

Foreword

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“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.” — Rita Mae Brown

The five articles that open the third volume of the *Journal of Iranian Linguistics* reflect the remarkable range of approaches and methods that scholars bring to the study of Iranian languages and their cultural worlds. Moving from phraseology and film semiotics to morphosyntax, dialectology, and medieval manuscript studies, this issue engages with data drawn from living dialects, cinematic archives, classical texts, and unpublished manuscript fragments, demonstrating that Iranian linguistics remains a field of inexhaustible depth.

The issue opens with **Tereza Amryan**’s systematic study of color phraseology in Kurmanji Kurdish, the first dedicated investigation of this topic in the language. Drawing on lexicographic, folkloric, and ethnolinguistic sources, including material from the Yezidi communities of Armenia, Amryan analyzes idioms built on five basic color terms: *reş* “black”, *spî* “white”, *sor* “red”, *şîn* “green/blue”, and *zer* “yellow”. The study identifies *reş* as the most productive color term and demonstrates how Kurdish color phraseology reflects a rich system of cultural and symbolic meanings embedded in the language and its traditional worldview.

Hakob Avchyan offers the first systematic account of possessive constructions in Northern Talyshi, comparing two dialects, Anbarāni (Iran) and Lankarāni (Republic of Azerbaijan), on the basis of original fieldwork and corpus data. While both dialects share three attributive strategies, they diverge sharply in the predicative domain: Anbarāni employs a goal-schema construction, while Lankarāni employs a genitive-schema construction with obligatory enclitic cross-referencing. This divergence tracks the dominant contact language of each variety, Persian and Azerbaijani respectively, with significant implications for the typology of Western Iranian predicative possession.

Noonik Darbinian brings linguistic and semiotic analysis to bear on the *daş mašti*, the iconic urban masculine figure of pre-revolutionary Iranian popular cinema. Drawing on Metz, Barthes, and Bakhtin, the article examines how cinematic language produces ideology through sign systems, embodied gestures, and vernacular speech in films such as *Qaysar* (1969) and *Daş Akol* (1971). Darbinian demonstrates that the *daş mašti* functions

as a hybrid discourse mediating between colloquial urban speech, the moral codes of *javanmardi*, and performative markers of masculinity.

Youli A. Ioannesyan contributes a carefully argued study of verbal derivational prefixes as a distinguishing morphological feature of Persian dialects within the Southwestern Iranian group. Drawing on data from Classical Persian, modern Persian dialects, Dari, Tajiki, Bakhtiari, and Caucasian Tati, the article demonstrates that Persian dialects are characterized by the relative independence of derivational prefixes, separable from the verbal stem by aspectual, subjunctive, and negative markers — an important and previously underexplored criterion for distinguishing them from their closest relatives.

The issue closes with **Enrico Morano**'s edition and commentary of two previously unpublished Manichaean Middle Persian texts from the Berlin Turfan Collection. The two folios, from a single hymn codex and in parts severely damaged, preserve a hymn to Mani with references to forerunning Prophets, a hymn to the Sun God, and a hymn to the Chariots of the Sun and the Moon. Even in their fragmentary state, these texts illuminate the richness and sophistication of Manichaean hymnological tradition in ways that only painstaking philological work of the highest order can achieve. By making them available to the scholarly community for the first time, Morano adds yet another invaluable piece to our understanding of Middle Persian religious poetry and the literary culture of Manichaeism along the Silk Road. We are honoured to publish this contribution in the pages of the *Journal of Iranian Linguistics*.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the editorial board for their continued guidance, and to the reviewers for their careful and generous assessments. We hope that this inaugural issue of Volume 3 will prove stimulating to all scholars of Iranian linguistics and will encourage further research across the many dimensions of this richly varied field.

Vardan Voskanian

Editor-in-Chief

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