



MUGAN İLÇESİNİN HARABA KARACAĞIL YERLEŞİMİ

Dr. Toğrul HALILOV*

Arş. Gör. Hashem HAMRAHI**

Arş. Gör. Rouhollah MOHAMMADI***

Arş. Gör. Mohammad MİRZAEI****

ÖZ

Azerbaycan bölgesi eski tarihte önemli bir rol oynamıştır. Yaşam için elverişli iklimin olması nedeniyle, bu bölgede eski çağlardan beri insanlar yaşamışlardır. Bu bölgenin yaşam için elverişli topraklarından bir grubu Dere Yurd Nehri boyunca kapsamaktadır. Bu nehir Aras nehrinin ana kollarından biri olan Savalan'dan Aras Nehri'ne ki bu uzanır. Yaşam için suya sahip olduğu için bu nehir tarih boyunca daima önem taşıyor. Yazarlar tarafından yapılan incelemelere göre bu nehrin etrafında çok sayıda antik yerleşim yer alıyor. Bu yerleşimlerin bir tanesi Batı Ungut şehrinin ülkelerinden biri olan Karaçağıl köyü'ndeki Haraba bölgesidir. Bu yerleşim alanı beş hektardan fazla olup çevredeki arazilerden 18 meter yüksekliğe sahiptir. Sambel ve Dere Yurd nehirlerinin buluştuğu noktaya yerleştirilmekle bu bölgede tarihte özel bir önemi olan Bronz Çağı seramiği görülmüştür. Araştırma sırasında onların özellikleri incelenmiştir ve seramiklerin Partlar, Sasaniler, İslam ve İslamdan sonraki dönemlere ait olduğu belirlenmiştir.

Bu makalede, şu sorunların cevabını arıyoruz: Bu sitede bulunan seramiklerin özellikleri nelerdir. Bu çalışmanın sonuçlarına göre, bu yerleşimin çanak çömlekleri İlk İslam ve İlhanlı Dönemi Partisi ve Sasani dönemleri ile ilişkilidir. İslam devrinin çanak çömlekleri giderek daha kalın ve sade bir hale getirilmiştir. İlhanlı döneminde daha az kalınlıkta çanak çömlek ve bol surlar ve güzel tasarımlar yapılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Moğan, Karaba yerleşimi, İslam dönemi, İlhanlı Dönemi, seramik

KHARABA QARAJAQIL SETTLEMENT IN MOGHAN PLAIN

ABSTRACT

Azerbaijan region has played an important role in the ancient history. Due to having fresh climates and rivers full of water, this region has been inhabited since ancient times. One of the rivers filled with water of this region is Darreh Yurd River, this river is one of the main branches of great river Aras that originates from Sabalan and falls into Aras River. Because of having fresh and permanent water, this river always has importance during history and according to reviews done by authors there are many ancient settlements around this river, one of these settlements is Kharaba region in Qarajaqil Village one of the countries of West Ungut City. This settlement is over five hectares and it has 18 heights from the surrounded lands. Due to being placed at the point that Sambel and Darreh Yurd rivers meet each other, potteries of Bronze Age have been seen in this region which has special importance in the history. In Kharaba settlement based on examinations done at the surface of this settlement potteries from Parthian period to the patriarch period were seen.

In this article, we are looking for the answer to the following question: What are the characteristics of the pottery found on this site. According to this study, the pottery of this settlement is related to Parthian and Sassanid periods, early Islamic and Ilkhanid, and the

* Nakchivan Section of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, x.toğrul@gmail.com

** Department of Archaeology, University of Sistan and Baluchestan, Zahedan, Iran, Hashem_hamrahi@yahoo.com

*** Department of Archaeology, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran, mirrouhollah@gmail.com

****Department of Archaeology, University of Sistan and Baluchestan, Zahedan, Iran, mirzaii63@yahoo.com

pottery of the Islamic period was made more and more thick and simple, and during the Ilkhanid period, pottery with less thickness and plenty of glazes And beautiful designs are made.

