

E - ISSN: 2953-8203  
P - ISSN: 2953-819X

**YEREVAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**JOURNAL OF  
IRANIAN LINGUISTICS**

Volume 2 - Issue 2 - 2025



# **JOURNAL OF IRANIAN LINGUISTICS**

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Volume 2 | issue 2



**[ YEREVAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY ]  
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E - ISSN: 2953-8203

P - ISSN: 2953-819X

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## Foreword

*Volume 2 / Issue 2*

*"A language is not just words. It is a culture, a tradition, a unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is. It is all embodied in a language." — Noam Chomsky*

The five articles gathered in this issue of the Journal of Iranian Linguistics offer a compelling testament to the breadth and vitality of the field. Taken together, they traverse vast stretches of the Iranian linguistic world — from the steppes of Central Asia to the mountains of south-western Iran, from the coasts of Oman to the digital infrastructure of natural language processing — and engage with data ranging from medieval manuscript poetry to contemporary dialectal fieldwork. What unites them is a shared commitment to close, empirically grounded inquiry into languages and language phenomena that remain insufficiently understood.

The issue opens with **Shuan Osman Karim**'s investigation of a striking typological puzzle: the apparent similarity between the Balochi imperfective aspect marker *a-* and its functional near-equivalent in Central Kurdish. Karim brings new dialectal data from Kurdish to bear on the question first raised by Paul (2003), systematically evaluating the prospect of a shared etymology before ultimately rejecting it. In its place, he proposes a derivation from the so-called KAR construction, attested in Caspian languages with which Balochi is known to have been in contact. The article makes a significant contribution to the diachronic study of Western Iranian verbal morphology, demonstrating how parallel phonological processes and shared grammaticalization pathways can produce near-identical outcomes across historically distinct systems.

**Muhammed Ourang** and **Khalsa Al-Aghbari** turn to a different dimension of morphological creativity in their comparative study of reduplication in Lāri and Jibbāli. Despite belonging to entirely separate language families — Southwestern Iranian and Modern South Arabian Semitic, respectively — both languages make productive use of full reduplication to intensify adjectives and nouns. Beyond this shared pattern, the two languages diverge revealingly: Lāri partial reduplication serves a wide semantic spectrum encompassing emphasis, intensity, categorization, attenuation, and addition, while Jibbāli deploys reduplication to mark transitivity and convey aspectual continuity in Arabic loanwords. Drawing on original fieldwork data, the article constitutes the first systematic treatment of reduplication in Jibbāli and a significant contribution to the morphological documentation of Lāri.

**Mortaza Taheri-Ardali, Mansour Bozorgmehr, and Erik Anonby** contribute a methodologically innovative study in linguistic geography, challenging the widespread assumption that Kohgiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad Province is uniformly Lori-speaking. Through field survey and the interactive mapping tools of the Atlas of the Languages of Iran, the authors reveal a considerably more complex picture. In addition to seven varieties of Southern Lori, Ghashghāi Turkic, Khuzestāni Arabic, and Bakhtiari are spoken in the province's southern districts, while Persian has emerged as the first language of nearly a quarter of the population — with serious implications for the intergenerational transmission of the region's heritage languages.

**Vahide Tajalli, Mehrnoush Shamsfard, Yalda Yarandi, Mahtab Sarlak, and Arezoo Haghbin** bring computational linguistics to bear on Persian verbal multiword expressions (VMWEs). Adapting the international PARSEME annotation framework to the specific grammatical properties of Persian, the authors present guidelines tested on a corpus of 5,617 sentences. The study bridges universal annotation standards and the structural realities of Persian, with practical implications for syntactic parsing, machine translation, and semantic role labeling.

The issue closes with **Majid Tame's** study of two proverb-like expressions in the Book of Zambasta, the celebrated Khotanese poetic composition from the Khotan region of present-day Xinjiang. Tame traces two sentences addressing futile effort and exertion, identifying their equivalents in several New Western Iranian languages where cognate proverbs remain in living use — a reminder of the deep continuities connecting the medieval Iranian literary heritage to the spoken traditions of the present day.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the editorial board for their continued guidance, and to the reviewers for their careful assessments.

We hope that this volume will prove stimulating to all scholars of Iranian linguistics and will encourage further research into the many dimensions of this richly varied field.

**Vardan Voskanian**

Editor-in-Chief

*Journal of Iranian Linguistics*