

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book was produced as part of the project “Documentation of Gorani, an endangered language of West Iran”, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation’s DoBeS (Dokumentation bedrohter Sprachen) program from 2007 to 2012. All the data used in this book, as well as additional data gathered in the field, have been deposited into the DoBeS archive at the Max-Planck-Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen. The archive may be accessed at: http://corpus1.mpi.nl/ds/imdi_browser/?openpath=MPI649371%23

The four authors of the book made equal contributions, with the approximate division of labor along the following lines: The actual recordings were made by Parvin Mahmoudveysi in the village of Gawraǰū during two periods of fieldwork, September-October 2007, and October 2008. During the first stay, she was accompanied by Geoffrey Haig and Sayyid Fereidoon, a respected religious leader of the Ahl-e Haqq. Haig supervised the recordings and the initial processing of the files with the software ELAN. Mahmoudveysi undertook the initial transcription and translation of the texts, while Haig, Paul and Mahmoudveysi developed the final transcriptions.

Later Denise Bailey joined the team and undertook the task of setting up the lexicon, developing the glossing system, and collaborating with Mahmoudveysi in translating and editing the final selection of texts. Paul wrote the original grammatical sketch, based on his elicitation work in the speech community. The grammar was later extended and revised by Bailey and Haig, using material from the text corpus. Haig coordinated the different parts of the manuscript and in the final production stages, we were assisted by Maximilian Kinzler in solving a number of technical problems.

We are deeply indebted to all the people of the village for their friendship and cooperation, to the speakers for their patience and good humor, and in particular to the households of Lalo Feridoon and Lalo Paydār, with whom we stayed on field trips and who were most hospitable and friendly hosts.

For help with the map on page 6, sincere thanks are given to Muḥammad Malā Hasan (mayor of Xanaqin), Ebrāhīm Bājalān, Bahman Hamīd Feyzullāh Bēwyānī (leader of the tribe of Bēwyānī), Najm Aḥmad Bajāfān (employee of the Red Crescent), and Rīzgār Alī (employee of the television station Nawroz in Kerkuk). We would also like to thank Nicholas Sims-Williams for his valuable comments on earlier versions of the manuscript.

The project has also been crucially dependent on the continuing support of Sayyid Fereidoon Hosseini, a religious leader of Ahl-e Haqq and a native of Gahvāre township. Without his willing assistance we would not have been able to gain the trust of the speakers in such a short time, and this documentation would not have been possible.

Hamburg, February 2012