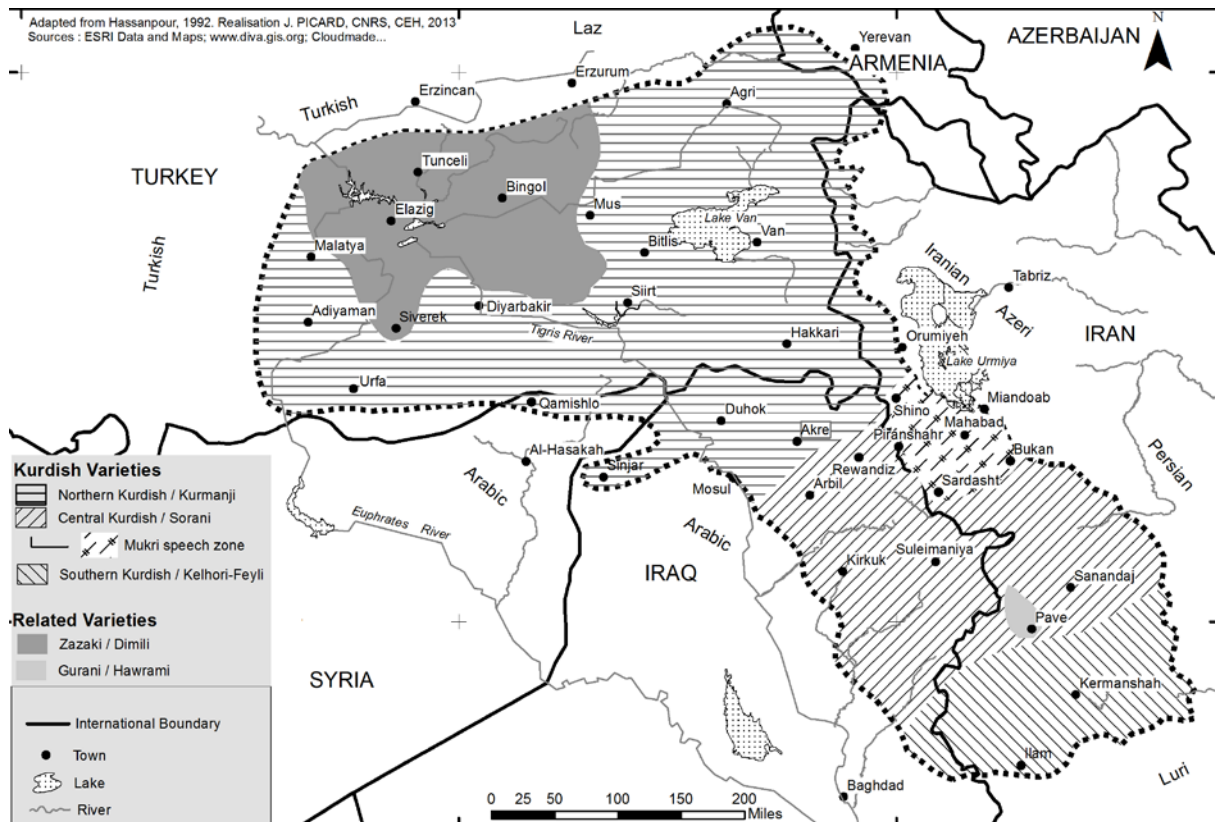


(2014). The map in Figure 1 provides a basic overview and serves as a point of orientation for the following discussion.

Figure 1. Map of language varieties spoken by the Kurds



Besides Kurmanji, two additional varieties are spoken in Turkey which are often considered Kurdish, but for considerations of space are not covered in this chapter. The first are so-called Şêx Bizinî dialects, the language of the descendants of southern Kurdish tribes resettled in various parts of Anatolia in the 16th century. With the exception of short descriptions in Lewendî (1997), which demonstrate beyond doubt the southern Kurdish origins of the dialects, further data on these varieties are unavailable to us. The second is Zazaki, spoken in several locations in central Anatolia (cf. Fig. 1). In the context of Kurmanji in Turkey, it is necessary to address the relationship of Kurmanji to Zazaki,² as this is one of the most intensely-discussed and controversial issues in the discourse on Kurdish in Turkey.

² The issue of language names is an additional complicating factor in connection with the term “Zazaki”. According to the author and editor Deniz Gündüz (p.c.), different speakers use four different names to refer to this language: Kird/Kirdki (used by Sunnite Zazaki speakers in the region of Bingöl); Kirmanj/Kirmanjki (Alevite speakers from the Dersim region); Zaza/Zazaki (Sunnite speakers from the Palu-Diyarbakir region); and Dimili or Dimilki (Sunnite speakers from the Siverek region). We choose “Zazaki” here as the label most widely used in recent literature, while