Keywords: Moghan, Kharaba settlement, Islamic period, Ilkhanid period, pottery

Introduction

Archeological studies in Moghan Plain are limited to few speculation and investigations such as archeological review in Moghan Plain conducted by Mahmoud Kordovani and Iraj Harirchian (Kordovani, Harirchian, 1972), speculation done by Seifollah Kambakhsh fard in grave of Parthian jars in Moran Germi area (Kambakhshfard, 1998). Therefore lack of continuation this single research was not useful in portraying archeology of Ardebil Province and specially Moghan Area.

A new round of archeological research has been started since 2001. First Moghan plain and in next step Khalkhal region were examined, speculated and explored archeologically. Although much of the research had the emergency and saving goals, it had great effect on our archeological recognition from Ardebil Province. The role of Cultural Heritage, Handcrafts and Tourism Organization of Ardebil Province as the sponsor and continuation of the above mentioned research is undeniable. The north of Ardebil Province includes Germi, ParsAbad, Bileh Savar and etc; like other areas of the province it has many shortages in terms of archeological studies. Regarding that mentioned areas because of plains and rivers full of water such as Sambil and Darreh Yurd Rivers and having mild climate and fertile lands many people had settled in these areas from ancient time.

One of these settlements is in Kharaba settlement and Germi city; according to the examination done in the surface of this settlement, this settlement has been residential from Parthian period to the Islamic Middle Ages. The mentioned settlement is very important in terms of architectural study of different studies and relationships of regions among regions such as Moghan Plain and mountainous region of East Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan History and Appellation of Kharaba settlement

Azerbaijan is very important during history of Iran and it was included in Median satrap in Achaemenid period and large median (Iraq and Kurdistan) and small median (Azerbaijan) had a satrap. At the time of Darius (330-336 B.C) Atropat was median satrap (Girshman, 1985: 235-253). At the time of the Seleucids was also controlled by puppet rulers as a small median. In Parthian period Azerbaijan was considered as one of the main regions and there are many regions remained from Parthian Period (Markovart, 1901: 395) one of them is Moghan plain especially Germi City and many settlements and graves were discovered from this period.

In Sassanid period Azerbaijan based on Tabari view, Ardeshir (226-241AC) marched out To Hamedan and other settlement of Media and Azerbaijan and Armenia after defeat of Ardavan and conquered all parts of Azerbaijan and other regions (Diakonov, 1966: 542). The presence of Azar Goshnasb fire temple in Urmia which is the main Sassanid fire temple shows the importance of Azerbaijan. After defeat of Sassanid from Arabs, Azerbaijan was conquered by Arabs. Conquer of Azerbaijan as quoted by Al-Baladhuri was done by Hudhayfah ibn al-Yaman. At that time margrave of

Azerbaijan which was placed in Ardebil fought by gathering an army from different parts of Azerbaijan and finally defeated. Important cities of Azerbaijan at the time of Arabs domination included: Ardebil, Urmia, Shiz and other cities that got reputation after Islamic conquests and they were town before Islamic (Al-Baladhuri, 1901: 333).

After the early centuries of Islamic that Azerbaijan was under the domination of uncivilized Arabs, because of having rich civilization and proper climate and placing in the main rout of The Silk Road, Azerbaijan was the capital of many Iranian kings such as Ilkhanids and Turkmen and Safavid and etc and it developed many cities and villages and Some of the towns and villages that were inhabited continuously for centuries without stopping, became abundantly prosper.

One of these regions is Kharaba Qarajaqil settlement in Moghan plain, it has been residential based on surface characteristics and clay and the establishment of the medieval Islamic period to the Parthian. Regarding appellation of the work we can say that since this period was introduced as Kharaba (Ruined or abandoned) from villagers a long time ago because of being old and existence of architectural places and potteries, we also registered as this name.

Geographical situation

Kharaba Qarajaqil is placed in Ardebil Province, Germe City and in western part of Ungut City (Fig. 1, 2). This settlement is placed on the cape of ridges of west of Ungut. The dimension and size of settlement is 530 meters length and 100 meters width and 18 meters height from the surrounded lands and now this settlement is used as the pastures of villagers' livestock.



