Ela Filippone. The fingers and their names in the Iranian languages

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Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/40114>

DOI : 10.4000/abstractairanica.40114

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 1 décembre 2013

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Rüdiger Schmitt, « Ela Filippone. The fingers and their names in the Iranian languages », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 32-33 | 2013, document 10, mis en ligne le 01 juillet 2016, consulté le 26 septembre 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/40114> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.40114>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 26 septembre 2020.

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RÉFÉRENCE

Ela Filippone. *The fingers and their names in the Iranian languages*. (Onomasiological Studies on Body-Part Terms, I). Wien, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2010, 209 p. (Veröffentlichungen zur Iranistik, Nr. 55).

- 1 As part of a large-scale ethnolinguistic project on the terminology of body parts in Iranian languages, Filippone has collected, described and analyzed words for the fingers. Separate chapters deal with the fingers in general and with individual fingers, from the thumb to the pinkie. The extraordinarily rich material presented herein comes from not only dictionaries and glossaries, but also texts and interviews with native speakers. From an onomasiological viewpoint, it is interesting to observe that people can refer to fingers and even count with them (*e.g.*, the quaternary, quinary and decimal methods) in quite different ways. The fingers can be named according to their shape, position, use for special activities (*e.g.*, killing lice with the thumb or licking a pot with the forefinger), etc. Names and naming procedures refer to symbolic and metaphorical uses. This book has detailed indexes and an makes for an interesting, sometimes even amusing, read. It is a pioneering work of relevance far beyond Iranian studies for research in cultural history.

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