by some scholars, including Gabriel Almond and Sydney Verba et al. These were the studies done with the objective of opening a novel level of analysis in the study of the humans' political behavior in political and social behavior via paying attention to the attitudes, beliefs and political opinions and their effects on the political behavior (Ghaisari & Shakouri, 2009; Ajallooeian et al, 2015).

The model posited by Almond and Verba regarding the political culture were substantially in the form that the topic of political culture was considered as a part of a general theory. Like the other investigations, the studies of political culture within the format of the political development that was usually instigated by the thinkers' concerns regarding the political development devoted part of their tasks to the discussions on political culture. Therefore, they expressed their ideas about political

culture based on a sort of look at the political development. Almond and Verba give too much importance to emotional, valuational and cognitive orientations in their book, "civil culture" and this is well evident from the definition posited for political culture in this book: "political culture is a collection of the cognitive, analytical (valuational) and emotional tendencies expressed in respect to political phenomena" (Sari'e Al-Ghalam, 2007).

It has also been stated elsewhere in the book that "when speaking of the political culture of a society, the political systems, the way they are internalized in the cognitions, emotions and evaluations of the system members, are intended" (Imani & Bustani, 2003).

Based thereon, to figure out the political culture of every group or society, they had to return to these three types of orientations and these three orientations give rise to a certain form of culture, named political culture, when they are aligned towards the political system. In this sense, they express the cognitive type of the political culture as a combination of various kinds of internalized orientations and their objectives. In general, the political culture types have been realized:

1) Parish culture that is based on indifference and ignorance of the national government and being kept busy with the attached local units like tribe or village.

2) Subjugation culture that is conversely accompanied by an awareness of the national political system but the people take completely passive positions towards it. In here, the people concomitantly fear and respect the system and believe that they cannot take part in its performance.

3) Participatory culture that is contrarily based on the citizens' volitions and perfect enforcement of their rights and duties in the political decisions. Remarking that none of the abovementioned states exist in its pure form, they concluded that the third type is better than the other kinds of democracies or consistent stability; hence, they are the characteristic of the most advanced political systems (Badi'e, 2000; Naghibzadeh, 2014).

Somewhere else, Almond and Powel add the emergence of practical orientations to it for the repelling of the ideologies and sublimation of the values (Almong & Powell, 1966; Naghibzadeh, 2014).

Therefore, development entails a combination of structural distinction and culture materialization processes (Naghibzadeh, 2014; Osman et al., 2018).

1. Culture and Political Culture.

During the years after the WWII and parallel to the expansion of the comparative politics' topics, especially the political development, considerable efforts were made for approaching culture in the political grounds.

In the light of these efforts, the theories of political culture were considered as instruments for transferring the discussion from micro- and individual psychological analysis to the social and culture-oriented level within the format of the political development analyses and theorizations (Chilcott, 1998). Sociological culture writes: "in English-French tradition, culture is mostly synonymous to civilization" (Nicholas Abercrombie et al, 1988). Edward Tyler also offers a similar definition: "culture or civilization … is an interwoven whole that incorporates knowledge, religion, art, law, ethics, customs and traditions as well as any ability and habit attained by the human beings as members of every society" (Ashoury, 1978).

As viewed by the American social sciences encyclopedia, political culture is "a set of attitudes, beliefs and emotions that grant meaning and order to the political processes and specify the underlying opportunities and rules governing the political behavior in a political system" (Stills, 1972).

Gabriel Almond is the first person who applied political culture in political science: "every political system incorporates a certain pattern of orientations towards political actions and, I think, it is better to call it political culture" (Almond, 1956; Chilcott, 2014).

As opined by Almond and Powell, political culture includes a "collection of individual attitudes and orientations by a system's members in respect to politics and it is also a mental territory that lays the foundation and gives meaning to the political actions" (Karimi & Reza'ei, 2006; Chilcott, 2014; Almond & Powell, 1906).

Gabriel Almond and his colleagues delineate the political culture in three system, process and policy-making levels:

A) The most important subject matter raised in system level pertains to the premises and the legitimacy type of the system and the leaders thereof and each might enjoy one of the following legitimacy types: charismatic, traditional-religious and/or legal-intellectual.

B) In process level, the participatory institutions (political groups and parties) and the quality of the political participation in terms of its being active or passive is posited.

C) The third level of political culture is policy-making wherein the most important of the people's priorities are posited in regard of decision-making as a part thereof. These priorities can be freedom, justice, security and equality (Almond et al, 2002).

