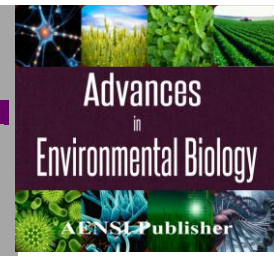




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Felsic Volcanic Rocks used in the Ceramic Industry in ChahBashe Mining Region (East Isfahan)

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ABSTRACT

The ChahBasheh Volcanic rocks are located in the Central Iran, 115 km from E Isfahan and probably of Precambrian age. Felsic volcanic rocks are composed of two types of rocks: rhyolite and toffrhyolite and contains quartz, plagioclase with high Albit, K-feldspar and Opaque. This Volcanic rocks has a Felsitic Porphyry texture with SiO₂ and K-feldspar. The Diorite dykes are the youngest magmatic products at ChahBasheh. Petrological, mineralogical study and geochemical investigations suggest that the ChahBasheh rhyolite is similar to those of the high-K calc-alkaline series and metaluminous. High amount of K₂O and its abundance in extrusive rocks and in the structure of minerals K₂O is increasing surface tension, this region is economic. This research shows that with adding artificial Na₂O to composition of this rock, there can be used in the ceramic industry.

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INTRODUCTION

Central Iran zone is largest and most complicated geological unit and it covers some parts of east Iran (north of Lut block). In this zone Precambrian rocks outcrop only in the eastern parts and includes gneisses, amphibolites, different schist, marble, mygmatite and granite anatexy. Geologically, Naein area located in central Iran zone [3,4,9,10]. The study area is located in 115 kilometers east of Isfahan and 20 km south of Naein and that geographic location is between 53°15' - 53°30' and 32°15' - 32°35' (Fig. 1). In the area south of Naein some outcrops with Infracambrian age exist.

Oldest rocks of the region belong to Soltanieh formation which includes dolomite - rhyolite - shale - limestone with some chert layers. This formation is distinct from other region formations by the fault along Naein - Baft (Dehshir - Baft) [4]. Limestone and shale formation are related to the lower Cambrian period containing fossils (Trilobites and Konodont) [15]. Outcrops of Infracambrian are reported as the dome and dyke in the south-east of ChahBasheh mine in east of Isfahan. Lithology combination is rhyolite with porphyric texture. Parts of this unit are as tuff (Fig. 1).

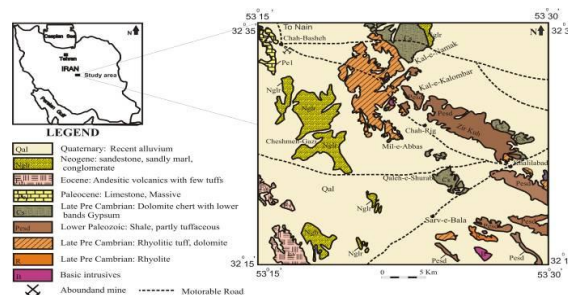


Fig. 1: Geological map of the area (1).

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Research Methodology :

During the field geology was collected of 60 rock samples from various parts of the study area. After studying the manual sample, 50 thin section preparation and was studied with polarizing microscope. Five samples with XRF method in centrallabIsfahan university (Iran) andsevensamples withICP-MS method in ACMELabs Canada was the chemical analysis (Tables 1, 2, 3). Also, different softwares especially Excel, Minpet and Iqpet were used for analysis and drawing charts.

Results:

Petrographically,felsic rocks are ranged rhyolite and composite quartzphenocrystals, albite plagioclase and alkali feldspar.The quartz can be seen in the field as phenocrystal and also microcrystal, quartz crystals are often subhedraltoeuhedraland they are main rock forming minerals.Large quantities of quartz as large phenocryst with Gulf corrosion can be seen in these rocks. There are around quartz phenocryst,fine quartz and less alkali feldspar crystals. This margin can be caused by a fast rise and sudden decrease pressure on the rhyolite magma [13].

Table 1: chemical analysis data of the mager oxides with XRF method.