Fig1: the situation of Qarajaqil in map of Germe city, Ardebil Province

Features of the place

Kharaba Qarajaghil is rectangle and with west-east direction is one of the most important and the biggest ancient sites of Germe city. Maximum height of 352 m above sea level and the lowest is 311 m above sea level. The height of the highest part in this area is about 18 m and the height is 10 m from the level of the lands around. (Fig. 3)



Fig. 2- Aerial photo of Kharaba Qarejaqil

Kharaba Qarejaqil is placed in the communication route of Germe-Horand, cities of east Azerbaijan. At the surface of the area pieces of potteries from Parthian Period to Ilkhanid period have been seen (fig. 4)



Fig. 3: The south part of the settlement

Kharaba Qarejaqil is very important in terms of architectural studies and typology of pottery and Islamic settlement in mountainous area. The work observable at the surface of settlement is pottery that relates to historical periods (Parthian and Sassanid) and early Islamic and the patriarch (fig 5). In the following we discuss about potteries on the surface of Kharaba settlement and their features.



Fig. 4- Northern view in Kharaba settlement

Historical potteries at the surface of area and their designs

Works that have been found from Parthian and Sassanid period at the surface of this area are Parthian potteries and pieces of large jug for saving food from Sassanid period which indicates feature of potteries of Parthian and Sassanid period in Azerbaijan. Shapes of potteries based on design of pieces of existed potteries at the surface of settlement include bowls, jugs, plates and etc that most of them were machine-made and the colour of potteries were seen in range of red, brown, ecru, orange and gray and their temper was mineral and in a few cases were organic. Some types of potteries have red or brown stuff but covered with thin glaze of buff mud. Kitchen dishes are of obtained samples which are considered among the pottery typical of the area. Most of Potteries are without any design and the edges are more rounded back into and angled concave- shape. (Fig. 5, 6)



Fig. 5: Potteries of Parthian and Sassanid periods at the northern settlement in collection of Kharaba settlement

Table. 1: features

Register No	shape	Type of construction	Temper	The colour of inner surfaces	Paste colour	The colour of outer surface	Inner coating	Outer coating	Firing Degree	design	Descriptions
1	edge	Wheel Made	mineral	buff	Brick red	buff	unclear	burnished	Adequate	-	Parthian period
2	edge	Wheel Made	mineral	buff	Ecru	buff	-	-	adequate	-	Parthian pottery
3	edge	Wheel Made	Mineral	buff	Brick red	Brick red	Thin mud glaze	Thin mud glaze	adequate	carved	Sassanid period
4	edge	Wheel Made	Organic	Dark red	Brick red	buff	polished	burnished	adequate	-	Early Islamic pottery
5	edge	Wheel Made	Organic	red	Buff	red	-	burnished	adequate	-	Early Islamic pottery
6	ground	Wheel Made	fine-grained	red	Buff	red	-	-	adequate	-	Early Islamic pottery
7	edge	Wheel Made	fine-grained	red	Buff	Dark red	polished	burnished	adequate	-	Ilkhanid pottery
8	ground	Wheel Made	Mineral	Dark red	Buff	Dark red	polished	burnished	adequate	-	Ilkhanid pottery

