

Ehsân Yarshater. « The Tāti Dialect of Kalāsūr », in : Dieter Weber, ed., *Languages of Iran: Past and Present. Iranian Studies in memoriam David Neil MacKenzie*. Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz, 2005, pp. 269-283. (Iranica 8)

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- 1 Ehsan Yarshater is the first linguist who has introduced and described the “Tāti-Tāleshi” groups of Iranian languages. His SOAS PhD dissertation, « The Tāti Dialect Spoken to the South of Qazvin » (1960), which was revised and published later on as *A Grammar of Southern Tāti Dialects* is still a major reference in the study of this dialect family. Yarshater’s studies on the Southern Tāti and Tāleshi covers a wide area, which includes Tāleshi-speaking districts on the West Caspian coast, Khalkhal and Tārom in Azerbaijan, Kho’in and the Zanjān region, Rudbār, Kuhpāya and Alamut to the east of Qazvin and Rāmand to the south of it, with the Sāve and Kāshān districts, and regions yet further south; where Central dialects are spoken.
- 2 In the present paper, Ehsan Yarshater shows his exactness and analytical skills once again, and provides a detailed description of the Tāti dialect of Kalāsūr. Kalāsūr and Xoynarud are two villages in the northeastern corner of Azerbaijan, near the border of the former Soviet Union. The Tāti dialect of this region is greatly attacked by the influence of Turkish, as in 1971, when the author had started to collect his data, the dialect was already endangered, and is most probably extinct or extremely endangered now. Like his other linguistic works, Yarshater’s description of this dialect is full of precise observations about differences in usage between speakers of different ages, and

even between inhabitants of different quarters of the same village. Composed in 18 parts, the paper is a through description of the phonology (Part 2), Morphosyntax (Parts 3-5: Nouns, Adjectives, Pronouns), The verb (parts 6-14), Certain Verbs (Parts 15-17), postpositions and prepositions (Part 17), and Word formation (Part 18). The method of data presentation is a very good pattern of research for the other linguists; however, the reader misses a list of the basic words in this dialect, which could add much to the use and value of this research.

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**Thèmes** : 2.2. Langues vivantes et dialectes

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