
Jaffer Sheyholislami, Rahim Surkhi. “Lexical Variation and Semantic Change in Kurdish”

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- 1 The chapter “Lexical Variation and Semantic Change in Kurdish” by Jaffer Sheyholislami and Rahim Surkhi examines the geographical distribution of lexical items in a broad definition of “Kurdish.” This category includes the undisputed subcategories of Northern, Central, and Southern Kurdish, as well as the two other sub-branches of Iranian spoken in the Kurdish region by ethnic Kurds, Hawrami/Gorani and Zazaki. Their lexical exploration is limited to the geographic distribution of words for several regionally relevant semantic concepts: ‘child,’ ‘girl/daughter,’ ‘son/boy,’ ‘mountain,’ ‘river,’ ‘snow,’ ‘green,’ ‘red,’ and ‘factory.’ These terms belong roughly to the semantic categories “persons,” “nature,” “color,” “technological innovation.” Sheyholislami and Surkhi present this information in a series of maps and tables showcasing the frequency, spread, and geographic distribution. They show how extra-linguistic factors and tendencies of semantic change contribute to inter-dialect variation. This variation is not confined by predetermined dialectal designation but instead reflects environmental, historical, and socio-political factors.
- 2 [Voir le compte rendu de l’ouvrage collectif]

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