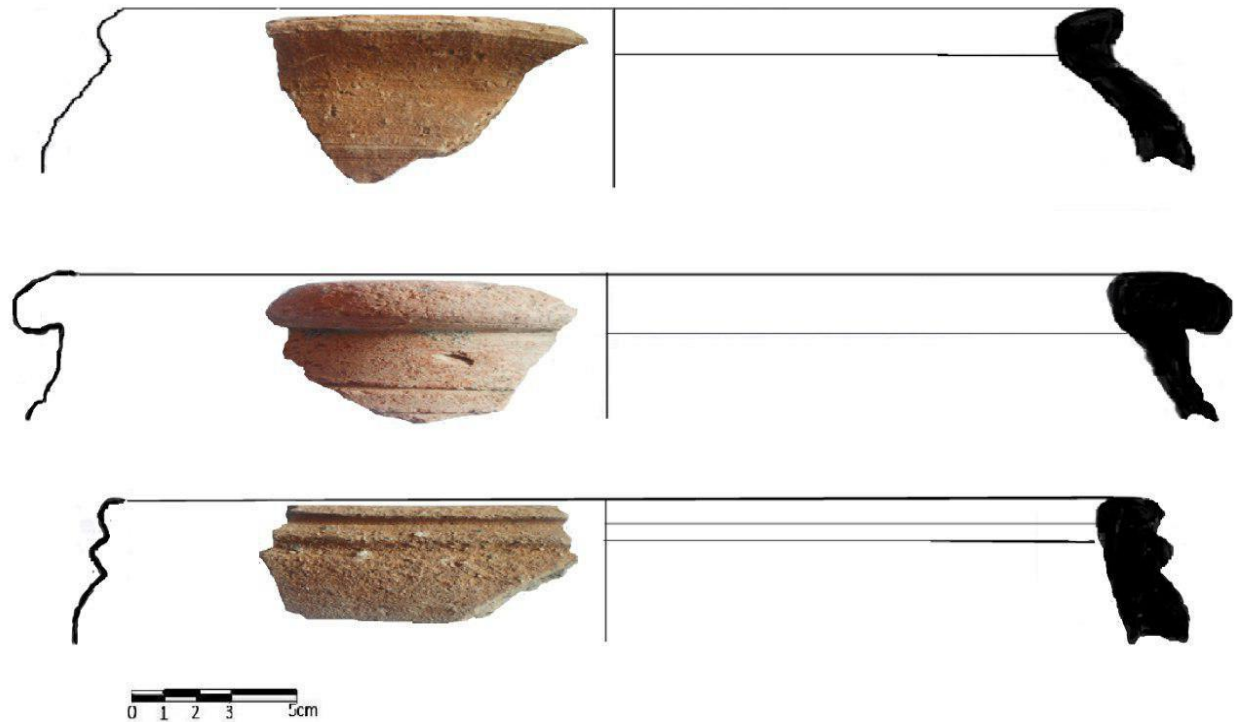


Fig. 6: design of Parthian and Sassanid potteries

Early Islamic Potteries at the surface of Settlement

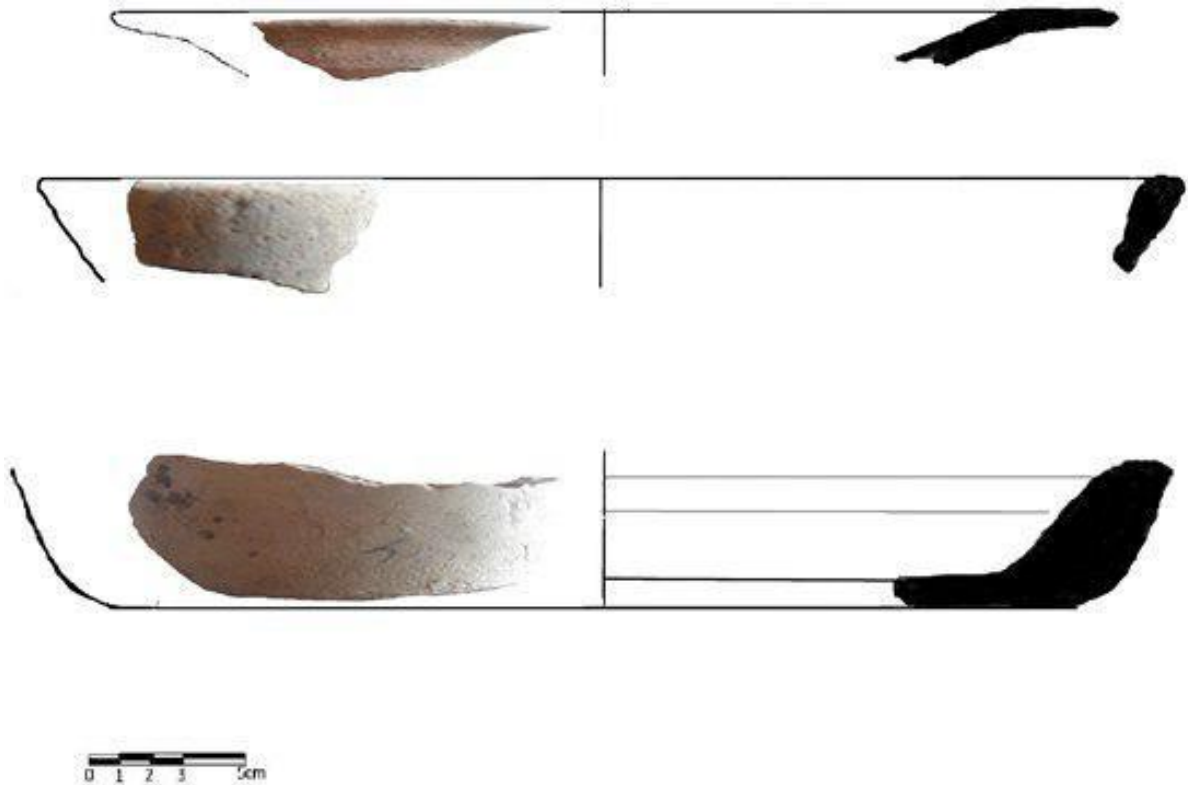
The influence of culture and art of Sassanid period is very important in expansion of culture and art of Islamic period (Klein, 1988: 118). Arts and industries of Islamic period has been influenced by the previous period so much that one of these arts is pottery.

Islamic artists used pottery instead of expensive metals, and performed designs of Sassanid metals on potteries but we should not assume that with Arabs' conquering great and sudden changes were developed in Iran industry because social changes were made gradually but typical life continued as before after nomadic Arabs' attack and artists and craftsmen made works from the previous samples such as potteries. Works that definite opinion can be made about industry of early Islamic in Kharaba settlement is very little and recognition and distinction of potteries of early Islamic from Sassanid period in this settlement is very difficult, because craftsmen of Kharaba Qarajaqil keep their old tradition more or less because of being mountainous of this area and being less submissive of Arabs. However new methods by inspiration of old methods were gradually invented that replaced previous methods. Many of these methods were developed at the result of ability and genius of Iranians after accepting Islamic (Towhidi, 1999).

Pottery of the first centuries in Kharaba Qarajaqil is the continuation of Sassanid period. Due to attention to applicable use, Sansanian potters made their potteries

simple and for meeting their daily needs. Regarding that clay dishes are very simple, this method was very interested in Islamic period and pottery industry grew and developed so much.

In Islamic period this area has been residential from the early Islamic with having potteries with single blue-coloured glaze. At the early Islamic on the each piece of pottery of Kharaba a cover with 0.15 to .4 mm were made by using mineral material and used it as decorative things. Since most of potteries obtained from this area related to kitchen utensil n Islamic period; therefore glaze used in these potteries because it increases the strength and ability to use these dishes (Fig. 7). Pottery without mud



glaze in early Islamic in Kharaba Qarajaqil has the style of Sassanid period in terms of form and decoration and it includes large and small jugs, bottle and ewer (Evans, 1968: 230). Decoration of this type of clay dishes was done in several ways. The simplest one was to curve parallel lines, curves and simple shapes of plants.