Sample	Unit	11	12	13	14	15
Rock Type		Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite
SiO ₂	%	69.71	74.32	75.23	76.86	75
Al ₂ O ₃	%	12	11.9	11.7	10.9	11.1
Fe ₂ O ₃ T	%	0.98	2	1.23	1.13	1.32
FeO	%	0.38	0.75	0.47	0.42	0.45
Fe ₂ O ₃	%	0.56	1.16	0.71	0.66	0.83
CaO	%	4.34	0.71	1.59	0.38	0.62
MgO	%	0.28	0.19	0.17	0.09	0.18
Na ₂ O	%	0.18	0.64	0.16	0.21	0.16
K ₂ O	%	9.09	8.44	8.63	8.6	8.5
Cr ₂ O ₃	%	0.025	0.048	0.026	0.030	0.028
TiO ₂	%	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.14
MnO	%	0.046	-	0.045	0.04	0.041
SrO	%	0.005	0.008	0.007	-	0.006
BaO	%	0.072	0.066	0.059	0.067	0.065
LOI	%	2.94	0.95	0.81	1.33	1.4
Total	%	99.93	99.97	99.98	99.93	99.84
Mg ≠		36.14	15.96	21.60	13.70	21.53
ACNK		0.53	0.82	0.74	0.83	0.83
FM		0.67	0.86	0.81	0.88	0.80
MALI		4.93	8.38	7.2	8.43	8.04
K ₂ O/Na ₂ O		50.71	13.19	53.94	40.95	53.13
Б		3.22	2.63	2.39	2.2	2.34

Table 2: chemical analysis data of the main oxides with ICP-MS method.

Sample	Unit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rock Type		Diorite	Diorite	Rhyolite	Diorite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite
SiO ₂	%	52.94	49.42	75.39	54.56	73.65	75	69.14	74.88	74.56	69.23
Al ₂ O ₃	%	15.78	15.35	9.58	15.48	10.49	8.09	11	8.98	8.96	13.34
Fe ₂ O ₃ T	%	11.84	12.44	5.08	11.02	1.02	1.22	2.89	1.39	1.17	3.79
FeO	%	6.56	7.06	2.16	6.03	0.38	0.51	1.3	0.56	0.47	1.46
Fe ₂ O ₃	%	4.55	4.60	2.67	4.32	0.59	0.65	1.44	0.77	0.65	2.16
CaO	%	4.58	7.14	0.08	4.51	3.02	1.55	1.06	1.16	0.27	0.7
MgO	%	4.19	4.68	1.48	3.81	0.15	0.08	0.15	0.083	0.05	0.2
Na ₂ O	%	4.43	3.83	0.39	4.38	0.18	0.11	0.15	0.14	0.2	0.27
K ₂ O	%	2.2	2.49	5.97	2.46	8.96	6.66	6.2	7.49	7.52	9.26
Cr ₂ O ₃	%	0.007	0.002	0.02	0.003	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.03
TiO ₂	%	2.72	3.16	0.072	1.99	0.13	0.11	0.43	0.12	0.11	0.23
MnO	%	0.096	0.16	0.015	0.075	0.044	0.02	0.25	0.04	0.035	0.03
P2O5	%	0.77	1.03	0.006	0.96	0.025	0.041	0.19	0.023	0.034	0.16
SrO	%	0.04	0.07	0.002	0.04	0.004	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.004	0.01
BaO	%	0.08	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.008	0.06	0.07	0.05
LOI	%	1.29	0.18	1.98	0.68	1.24	6.72	6.98	5.69	6.94	4.62
Total	%	100.83	99.86	100.04	99.92	98.91	99.61	98.43	100	99.84	101
Mg ≠		41.45	42.89	36.75	40.87	22.71	12	9.36	10.67	7.82	9.5
Eu/ Eu*		0.02	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.03	0	0.02	0.02	0.03
(La/ Yb)N		19.18	16.47	7	25.65	6.64	8.79	55.79	8.78	18.63	4.39
(Gd/ Yb)N		4.31	4.38	0.89	5.53	1.2	1.15	7.09	1.24	1.79	1.06
ACNK		0.71	0.56	1.04	0.69	0.54	0.63	0.98	0.68	0.79	0.9
(Nb/Zr)N		2.13	2.36	0.82	2.86	0.88	0.77	4.11	0.81	0.83	0.56
FM		0.62	0.61	0.67	0.63	0.8	0.9	0.92	0.91	0.93	0.92
MALI		2.06	-0.81	6.28	2.34	6.12	5.22	5.29	6.47	7.46	8.84
K2O/Na2O		0.5	0.65	15.45	0.56	49.99	58.84	41.33	52.44	36.69	33.69
6		4.43	6.23	1.25	4.05	2.73	1.43	1.54	1.83	1.89	3.47

