

Dialect analysis of three recordings in the Armenian dialect spoken in Karabagly (Daghestan) by Katherine Hodgson (personal communication via e-mail, 31.05.2021)

The recordings definitely show dialect elements, many of which are found in the dialect of Shamakhi (now in Azerbaijan), an area where Armeno-Tats also lived. Shamakhi dialect is described in Baghramyan 1964 (if you are interested I can send an electronic copy of this book (it is in Armenian)) and also discussed by Acharyan in his general study of Armenian dialects. It shares many features with Karabagh dialect, and is considered by some (e.g. Jahukyan 1972) to be a subdialect of it. There is one feature in these texts (indefinite article *me*) that I haven't found recorded for Shamakhi or Karabagh, but is characteristic of dialects from Iran, so it is possible that the migration to Karabagly involved people with different dialect backgrounds.

These are some things I picked up on, there are probably more:

Features of Shamakhi dialect found here, but neither in 'typical' Karabagh nor SEA:

Vowel harmony of definite article: *bostan-əm-ə* 'in the vegetable garden', *kukuruz-u* 'the maize', *čür-ü* 'the water' (actually genitive, but such forms are used for both nom.def. and gen. in some forms of Shamakhi dialect)

Forms of *linel* 'to be' in *il*:- *lac'a il-əm* 'he is crying' =SEA *lac'e lin-um*, *inč'a il-e* 'what happened?' =SEA *inč'e yegh-el* (note also lack of *-l* when participle in *-el* is clause-final, found in Shamakhi (and colloquial EA from Yerevan area), but not usual in Karabagh) postposition *meč'in* 'in' for SEA *mej*: *čür-ü meč'in* 'in the water' =SEA *jər-i mej*

Shamakhi features present here shared with Karabagh, but not SEA:

Imperfective participle ending *-əm* (also colloquial EA from Yerevan area)

3sg aux *a* (also colloquial EA from Yerevan area)

Devoicing of initial consonants (not totally consistent, as also in Shamakhi)

Presence of *ü* vowel: *čür* 'water'

definite article on locative case: *bostan-əm-ə* 'in the vegetable garden'

Imperative in *-e*: *kətre* 'cut'

Some word forms characteristic of Karabagh and Shamakhi: *čür* 'water', *kə'ev* 'fight', *tir-* for past participle of 'put', SEA *dər-el* (here and Shamakhi *tirel*, Karabagh has *tiral*)

Shamakhi features present here shared with SEA but not Karabagh:

Word-final stress

Seems to lack most of the characteristic sound changes found in Karabagh (e.g. loss/centralization of pre-stress vowels, vowel <sup>ə</sup>*e*, *u* > *o*, development of initial *h*-)

SEA influence?

Doesn't seem to have *æ*: *pan* 'thing', not *pæn* etc. as in Shamakhi and Karabagh

Some apparent 'compromise' forms: *tus* 'out', not Shamakhi/Karabagh *tüs* or SEA *durs*, *kənal* 'to go', cf. SEA *gənal* and Shamakhi/Karabagh *k'ənal*

Some literary vocabulary, e.g. *čermak* 'white'

Dialect features not found in Karabagh or SEA:

Indefinite article *me*. This is found in dialects from Iran, including that of Khoy, speakers of which were present in the area of Shamakhi, according to Acharyan. It is also found in some older literary SEA.

*č'i-ka* 'there isn't' instead of SEA *č'ə-ka*. This is found in some Western Armenian dialects. I have not found it in any of the dialects of the area that concerns us, but Shamakhi has negative *č'i-* instead of *č'ə-* before 'light' (front) vowels, and *č'i* is also the 3<sup>rd</sup> person negative auxiliary (used in periphrastic tense forms), so the use of negative *č'i-* instead of *č'ə-* in non-periphrastic tense forms irrespective of vowel quality is a possible analogical development.

Unusual feature: it seems as if she is using *a* and *i* for 'and': *nəstəm a i lac' a iləm* 'he sits and cries' *Slavik-n a Lyudik-ə* 'Slavik and Lyudik'. I have never seen this in Armenian.