

Foreword

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“Language is the most massive and inclusive art we know, a mountainous and anonymous work of unconscious generations.”

— Edward Sapir

This observation by Sapir serves as a fitting epigraph for the present volume of the *Journal of Iranian Linguistics*. The five articles gathered here reflect both the breadth of Iranian linguistics as a field and the depth of insight that emerges when scholars engage closely with its data—be it through archival manuscripts, dialectal features, etymological reconstruction, or the mechanisms of language contact.

The issue begins with **Nima Asefi**'s edition of *Berk. 25* and revised readings of three additional documents from the Pahlavi Archive of Hastijan. Through careful philological and palaeographic analysis, Asefi offers new insights into administrative terminology, toponyms, and estate management practices in late Sasanian and early post-Sasanian Iran. His re-editions correct earlier readings and highlight the significance of the Hastijan corpus for understanding Middle Persian documentation.

Jakob Halfmann examines the etymology of the New Persian word *malang*, which is widely attested in Indian languages. After establishing its core semantic range—‘intoxicated, drunk’ and ‘(unorthodox) dervish’—he proposes a derivation from a previously unattested Bactrian loanword, ultimately linked to the Indo-Iranian root **mad-* ‘to be/become intoxicated’. The article adds a new item to the growing list of Bactrian borrowings into New Persian and contributes to the documentation of the Bactrian lexicon by proposing a form not yet attested in existing sources.

Youli Ioannesyan investigates progressive tenses with the auxiliary verb “to have” in Persian and related Western Iranian dialects spoken in Iran. Drawing on a broad range of dialectal data, he argues that these constructions—absent from Dari and Tajik—are an indigenous and exclusive innovation of Iranian varieties within the borders of modern Iran. The article challenges earlier claims of foreign influence and offers a dialectologically grounded reassessment of these progressive forms.

Midhat Shah provides a comprehensive analysis of Persian borrowings in Kashmiri, with particular attention to the processes of nativization at phonological, morphological, and semantic levels. By situating these changes within both historical linguistics and contact linguistics frameworks, Shah

sheds light on the depth and complexity of Persian-Kashmiri interaction. Her study offers an important contribution to Indo-Iranian contact studies, addressing a longstanding scholarly gap.

Finally, **Artyom Tonoyan**'s article brings attention to a rare and largely overlooked linguistic artifact: the Lord's Prayer translated into Caucasian Persian (Tati) and written in Armenian script. Through detailed transliteration, translation, and commentary, the article offers both a linguistic and historical analysis of the text and its context. It enriches the study of Caucasian Persian dialects and highlights the role of the Armenian script as a vehicle for preserving minority Iranian languages.

This issue would not have been possible without the dedication of many individuals. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the editorial board for their guidance and to the reviewers for their careful assessments.

We hope that this volume will be of interest to all scholars of Iranian linguistics and will encourage further research and engagement with the many underexplored dimensions of this diverse field.

Vardan Voskanian

Editor-in-Chief

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