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# Turkic language in Iran – past and present

Edited by Heidi Stein

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## Preface

The contributions in this volume originate from papers presented at the final symposium of the Turcological project group within the Collaborative Research Center „Cultural and linguistic contacts: Processes of change in historical areas of tension in North East Africa/West Asia” at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – DFG). The development of the project, which dealt in four periods with Turkic linguistic varieties in the contact areas of West Iran and its neighboring regions, is described in the concise overview on “Turcological research in Mainz” by Lars Johanson, following here.

The symposium “Turkic language in Iranian settings – commonalities and delimitations”, held September 6–7, 2008, concluded the fourth period of the project. Earlier, the symposium “The evolution of Turkic in Iran”, December 18–19, 2004, had presented results from the third period. During both periods the research concentrated on diachronic issues with the help of older sources, but took into consideration the recent varieties of the area as well. Papers presented at the symposia during the first and second periods of the project were included in the volume *Turkic-Iranian contact areas. Historical and linguistic aspects* (Turcologica 62), Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2006, edited by Lars Johanson and Christiane Bulut.

This volume is understood as an additional contribution to the huge field of Iran-Turkic linguistic studies established by Gerhard Doerfer and his collaborators. When the Mainz project ended, many questions were still being discussed; hence, the results presented here are by no means final. Nonetheless, two contributions make an attempt to summarize characteristic features of their respective linguistic material – be it of recent or historical origin –, with additional samples of text. Other articles discuss specific linguistic features of modern and older Iran-Turkic varieties in the context of contact-induced or intra-Turkic developments in Oghuz Turkic; yet others deal with the place of an early manuscript in the debate on the emergence of written West Oghuz, with the position of Iran-Turkic within a greater linguistic contact area, and with the analysis of an older source for colloquial Ottoman and Persian and their interrelations.

Thanks are due to Vanessa Karam, M.A., who thoroughly checked and corrected the English style of most of the contributions, and to Aysha Kolmer, M.A., for her careful work in preparing the manuscript for publication.

I would particularly like to thank Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Lars Johanson and Professor Dr. Hendrik Boeschoten for all their support in bringing this volume to fruition.

Heidi Stein