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

Rüdiger Schmitt
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 quadrinary, 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 makes for an interesting, sometimes even amusing, read. It is a pioneering work of relevance far beyond Iranian studies for research in cultural history.
AUTEURS

RÜDIGER SCHMITT

Laboe