In fact, the various kinds of political culture can be distinguished based on two axes: one is based on the individual orientations towards the political system, including perceptional, value and emotional attitudes and the other is based on the orientations, including the governing individuals, governmental policies and governmental structures (Bashiriyeh, 2001).

2. Social Structures Influencing Voting Behavior.

Many of the important characteristics of the communities like sustainable development and change process, can be considered as caused by the characteristics of certain structures; this is because, the understanding of every phenomenon in a community necessitates the comprehension of the structures thereof and it can be stated that "structure is the very attribute of a social system that remains stable

in the course of time for a long period of time and it is independent from the units playing a role therein" (Sadeghi, 2016).

From Almond's perspective, political recruitments are the organized methods of individual's performing of political activities. The most vivid recruitments are such political institutions as political parties, elections, legislature, executive branch and bureaucracies and it is via the specific tasks done by the political structures that it is made clear which individuals are to be appointed for holding active membership of these recruitments and how long should they remain therein (Almond et al, 2002, 87).

He also defines recruitments as observable activities constituting the system (Chilcott, 2014; Almond & Powell, 1966).

In regard of the political recruitments, Almond and Powell have the following statements: "by recruitments, the visible activities are intended that are created by a political system … a special collection of roles related with one another". They also write that "political structures mean regular methods of performing political activities by the people and the most familiar political structures are: political institutions, including political parties, elections, legislature, executive branch and administrative formations" (Johari, 1987).

Such sociologists as Almond point to numerous factors that influence the elective participation and taking part in the elections. Some of these factors have been outlined below:

1) Income: for example, Lipset shows using experimental data that the social classes with higher incomes prove more participation than the lower classes (Lipset, 1963).

2) Religion: religious beliefs are the source of political and social values and directly influence the individuals' support of political parties (Taleban and Mirza'ei, 2010). In the initial stage, religion has been the primary source of the change in Iran's contemporary political structure but, in the later stages, tradition has taken its place (Al-e-Ghafour, 2009).

3) Education: educated individuals are typically with more wishes and demand more of the governments and, on the other hand, the political participation range of the illiterates is more likely to remain limited while the literates' participation features more extensive aspects (Huntington, 1991).

4) Gender: based on sociological analysis of gender, the women's participation is most often passive, provoked and limited to masses' levels (Bashiriyeh, 2003) and, all in all, the women are somewhat more rightists than men (Fathi Ashtiyani, 2006).

5) Election and Living Place Geography: it is reasoned that the downtown regions of the city are more attracted to the economic policies and the uptown regions of the city are more attracted to the cultural policies in elections (Razi, 2001).

6) Family: direct and indirect influence of the family lasts longer (Almond et al, 2002).

7) Political Socialization: from Almond's viewpoint, political socialization is the process in the course which the individual's political attitudes are formed during childhood and causes the transferring and alteration of a nation's political culture in such a way that all citizens or some of them are guided towards a different type of understanding or experiencing of politics (Almond et al, 2002; Almond & Verba, 1963).

From Almond's perspective, political socialization process never ends in real terms and it continues in the entire life of an individual (Ghaffari Hashjin et al, 2010).

Almond knows family, school, religious institutions, peer groups, profession, mass media, influential groups, political parties and direct contact with the governmental structures as the agents of political socialization (Almond & Verba, 1963; Lehnen, 1979).

8) Age: the relationship between age and elective behavior is delicate and complex. It is generally stated that old people are inclined towards conservative and rightist parties and the young classes are more likely to vote for the leftists and moderate leftists (Ketabi, 2005).

9) Social Class: all of the polling surveys and the entire analyses performed on the elections and/or political parties are indicative of the idea that there is a strong correlation between the political choices and life level; of course, it is not so that the all of the rich are placed on the one side and all of the poor on the other; but a large part of the affluent individuals are on the one side and a large part of the indigent individuals are on the other (De Verjeh, 2007).

10) Ethnicity: in such countries with a diversity of ethnic and religious diversity like Iran, ethnicity attraction issue within a large-scale identity-granting framework that can lead to national affiliation is necessary for the creation and preservation of sustainable security (Javadi Arjomand et al, 2014).

