

Foreword

A Grammar of Şirvan Tat is a grammatical description of a dialect of Tat, a non-written Iranian language spoken in the Caucasus. It draws on a corpus of Tat spontaneous speech, as well as tales, legends, anecdotes and other folkloric texts collected during interviews with native speakers. It contains a typology-based analysis of different aspects of Tat grammar, as well as comparisons of its most characteristic features with those of closely related dialects and languages, such as Persian, and of other languages spoken in the same region, such as Azeri. In addition to highlighting phenomena that are under-described for Iranian languages, the work seeks to contribute to Caucasian studies as a description of a linguistic variety spoken in an area of intense contact between several language families.

The present book is a revised version of my PhD dissertation defended in 2019 at Université Paris Sciences et Lettres – École Pratique des Hautes Études. Working on this grammar has been an extremely valuable, exciting and rewarding experience not only for setting me the formidable task of documenting an endangered language variety but also as an opportunity to benefit from the expertise of wonderful scholars who committed themselves to assisting me in bringing it to fruition. I express my most profound gratitude to Professor Gilles Authier, who supervised my dissertation, and to Dr Agnes Korn, who closely followed it from its early beginnings and also provided invaluable help in the editing of this volume. This work owes a great debt to their guidance, enthusiastic encouragement and insightful criticism.

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