



EDITORIAL PREFACE

This issue presents the work of researchers in Iranian studies who are interested in the sociolinguistic interaction between languages and cultures and is based on the languages of Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. From diachronic and synchronic perspectives, it covers current linguistic and political problems reflecting the relationship between major and minor groups and languages, as well as the use of ethnic languages in different Iranian-speaking regions. It traces the features of social and regional strategies of language proficiency and transmission, in particular between generations, associated with language attitudes and linguacultural components.

The issue discusses the role of institutions in promoting national languages and sociolinguistic rights in the literary, media and educational spheres. It also examines the interaction between closely related languages and languages of different origins when co-existing within one nation-state. Each article in this issue is original and contributes new data to the current volume of research about Iranian data.

Among the significant areas of research in sociolinguistic studies, the development of a diachronic model of the sociolinguistic situation of the Iranian-speaking world is a key focus. The sociolinguistic situation in the Achaemenid Empire (6th–4th centuries BC) set a trend for the future, and manifested itself in the mutual influence of languages, triggering a change in the linguistic landscape of the entire Iranian cultural universe. This historical stage bore witness to the leading role of the Old Persian language of cuneiform inscriptions, and to the contours of the Iranian languages of the Central Asian Language Union, scattered across the territory of Central Asia. As the structural and historical transformation of Iranian languages was identified at an early stage, it became possible to reconstruct the history of the Iranian peoples and explore fragments of the sociolinguistic picture of several regions of the ancient and medieval Iranian world.

Among the notable approaches demonstrated in this issue, is the representation of the one of the “trans-border” peoples – the Talysh, living in Azerbaijan and Iran, two states having a different religious status and divergent secular and theocratic orientations. Against this background, the socioeconomic and sociocultural status of the Talysh, and their attitudes towards their native and national languages are revealed.

The article devoted to language policy and language planning in the Republic of Tajikistan highlights the problems of strengthening the status of the Tajik language; it outlines the range of efforts made by state and academic institutions to promote the language and the puristic measures taken to preserve its connection with national and historical origins. The article also discusses the



issues of managing ethnocultural diversity, the use of ethnic media in preserving and developing the Tajik language in the context of digitalization and the creation of effective state mechanisms to support Tajik as a state language.

In the section devoted to the structure of language in the context of sociolinguistics, attention is paid to issues of euphemization and taboo, and to the peculiarities of the modern adaptation of secret languages (*argot*) of professional groups associated with intercultural and gender relations, an issue requiring an interdisciplinary perspective.

A description of a unique situation is also presented in the same section – the contact influence of Iranian languages on one of the Indo-Aryan languages.

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