Based thereupon, the main hypothesis of the present study is that "a set of attitudinal factors like culture and political socialization, ethnicity and race, language and dialect, religion and creed alongside with another collection of the structural factors can be considered as the most important factors influencing and featuring a rank in and a significant relationship with voting behavior in the elections.
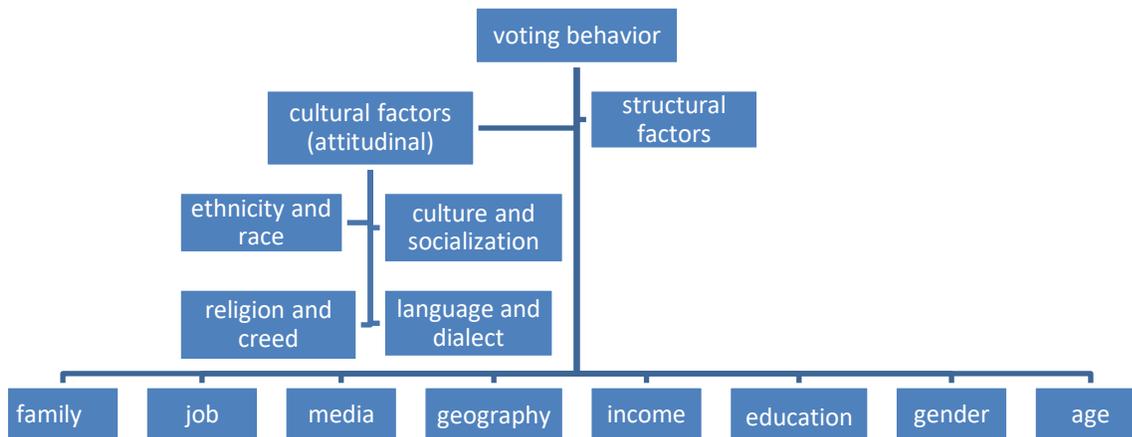

Diagram (1): study theoretical model.

METHODOLOGY.

In terms of study control, the current study is a survey research. It is an applied study in terms of the objectives which was conducted during summer, 2018. The study population included the citizens of the capital city of Kermanshah in Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to formal statistics, the total population qualified for voting in terms of age, above 18, was 805263 individuals. To determine the study sample volume, Cochran formula was applied following which a study sample volume equal to 500 was selected. Questionnaires were administered to the study participants based on population frequency and a random method was employed for sampling. Since the present study deals with the current status, it can also be considered as a descriptive research and, also, because it investigates the relationship between cultural (attitudinal) factors and voting behaviors, the study has been indeed carried out based on a descriptive research of the correlation type. That is because, it uses correlation analysis and structural equation model to test and elaborate the simultaneous inter-variables relations.

The data collection instrument was a researcher-constructed 26-item questionnaire (13 demographic questions and 13 questions about attitudinal factors) and the answers were scored based on Likert's scale. In the current research paper, exploratory/confirmatory factor analysis was employed to assess the divergent validity. Factor analysis (hypothesis test) determined if the data are coordinated with a certain factor structure (mentioned in the hypothesis) or not. Factor analysis can be calculated using SPSS and LISREL that are slightly different from one another.

There are many methods for examining the appropriateness of data for factor analysis amongst which Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) method can be pointed out and the values obtained by this method always range from zero to unity. It is worth mentioning that the sample adequacy (KMO), the statistic used for determining the variance share of the variables with mutual variance, and Kruit significance

test of Bartlett sample in exploratory factor analysis in SPSS were found equal to 0.891 and 0.000, respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that the data are appropriate for factor analysis.

Table 1: KMO index and Kruit-Bartlett test

Statistical index		Value
KMO index		0.891
Kruit test	Statistic	5931.908
	Degree of freedom	496
	Probability (sig.)	0.000

Cultural factors and indicators were classified in four groups and it is noted with a look at the factor loads corresponding to these indicators that the validity condition has been met because the factor loads of the questions' relationships with their corresponding factors are above 0.5 and the factor loads of the questions' relationships with the other factors is below 0.5.

To obtain the questionnaire's reliability, Cronbach's alpha coefficient in the pretest of the present study findings was applied in such a way that, before the final implementation, 32 individuals of the study sample volume were randomly selected and administered with the questionnaire and, in sum, a total Cronbach alpha coefficient equal to 0.835 was obtained. Cronbach's alpha coefficients above 0.7 are confirmed and expressive of the study instrument's stability.

Table 2: Cronbach's alpha coefficient of attitudinal factors as obtained in the pretest.

Indicator's name	Number of respondents	Number of questions	Cronbach's alpha coefficient
Cultural factors (attitudinal)	500	13	0.835

Results and discussion.

The study findings have been presented below in descriptive and analytical sections.

After collecting the data and information using descriptive statistics in this section, the voters'

demographic information in the election are described, including the central and scattering indices

like frequency, percentage, tables and diagrams in the following diagrams and tables.