After quartz, plagioclase is the most frequent phenocryst. Plagioclases often have euhedralphenocryst, sodice composition and albite to oligoclase compositions. Most plagioclases are polysentetic twin. In these rocks two generations of plagioclase can be seen.

The first generation have large phenocryst of plagioclase which formed in the deep and the second generation of plagioclase microlites that occurred near the surface are signs that magma is cooling fast and have polysentetic twin [13]. Most plagioclases have been altered to secondary minerals. Most of them are serisit and some of them is empty and are filled by minerals such as chlorite, penin(Mg, Fe, Al)₁₂(Si, Al)₈O₂₀(OH)₁₆ and calcite. Alkaline feldspar finds as fine crystal and is present as phenocryst that its value is low and often is kaolinite.

The minerals opaque can be mentioned as most important minerals in the microscopysections. The secondary minerals in these sections include serisit, chlorite (more Penin type), epidote and calcite.

Table 3: chemical analysis data of elements with ICP-MS method.

Sample	Unite	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Diorite	Diorite	Rhyolite	Diorite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Rhyolite
Ag	ppm	52	27	57	45	128	58	46	223	46	68
As	ppm	7.8	6.7	2.1	22.7	16.4	6.2	3.3	4	24.7	3.6
Au	ppm	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Ba	ppm	724	561	285	519	627	540	74	489	608	415
Be	ppm	2	2	1	2	1	<1	2	1	<1	<1
Bi	ppm	0.04	<0.04	<0.04	0.06	<0.04	0.04	0.07	<0.04	<0.04	0.11
Cd	ppm	0.21	0.26	0.05	0.28	0.22	0.08	0.04	0.09	0.05	0.15
Ce	ppm	107.8	133.8	42	145.4	49.91	44.43	386.9	49.83	94.5	46.6
Co	ppm	41.4	49.3	0.8	30.7	1.5	3.7	6.3	2.5	1.2	1.3
Cr	ppm	49	11	136	20	76	170	87	213	137	194
Cs	ppm	0.6	1.4	0.7	0.9	1	0.6	<0.1	0.8	0.6	0.8
Cu	ppm	31.08	42.8	4.12	29.79	9.49	7.86	7.32	10.49	15.2	9.46
Dy	ppm	7	9.5	1.9	7.8	2.7	1.6	7.1	1.9	2.1	4.2
Er	ppm	2.2	3.3	1.3	2.6	1.9	1.2	2	1.5	1.3	3.1
Eu	ppm	3.1	4	0.3	3.7	0.6	0.4	2.2	0.4	0.7	1.1
Ga	ppm	23.52	25.61	16.59	25.99	17.45	8.83	19.58	9.71	6.85	19.7
Gd	ppm	9.2	13.2	2	11.8	3.3	2.3	16.9	2.8	3.6	4.4
Hf	ppm	5.19	7.3	3.93	5.23	4.44	4	0.86	4.07	4.43	5.92
Ho	ppm	1.1	1.5	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.4	1
La	ppm	48.9	59.3	18.9	65.4	21.9	21.1	159	23.7	44.7	21.7
Li	ppm	20.5	25.2	23.1	21.1	3.4	3.3	5.4	2	2.8	1.9
Rb	ppm	46.5	54.9	102.4	44.9	187.5	109.1	100	123.2	140	202
Sr	ppm	351	547	17	336	37	49	246	44	37	57
Y	ppm	27.8	39.4	10.3	34	16.4	9.7	19.3	12.1	11.2	26.6
Zr	ppm	238	301	109.7	235.7	140	126.6	29.7	134.1	139	213
Nb	ppm	34.34	48.19	6.11	45.67	8.39	6.62	8.28	7.34	7.8	8.01
Th	ppm	5.1	6.4	13.4	6.7	8.8	8.4	11.6	10	12	8.1
Pb	ppm	24.42	20.35	2.47	26.69	31.56	2.5	1.81	4.59	4.73	19.9
Zn	ppm	190.1	239.5	25.1	97.9	15.3	4.8	5.4	9.9	7.6	21.3
Ni	ppm	51.2	44.8	6.2	10.9	7.2	13.3	20.9	15.9	11.1	9.1
V	ppm	159	154	5	93	7	6	64	7	7	18
Ta	ppm	1.9	2.4	0.4	2.2	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
U	ppm	1	1.3	2.3	1.3	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3
W	ppm	113.7	3.7	73.3	6.3	37.2	37.3	>200	59.6	38.4	>200
Sn	ppm	2.8	3.3	0.9	1.9	3.5	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.9	1.9
Mo	ppm	2.47	2.09	1.33	2.42	1.95	2.86	4.28	3.65	2.44	2.45
Pr	ppm	12.8	16.6	4.8	17.8	6.2	5.2	40.9	5.8	10.6	5.6
Nd	ppm	55.9	71.2	18	72.4	24.5	19.4	165	23.2	41	25
Sc	ppm	10.9	12.4	9.3	7.7	7.8	6.1	20.9	6.5	4.6	9.5
Sm	ppm	10.5	13.4	3.1	13.2	4.2	3.5	26.8	4.1	6.8	4.5