Fig. 7: design of potteries in early Islamic of Kharaba settlement

Potteries of Ilkhanid period in Kharaba

Ilkhanid period in Iran begins in Iran with the collapse of Kharazmshahi and the formation and consolidation of the rule the Mongol Empire, however the Mongol invasion to Iran first had many ruins and destructions but after a little while a flourishing and brilliant civilization arose in history of culture and civilization of Iran. In Ilkhanid period, Azerbaijan had the ensign of eastern culture and art and especially

during the reign of Ghazan Khan, it sends one of the greatest and golden of its periods (Petersen, 1996: 114). In Azerbaijan period, many cities and regions flourished include Kharaba settlement that we found out some special Islamic glazed potteries belonged to Ilkhanid period that it provided an opportunity for studying about situation of pottery in Ilkhanid period in Moghan region that we introduced in the following:

Different types of potteries of Ilkhanid in Kharaba

1- Potteries decorated under the glaze painting technique include Turquoise black pen, blue white, famous pottery with style of Sultanabad (Karimi and Kiani 1985: 44, 63) and designed multi chrome under glazed potteries which are relatively rare than other types (Deymand, 1986: 188)

2- Monochrome potteries (Fehervari, 1973: 125). Multi coloured under glazed potteries in Kharaba Three pieces of potteries of “polychrome under glazed potteries” were obtained on surface examination of Kharaba. The bodies of these dishes were made up of stone pulp and porous and its cook is inadequate, in a way that its effect on clay pulp is seen as red colour. The designs were drawn with black, blue and green colours and sometimes with turquoise spots under the clear glaze.

The available designs on potteries can be divided in two groups:

- a. Designs on the edge of dishes
- b. designs on the body

Designs on the edge of dishes: on all edges of black pen Turquoise type obtained from Kharaba are imprinted. The print on the edge is one of the characteristics of Ilkhanid pottery so that most of potteries had this kind of edge and made with different techniques like Sultan Abad potteries were decorated with various designs.

The designs on the body: the motifs on the body of Kharaba Potteries include intersecting and parallel lines, geometric patterns and designs with unclear styles. Most of these designs are like the obtained samples from different regions of Iran such as Rey, Kashan, Sultan Abad, Takht E Soleiman, Saveh, Bojnord, Natanz and Syria.

Simple Single-coloured potteries: In examination and exploration of Kharaba a number of simple glazed potteries turquoise colour were obtained. Pulp of them was red and made up of ordinary clay. The shape of most of them was plates with angled body. The most important designs of Kharaba potteries can be seen on the development of using coloured under glazed specially blue and coloured glaze such as red and yellow. Meanwhile it developed many potteries with pure white glaze. Mixed potteries in this area include glazed potteries with splashes influenced by Chinese art. (Fig. 8, 9, 10 and 11).