Table 3: descriptive statistics of the demographic variables.

		Gender	Age	Education	Occupation	Marriage	House	Income
Total number	Number	498	498	500	499	497	500	499
	Not answered	2	2	0	1	3	0	1
Mean		1.3735	2.3313	3.4400	5.3755	1.7646	2.4940	3.5193
Standard deviation mean		0.02170	0.04275	0.06448	0.12105	0.02830	0.06397	0.04386
Median		1.0000	2.0000	3.0000	6.0000	2.0000	2.0000	4.0000
Mode		1.00	2.00	3.00	7.00	2.00	2.00	3.00
Standard deviation		0.48422	00.95400	1.44172	2.70409	0.65095	1.43045	0.97970
Variance		0.234	0.910	2.079	7.312	0.398	2.046	0.960
Skewness		0.525	0.594	0.509	0.197	0.959	0.763	-0.515
Kurtosis		-1.732	0.160	-0.560	-0.108	2.774	-0.405	0.347
Range		1.00	4.00	6.00	11.00	3.00	5.00	4.00
Minimum		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Maximum		2.00	5.00	7.00	12.00	4.00	6.00	5.00
Total		684.00	1161.00	1720.00	2684.00	877.00	1247.00	1766.00

		Situation	Religion	Ethnicity	Language and dialect	Candidate's gender	Canal
Total number	Number	500	500	490	485	498	498
	Not answered	0	0	10	15	2	2
Mean		1.9520	1.2520	8.5755	2.8371	2.3536	2.2610
Standard deviation mean		0.05784	0.03315	0.35526	0.09121	0.03966	0.07270
Median		1.0000	1.0000	4.0000	2.0000	3.0000	1.0000
Mode		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	1.00
Standard deviation		1.31345	0.74135	7.86405	2.01755	0.88495	1.62232
Variance		1.725	0.550	61.864	4.071	0.783	2.632
Skewness		1.165	3.500	0.264	0.548	-0.779	0.700
Kurtosis		0.137	14.072	-1.840	-0.839	-1.270	-1.263
Range		4.00	5.00	17.00	8.00	2.00	4.00
Minimum		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Maximum		5.00	6.00	18.00	9.00	3.00	5.00
Total		976.00	626.00	4202.00	1376.00	1177.00	1126.00

To investigate the data normality assumption, it has to be made clear using Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (K-S) that the collected data feature normal or abnormal distribution. In face that the data distribution normality assumption is found holding true, parametric tests can be applied otherwise nonparametric tests are used.

As it can be observed, the variables are in an acceptable range for skewness and kurtosis. It is notable that the acceptable range for skewness and kurtosis is between 3 and -3 and the foresaid variables in this range are said to feature normal distribution hence applicable to hypotheses tests using parametric measures.

The data extracted from the questionnaire are summarized in table (4) for each of the study variables (1- culture and political socialization; 2- ethnicity and race; 3- language and dialect; 4- religion and creed) along with such statistics as minimum, maximum, mean, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis.

Table 4: study variables' descriptive statistics.

		Political socialization and culture	Ethnicity and race	Language and dialect	Religion and creed	Culture
Total number	Number	500	500	500	500	500
	Not answered	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		3.0290	3.1300	2.7800	2.8300	2.9423
Standard deviation mean		0.03770	0.04202	0.04092	0.04716	0.03298
Median		3.2500	3.0000	2.6667	3.0000	3.0000
Mode		3.25	3.67	3.00	3.00	2.77
Standard deviation		0.84296	0.93961	0.91503	1.05462	0.73744
Variance		0.711	0.883	0.837	1.112	0.544
Skewness		-0.359	0.705	0.079	0.007	-0.094
Kurtosis		-0.255	6.118	-0.531	-0.672	-0.109
Range		4.00	9.33	4.00	4.00	4.00
Minimum		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Maximum		5.00	10.33	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total		1514.50	1565.00	1390.00	1415.00	1471.13