These rocks have diversity in texture but the porphyric texture is the main texture in this rocks and particular texture are felsophyric and glomerophyric.

The main minerals that exist in the tuff are plagioclase and quartz that plagioclase is often albite type. The most important secondary minerals include epidote, calcite and opaque minerals. Calcite veins cutmicroscopy sections. Field is consists of a fine-grained ash tuff that it has been crystallized.

Average value of the main oxides in the samples is matching with general combining of rhyolite rocks. In these rocks K₂O/Na₂O rate is more than one (13.19 to 58.84, 40.7average) and it indicate, rhyolite composition is potasic. ACNK molar ratio will change generally around 0.5 to 1 and indicate metaalumyniom. Mg # is with average value of 19.9 (7.8 – 39).

One of geochemical classification diagrams for volcanic rocks is oxide – oxide [2] (Fig. 2A), [6] classification volcanic rocks based on $\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O} - \text{SiO}_2$ that were known as the TAS diagram. In this charts, samples placed in the rhyolite range. [7] were proposed total alkali vs. silica diagrams for separation alkali rock series from sub alkaline (Fig. 2B). Samples of region are showing semi-alkaline or sub alkaline afilliatly. Diagram of AFM (5) was used to determine the process of igneous series and for separation calc-alkalin magmas from tholeiitic. Samples show calc-alkalin properties (Fig. 2C).