Fig. 8: Ilkhanid potteries of the area

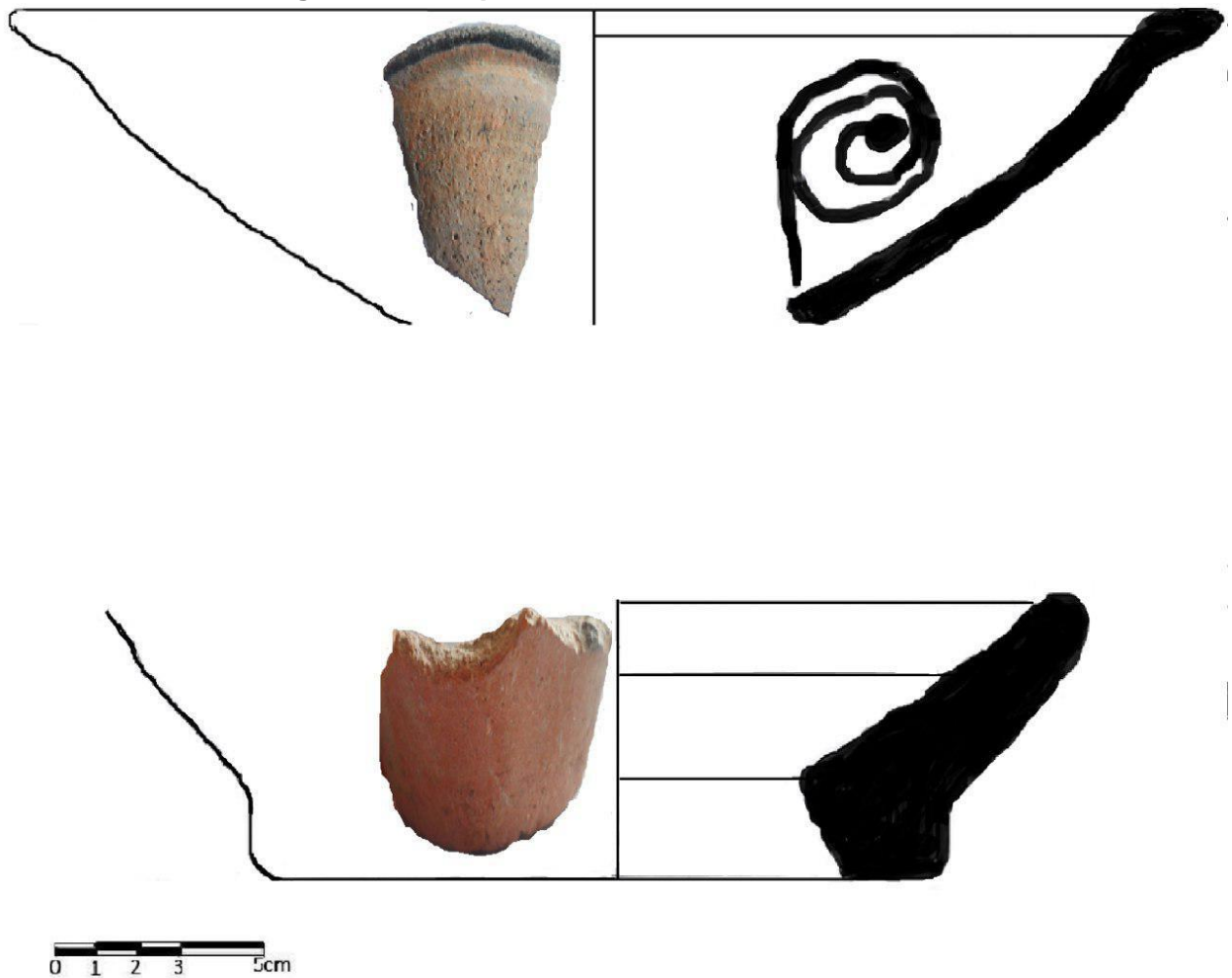


Fig. 9: designs of the Ilkhanid potteries on the surface of the area



Fig. 10: top view of Kharaba settlement



Fig. 11: samples of potteries of the surface of the area

Conclusion

Studying and examination of gifts and environmental conditions of Moghan plain in Ardebil Province shows that although with a holistic view and for doing regional examination we can divide Moghan plain into 2 regions: north (Pars Abad and suburbs) and south (Germi and suburb), whether culturally or in terms of gifts and environmental conditions has direct relation with area and cultural continuation in historic and Islamic of this plain and distribution of Islamic and historic periods (middle centuries) is similar to environmental conditions of contemporary centers of population in the plain with a little difference. The main difference that has occurred gradually and increasingly, the population density and gradual complexity of relations between the establishment and the environment and in other words it is the quality and quantity of use of these gifts and environmental conditions.

Examination, identifying, categorizing and comparing potteries gathered from Islamic-historical area of Kharaba shows that this area was residential from Parthian to Ilkhanid period. This area from late Parthian period to the Islamic Middle Ages (the patriarch) has been inhabited by people of the area continuously. It is notable that in the areas around the settlement there was no long period and it is just this area that has long period. As it was explained places that were centered in historical period and early Islamic centuries in Moghan plain are beside the centers of contemporary population and the reason of movement of these centers of contemporary population than previous places was reaching more water sources and space.

Identifying and introducing potteries of Kharaba settlement showed that there are works with density and continuation of some periods for studying. Historical Potteries and early Islamic Potteries were made simple and applicable but Ilkhanid potteries were made with a lot of glaze and fine designs and proper elegance. We can conclude from this issue that Moghan is a connection of west north of Iran to Caucasus.

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