In the above table, the range of the variable scores' variations, means and standard deviations have been listed. It is worth mentioning that the acceptable range for skewness and kurtosis is between 3 and -3 and variables with values in this range have normal distribution.
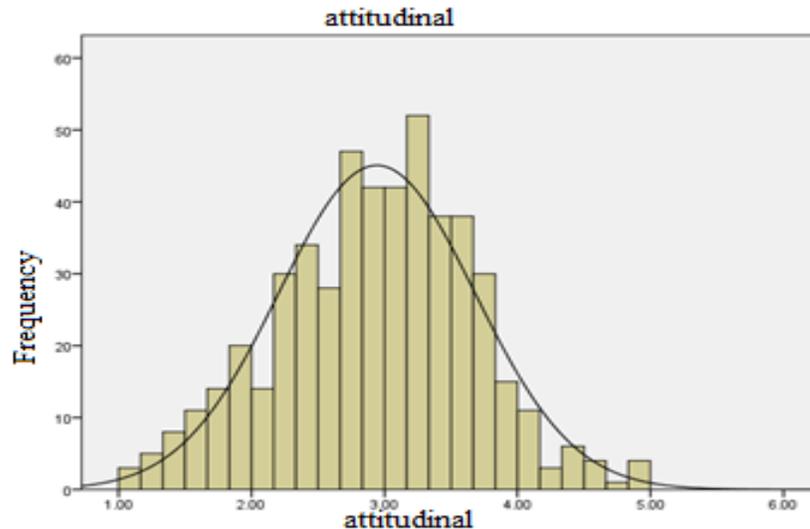

Diagram (2): frequency distribution of cultural (attitudinal) factors.

To assess the cultural (attitudinal) factors influencing the voting behaviors in elections and also in order to determine the coefficients of each of the variables influencing it, structural equation modeling or Lisrel was used. As it was mentioned above, Lisrel or structural equation modeling is a general and robust multivariate analytical technique belonging to the multivariate regression family. More precisely, it is an extension to "general linear model" enabling the researchers to test a series of regression equations at the same time. The objective of this model is the discovery of the direct and indirect effects of exogenous latent variables on the endogenous latent variables. To test and confirm the final model, as well, second order confirmatory factor analysis was utilized.
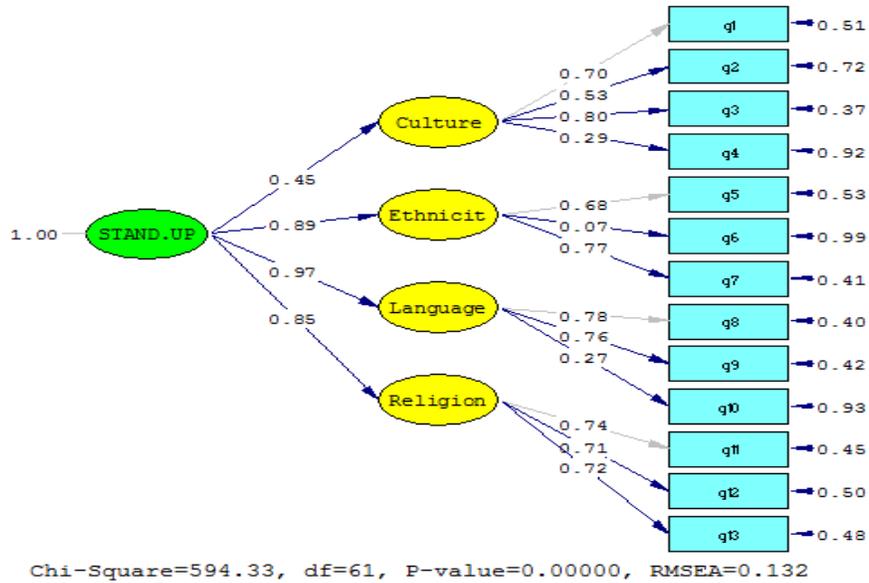
Figure (5): study structural model in standard estimation state.

The following diagram illustrates the significance level of the model's relations. It has to be stated that the significance levels larger than 1.96 and smaller than -1.96 are acceptable.
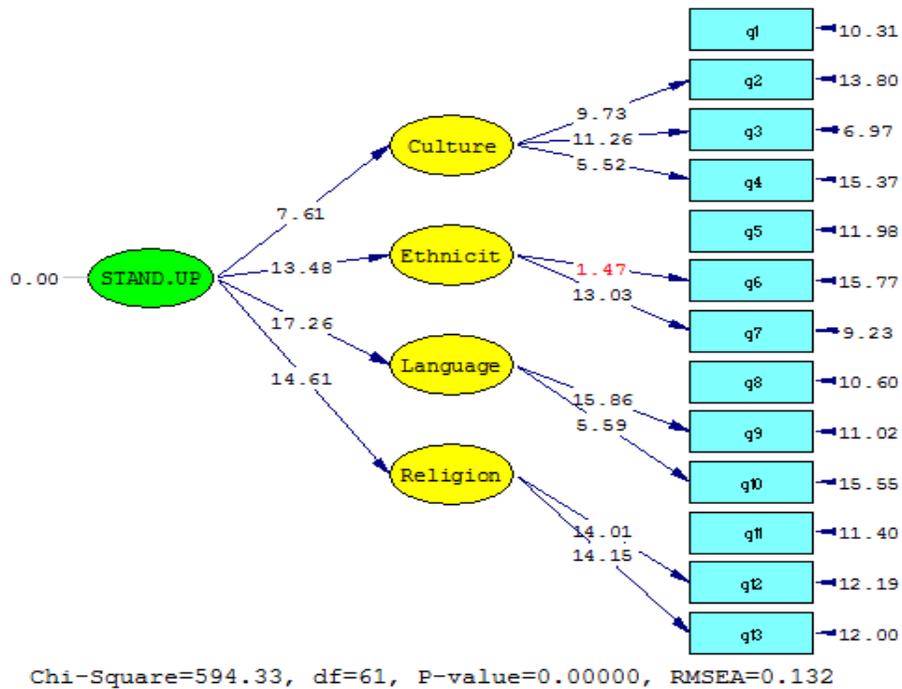