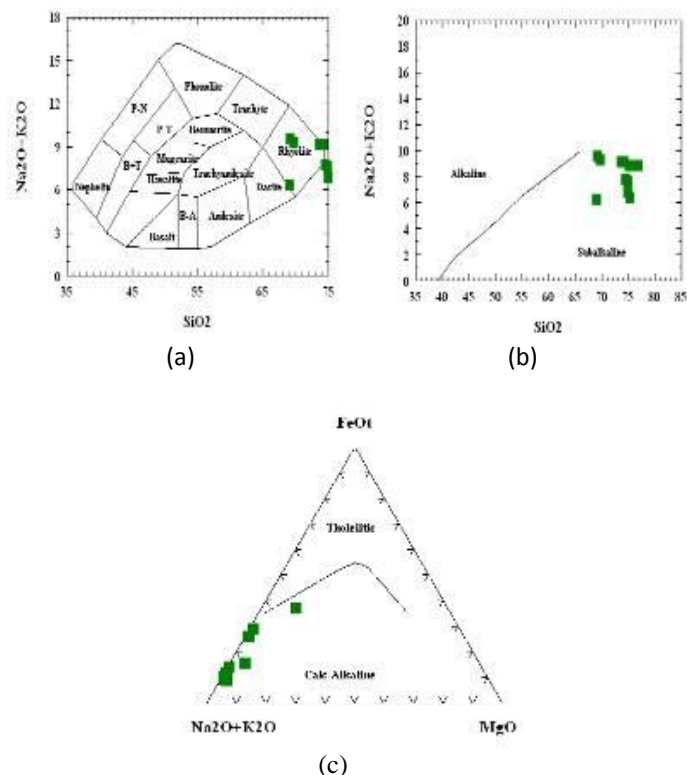


Fig. 2: A Cox and colleagues (1979) for volcanic rocks, B) the alkali vs. silica (7), for separation sub-alkaline and alkaline series, C) AFM diagram in which calc-alkaline series are separated from tholeiitic (5).

Industrial properties:

Rhyolite rocks are potassic series in An-Ab-Or (5) (Fig. 3A). The determination of potassium by Middlemost [8], Lemaître *et al* [7], Rickwood [12] provided that rhyolite samples (Fig. 3 B and C) are located in the range of high-potassium rocks to ultra-potassic.

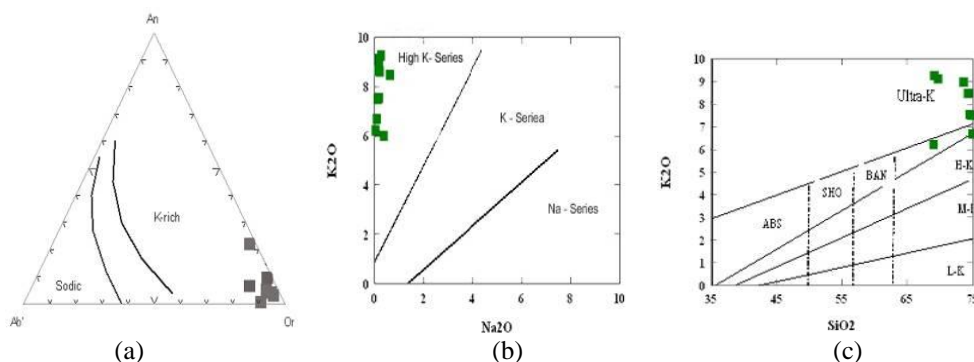


Fig. 3: A) the An-Ab-Or (5), B and C) the determination of potassium (8).

High grades of potassium increase the economic potential of the studied area. Feldspar is used in industries such as ceramic tile, glass, rubber making, industrial production of electrodes and sometimes as abrasives. If the amount of sodium and potassium in feldspar are more, feldspar is better and has more applications. Other feldspar uses are: soap production, cleaning material, powder filling and glass preparation, preparation of abrasives and

dental costs and more. In terms of trade, microcline, perthite, albite and Oligoclase feldspars have economic value. Alkali feldspar have many industrial applications but plagioclases have not. In any case, cannot be exploiting from all the feldspars because deposit making in some types of them are very limited and contains annoying minerals. Substantial economic, major source of exploitation feldspars is limited to coarse acid igneous rocks. Of application, ratio of basic oxides than aluminum and silica oxides play important role that this ratio in the alkali feldspars is respectively 1:6:6 and in soil of alkali feldspars is 1:2:2. Overall, consumption of feldspar in the industrialized world is as follows:

- 65% in glass-making industries
- 30% in ceramics and porcelain industries
- 5% in other industries

Always necessary to notice that factories need to high purity feldspars. So in areas where reserves of feldspar are not ready to use for extraction and mineral processing of feldspar. Since mineral processing is the most basic factor for preparing feldspar in industries, so had a direct impact in quality and quantity of final product and it has severely affected in added value. Feldspar powder is used as a melting aid in ceramic industry because this powder due to sodium and potassium, relatively melt in low temperature in the ceramic and covers other materials as a glass. In this sense, it is the main raw material in preparing porcelain, tiles, quality clay, variety ceramic, building insulator and toiletries.

