

Contact Change and Dialect Convergence in the Kurdish of Khanaqin

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Il presente contributo esamina il profilo dialettologico del curdo parlato a Khanaqin, città nel governatorato iracheno di Diyala, vicino all'attuale confine iraniano, e passa in rassegna i cambiamenti indotti dal contatto osservati nel dialetto. La controversa classificazione del curdo di Khanaqin, identificato da Fattah (2000) come appartenente al gruppo Kalhori del curdo meridionale (SK), sebbene spesso descritto in letteratura come una tipologia di curdo centrale (CK), evidenzia la sua importanza come particolarmente rilevante caso di studio per osservare gli esiti della convergenza e dell'attrito dialettale tra diverse macro-varietà di curdo, oltre agli effetti stratificati del contatto linguistico arabo-curdo. Il curdo Khanaqini emerge come un tipico dialetto "di frontiera", plasmato dagli effetti combinati di interazione etnolinguistica, divisioni dialettologiche e pressioni politiche.

This paper examines the dialectological profile of the Kurdish spoken in Khanaqin—a city in Iraq's Diyala Governorate, close to the present-day Iranian border—and reviews contact-induced changes observed in the dialect. The disputed classification of Khanaqini Kurdish, identified by Fattah (2000) as belonging to the Kalhori group of Southern Kurdish (SK), though often described in the literature as a type of Central Kurdish (CK), highlights its significance as a case study for observing the outcomes of dialect convergence and attrition between different macro-varieties of Kurdish, besides the superimposing effects of Arabic-Kurdish language contact. Khanaqini emerges as a typical 'frontier' dialect, shaped by the combined effects of ethnolinguistic interaction, dialectological divides, and political pressures.

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE¹

Extant literature presents contradictory views regarding the dialectological affiliation of the Kurdish spoken in Khanaqin, a city located in the present-day Diyala Governorate of Iraq, close to the border with Iran. The major study on Southern Kurdish

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