Diagram (6): study's structural model in significance value state.

As it is seen in the diagram, the paths enjoy a good significance level because they are all above 1.96.

It can be said in this state that the model is confirmed.

Table 7: the study hypotheses test results.

Study hypothesis		Path direction	Path coefficient	T	Result	Rank
Main hypothesis		Cultural (attitudinal) factors.	0.77	9.71	Confirmed	-1
Secondary hypotheses	Culture	Political culture and socialization.	0.45	7.61	Confirmed	4
	Ethnicity	Ethnicity and race	0.89	13.48	Confirmed	2
	Language	Language and dialect	0.97	17.26	Confirmed	1
	Religion	Religion and creed	0.85	14.61	Confirmed	3

The paths of the significance level or the t-values of all the variables have been above 1.96. Thus, all of the hypotheses are confirmed. The results indicated that cultural factors, with an impact coefficient of 0.77 and a significance value of 9.71, have had a significant effect on the voting behaviors in elections. Amongst the cultural (attitudinal) factors, language and dialect, with an impact coefficient of 0.97 and a significance value of 17.26, have had the highest positive effect on the voting behavior in elections hence they are ranked first followed in the second rank with ethnicity and race, with an impact coefficient of 0.89 and a significance value of 13.48, and religion and creed were ranked third with an impact coefficient of 0.85 and a significance value of 14.61; finally, political culture and socialization, with an impact coefficient of 0.45 and a significance value of 7.61, were ranked fourth for their lowest positive effect on the voting behaviors in elections.
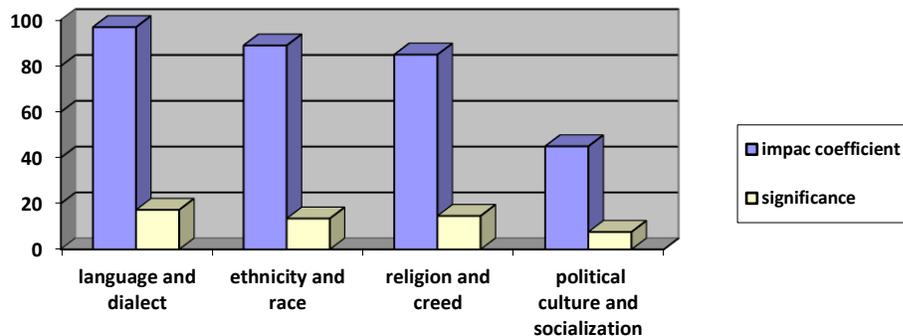

Figure (8): the amounts of impact coefficients and significance values of the cultural variables' effects on voting behaviors.

After specifying a model, there are various methods for estimating its goodness of fit based on the observed data. Generally, several indices are employed for assessing a model's fit but the use of three to five indices usually suffices the model confirmation. As it is observed in table (9), the obtained

values for all of the indices are in an acceptable range indicating the model's appropriate goodness of fit.

Table 9: attitudinal model's goodness of fit indices.