One of the important uses of feldspar is in the production of porcelain and ceramic. Generally, the primary rocks that are used for producing feldspar in ceramic industry should be as follows (Table 4).

Table 4: Specification of primary rock for producing feldspar in ceramic industry.

Profile	medium rock	good rock	very good rock
Amount of feldspar	15-50	50-65	65
Na ₂ O/K ₂ O	1-3	3-5	5
% Fe ₂ O ₃ +TiO ₂	1-3	0.25	0.25
% Amount of clay minerals	10	0.5-1	0.5
freedom degrees of Iron ores (mm)	0.15-0.25	0.25-0.5	0.5

Percentage of feldspar should be high in rock and at least about 50 percent. Also in ceramic industry Na₂O/K₂O ratio must be higher than three and it is used less in the glass industry. Percentage of iron oxide must be maximum one percent. In this region ratio Na₂O/K₂O is higher than three and percentage of iron oxide up to one percent.

Chemical composition of feldspar types will determine its industrial use. Al₂O₃ increases heat and hogging resistances. Na₂O reduces melting temperature and adherence. K₂O increases surface tension. In diagram of K₂O vs. Na₂O K₂O is swing between 6 to 9 percent (Fig. 4A). This chart can be concluded that South Naefeldspars are rich in potassium.

Study area feldspar types are drawn based on Na₂O and K₂O oxides (Fig. 4B) and three major areas of alkali feldspars are seen in it. According to this diagram, the South Naefeldspars are outside of ceramic (body) range and are due to the lack of Na₂O in the study area rocks.

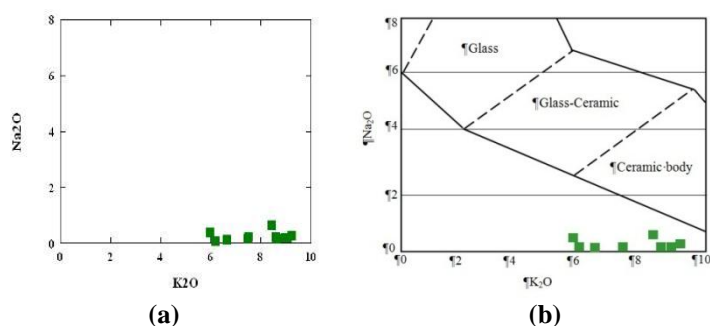


Fig. 4: A) Diagram percentage Na₂O vs. K₂O of felsic masses in South Naefieldspars. B) The range of changes K₂O and Na₂O in feldspars that are used in ceramic and glass industries.

Conclusion:

Felsic volcanic rocks in the study area in terms of mineralogy and chemical composition are classified in rhyolite groups. There are features at phenocrysts such as the Gulf corrosion in quartz, hay fringe and resorption quartz and plagioclase corrosion in all cases that indicate a chemical imbalance and rising magma and rapid reduction in pressure and raised to the role of continental crust or magma mixing [11]. Felsic rocks of sub-alkaline geochemical nature are calc-alkaline. Studied rocks in terms of LREE and LILE elements shows many

enriched. Wilson [16] believes rhyolite subduction regions are sub-alkaline, high potassium ($K > 4$ wt%), being rich in iron ($FeO / MgO > 3.1$) and silica is the symptoms of subduction rocks.

In chemical composition of samples, the amount of K_2O between 6 and 9 varies. The large amount of K_2O and abundance of this masses in the area and inasmuch K_2O is increased surface tension in the structure of minerals, this region will be applied to economic zone, but using different feldspar charts, samples were out of range ceramic (body) and these are due to lack of Na_2O in the study area rocks. Therefore, with synthetic addition of Na_2O to rocks can be used from them in ceramic industries and these comments are economic.

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