Indices	Complete name	Acceptable value	Amount	Optimality
P-value	Significance level	P<0.1	0.000	Model confirmed
NNFI	Non-normed fit index	NNFI>0.9	0.84	Acceptable
AGFI	Adjusted goodness of fit index	AGFI>0.9	0.87	Acceptable
GFI	Goodness of fit index	GFI>0.9	0.85	Acceptable
CFI	Comparative fit index	CFI>0.9	0.88	Acceptable
IFI	Incremental fit index	IFI>0.9	0.88	Acceptable
DF	Degree of freedom	DF	61	Acceptable
Chi-square	Chi-square	Chi-square	594.33	Acceptable
RMSE	Root mean square error	RMSE>0	0.13	Acceptable
NFI	Normed fit index	NFI>0.9	0.86	Acceptable
PNFI	Parsimonious fit index	PNFI>0.9	0.88	Acceptable
RFI	Relative fit index	RFI>0.9	0.83	Acceptable
RMR	Root mean square residual	RMR>0	0.18	Acceptable
PGFI	Parsimonious goodness of fit index	PGFI>0.9	0.87	Acceptable

CONCLUSIONS.

In the present study, the researcher has been looking for verifying the existence of a relationship between cultural (attitudinal) factors and voting behaviors in elections. The main assumption was that there is a significant relationship between the attitudinal factors and voting behavior in elections. The study results show in a significance level of 9.71 that there is no reason for rejecting the hypothesis because the t-value has been found above 1.96; thus, it can be stated based thereon that there is a significant relationship between attitudinal factors and voting behaviors in elections. On the other hand, in regard of the secondary hypotheses, as well, significant relationships were documented

between the political culture and socialization and voting behavior with a significance value equal to 7.61, ethnicity and race with a significance value of 13.48, language and dialect with a significance value of 17.26 and religion and creed with a significance value of 14.61. So, it can be stated that there is no reason for rejecting the assumptions because the significance levels of all the secondary assumptions are larger than 1.96; hence, based thereon, these assumptions were found significantly associated with the voting behaviors in city council and parliament elections in Kermanshah in a pathological study.

Therefore, based on the analyses, the present study shows that there is a significant relationship between cultural factors (political culture and socialization), ethnicity and race, language and dialect, religion and creed) and the voting behaviors in elections based on Gabriel Almond's structural functionalism. The results of the study by Abd Al-Wahed (2015) are reflective of the idea that tribe and ethnicity have significant effects on the elective attitudes in regard of voting behaviors in elections and this is consistent with the present study's finding indicating the effect of attitudinal factors on the voting behaviors.

The results of the study by Ali Faiz Allahi (2016) were also indicative of the idea that nomadic cultural properties are barriers to the political development, democracy and kin election; disregarding meritocracy, negligence of campaigns and the weakness and tepidity of the civil institutions and political parties are amongst the important consequences of such a political behavior and this is in consistency with the effect of the attitudinal factors as pointed out in the present study.

The results of the present study are also in compliance with the findings by Muhammad Ali Suri (2015) who stated in his study that lower social classes and the traditional layer of the middle class, amongst the other social classes, are drastically influenced in their political and voting behaviors by elective populism and mobocratic emotionalism and that their votes are usually cut by their candidates with no guaranteeing of their interests. Moreover, the results of the findings by Sayyed Muhammad

Hashemi and Abolfazl Ja'afar Gholikhani (2012) indicated that the legislation system cannot have any effect without the investigation of the normative and structural factors. The results of the foresaid study are in accordance with the effect of the structural factors as figured out in the present study. Zabih Allah A'azami (2016) dealt in a study with the investigation of the detrimental effects of ethnic, tribal and clan clashes on the elections and victory of the candidates in such a way that the aforementioned factors were stated to have the roles of the political wings and parties overshadowed and these are the factors that also have an influence on the voters' behaviors as was also pointed out herein. Furthermore, Sa'eid Abd Al-Maleki (2015) psychologically investigated the elective behaviors of the US people in a study and the voting behavior was generally introduced as a social environment's function and the voters were found passive in respect to the situation governing their environment and this is also conformant to what was found in the present study as well. In a research on the factors influencing the electoral behavior in Iran, Tormad Hawgen (2009) opined that the sociological and psychological-political pattern analysis is more important and valuable than the examination of the other patterns and this is consistent with what was pointed out in the present study about the methods, patterns and applied results.

The distinct and novel results of the current research paper indicated that cultural factors, with an impact coefficient of 0.77 and significance value of 9.71 have had a significant effect on the voting behaviors in a pathological study thereof and that this vastness of employing culture and political culture are signs of very covert aspects of the culture enabling it to influence the various issues, including the voting behavior and elections and also that they have been widely used in various texts. It is this same vastness of the culture and political culture that adds to the extensiveness of the ambiguities and complexities of the voting behaviors proving the necessity of further intercultural research in this area. Amongst the cultural factors' aspects, language and dialect, with an impact

coefficient of 0.97 and significance value of 17.26, were found having the positive influence on the voting behaviors in the elections hence taking the first rank.

Almost all the things that can be stated about the language differences hold true about the dialect differences but with a lesser intensity. In Iran, dialects and languages of different types are spoken in various regions by different tribes. The important point is the consideration of these differences, authentication of the local and regional languages and dialects and making efforts for reaching a mutual understanding.

According to the scarcity of the research on these languages and dialects, all of us are individually responsible for paying especially practical attention to the effect of the language and the other above-cited factors. In additions, it is also important to think about how our language influences us and how shapes our behavior and this can help us reach a more subtle perception of ourselves and others. Ethnicity and race were found taking the second rank with an impact coefficient of 0.89 and a significance value of 13.48.

The study results were expressive of the idea that the voters also consider their demands like their own or their children's employment as well as the attainment of the goals they have in their minds and/or are looking for when making choices for voting for a candidate and they know the fulfillment of their wants in the selection of the candidates of their own tribe and language. Based on the theory of games, candidates try to win the election battle by attracting the votes of the individuals from their own tribes or the ones speaking their own language or the others living in the same neighborhood or region as they do and this they deem is the way they can come out as victors against and overtake their rivals. Religion and creed, with an impact coefficient of 0.85 and a significance value of 14.61, was found taking the third rank. This is reflective of the idea that the religious teachings and instructions about the proper moralities and social actions most often guide the individuals' political

behaviors and group norms or, in other words, they socialize the individuals in respect to a series of their specific political and factional preferences drawn on religion.

The US and England are the distinct examples of such elective behaviors. In the US, the individuals featuring higher religiosity vote for conservative and republican parties according to the abovementioned reasons and the individuals with lower religiosity vote for liberal and democratic parties (Yazdkhasti et al, 2015).

Eventually, political culture and socialization, with an impact coefficient of 0.45 and significance value of 7.61, was found having the lowest effect on voting behaviors in elections hence taking the last, fourth, rank. One of the cultural, political and social problems of the countries, especially in Iran, is the negligence of the socialization and separation of the various generations with different political teachings and norms and the gap between the system's functionaries with a fraction of the society (particularly the adolescents and youngsters).

Election is enumerated amongst the indicators of social, cultural and political developments in the countries and it marks the people's participation in the determination of their own destiny; finally, it is followed by political outputs. The presence of every individual member of the society in the elections and the people's presence in such an important issue mirrors their cultural maturity. This is why election is a good place for pondering and contemplation for the thinkers. Additionally, it is via studying the elective behaviors that important lessons can be learnt about the nature of the political system; also, insights can be gained in the process of social and political change; it is because, the investigation of the electoral behavior of the voters is essentially a difficult task and many independent variables are effective in various fields like politics, sociology and political sociology, psychology and social psychology, statistics and others, for directing the people's elective behaviors. Elections are a scene of a huge test for both the candidates and the voters as well as for the election holders. That is because, nowadays, the democratic nature of a society can be assessed in real terms

by election, its healthiness and freedom. Thus, the present study is envisaged necessary in terms of the recognition of the cultural factors influencing the voters' behaviors, attitudes and their consideration of the voting topic. More importantly, the investigation of electoral behaviors has become a new scientific field.

On the other hand, the emergence of culture and political culture as one of the cultural factors influencing the voting behaviors in the political and social sciences literature is owed to the behavioral researches by some scholars, Gabriel Almond included. These were researchers that have been done with the goal of opening a new level of analysis in the study of humans' political behavior in regard of political and social relations via paying attention to the political attitudes, beliefs and opinions and their effects on the political behavior.

Almond considered the relationship between the political structure and political culture. Investigating the cultural factors and barriers influencing the voting behaviors in elections, the authors of the current research paper concluded that language and dialect, religion and creed, ethnicity and race and culture and socialization are respectively the most effective factors in the voting behaviors; however, these rankings of the indicators are of no use for the analysis of the elective behavior without considering the native, environmental, spatial and temporal space governing the countries if only based on traditional methods or mere reliance on subjective patterns and this is one of the cases making the present study distinguish from the others. Moreover, there is a cycle of relationships between culture and structure in the voting behaviors. Thus, elaboration of the cultural domain in the elections and the reasons contributing to the stability and instability of the political systems, consistency or inconsistency of the political culture with the political structure should be taken into account. Because, many of the political instabilities stem from these same inconsistencies in both advanced communities and the today's developing communities.

All in all, it can be suggested that further research can be carried out based on Almond's structural functionalism for the completion of the present study regarding the effect of structural factors on the voting behaviors.

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