



CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD

KEITH BROWN • SARAH OGILVIE



CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
LANGUAGES
OF THE WORLD

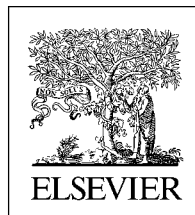
CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD

COORDINATING EDITOR

KEITH BROWN
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, UK

CO-EDITOR

SARAH OGILVIE
University of Oxford
Oxford, UK



Amsterdam Boston Heidelberg London New York Oxford
Paris San Diego San Francisco Singapore Sydney Tokyo

Elsevier Ltd., The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1GB, UK

© 2009 Elsevier Ltd.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

Permissions may be sought directly from Elsevier's Rights Department in Oxford, UK: phone (+44) 1865 843830; fax (+44) 1865 853333; e-mail permissions@elsevier.com.

*Requests may also be completed online via the homepage
(<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/permissions>).*

First edition 2009

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008934269

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-08-087774-7

09 10 11 12 13 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

This book is printed on acid-free paper
Printed and bound in China

Cover image: Adapted from *Orbis Terrarum Nova* (1594) by Petro Plancio

Working together to grow
libraries in developing countries

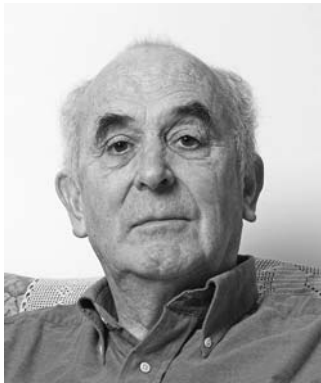
www.elsevier.com | www.bookaid.org | www.sabre.org

ELSEVIER

BOOK AID
International

Sabre Foundation

THE EDITORS



Keith Brown was Editor-in-Chief of the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (Elsevier, 2006). He is now an Associate Lecturer in the Faculty of English at Cambridge. From 2007 he has been President of the Philological Society. From 1990 to 1994 he was President of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, and he has been a Member of Council of the Philological Society since 1998. He is author of *Linguistics Today* (Fontana, 1984) and co-author, with Jim Miller, of *Syntax: A Linguistic Introduction to Sentence Structure* and *Syntax: Generative Grammar* (Hutchinson, 1981). Keith was joint editor of *Concise Encyclopedia of Linguistic Theories* and *Concise Encyclopedia of Grammatical Categories* (Pergamon Press, 1997 and 1998), *Common Denominators in Art and Science* (Aberdeen University Press, 1983) and *Language, Reasoning and Inference* (Academic Press, 1986).



Sarah Ogilvie, Trinity College, Oxford, is a linguist and lexicographer who specializes in words that enter English from non-European languages. She was Languages of the World section editor of the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (Elsevier, 2006), a former editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and was Etymologies Editor of the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary* (6th ed., 2007).

Bibliography

- Greenberg J H (1963). *Languages of Africa*. The Hague: Mouton & Co.
- Innes G (1966). *Introduction to Grebo*. London: School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.
- Marchese L (1983). *Atlas linguistique kru*. Abidjan: Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, Institut de Linguistique Appliquée, Université d'Abidjan.
- Marchese L (1986). *Tense/aspect and the development of auxiliaries in Kru languages*. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics and the University of Texas at Arlington.
- Marchese L (1989). 'Kru.' In Bendor-Samuel J (ed.) *The Niger-Congo languages*. Lanham: University Press of America, Inc. 178–215.
- Thomann G (1905). *Essai de manuel de la langue néoulé*. Paris.
- Williamson K & Blench R (2000). 'Niger-Congo.' In Heine B & Nurse D (eds.) *African languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 24–25.

Kurdish

P O Skjærø, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

© 2006 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

The Kurdish language belongs to the Iranian language family. It is spoken mainly in eastern Turkey, Syria, northern Iraq, western Iran, and Central Asia. Today there are large communities of Kurds living in the diaspora, for instance, Germany and Scandinavia. Kurdish is spoken in three main variants: Northern Kurdish, comprising Kurmanji in the west and dialects spoken from Armenia to Kazakhstan; Central Kurdish, spoken in northeastern Iraq (called Sorani) and adjacent areas in Iran (called Kordi or Mokri), as well as in Iranian Kurdistan (called Senne'i); and Southern Kurdish, spoken in Kermanshah province in western Iran (including Lakki and Lori of Posht-e Kuh). Northern and Central Kurdish developed rich literatures from the early 20th century on.

The earliest grammar and vocabulary of Kurdish were prepared by the Catholic missionary Maurizio Garzoni and published in 1787; these were used in subsequent scholarly descriptions of Kurdish. The earliest modern 20th-century studies were those of Oskar Mann and Karl Hadank. The first important post-World War II study, applying modern linguistic methods, was that of D. Neil MacKenzie (1961–1962).

Literary Kurdish in Iraq, Iran, and the former Soviet Union is written in the Arabo-Persian script, but employs a circumflex accent ^ placed above or below letters to mark non-Persian sounds: above *w* and *y* it denotes *majhul* vowels (*ō*, *ē*, contrasting with *ū* and *ī*), above *l* it denotes *l̥*, and below *r* it denotes the rolled *r* as opposed to the single-flap *r*. Kurdish in the USSR was also written in the Cyrillic script, with the addition of several signs and diacritics. Kurmanji Kurdish is today written in the Latin alphabet with Turkish

orthography, thus <c> = *j̄*, <ç> = *č̇*, <ş> = *ṧ*, <j> = *ž̇*. In addition, a circumflex accent denotes long vowels and an umlaut on <x> denotes the voiced *ɣ*. In this script, <e> and <a> represent the vowels commonly transcribed as *a* [a > ε] and *ā* [a: > a:].

Kurdish belongs to the Central Iranian language group and, as such, has *s*, *z* from **ć*, *ǰ* (e.g., *āsin* 'iron', but Persian [Farsi] *āhan*; NK *az* 'I', but Old Persian *adam*). Like the Central dialects and, for instance, Parthian, it has *-ž-* from **-č-*, *-ǰ-* (*rož* ← **rau-čah* 'day', Persian *ruz*; *dirēž* ← **drāǰah* 'long', Persian *derāz*). It has also retained the Middle Iranian *majhul* vowels *ō*, *ē*, which in Persian have merged with *ū* and *ī*. A rare feature is the development of intervocalic *m > v* (including *m < hm < šm*), which in Northern and Central Kurdish remains distinct from *w*, but in Southern Kurdish merges with it (demonstrative pronouns: NK *av* 'this' ~ *aw* 'that' ← **ima-* ~ **awa-*; CK both *aw* except an area with *am* ~ *aw*; SK *ī* (cf. Persian *m̄n*) ~ *ow*; NK *čāv*, CK *čāv* 'eye'; CK *awa* ← **ašmā* 'you'). Kurdish shares with Persian the development of **w-* → *b-* (*bā* 'wind' ← **wātah*, Persian *bād*). Northern Kurdish retains final *-t*, which elsewhere becomes *d* or is lost (*dīt* 'saw', Persian *did*).

The Kurdish dialects have very complex phonologies, morphologies, morphophonologies, and syntax, of which no idea can be given in a small space. Proto-Kurdish had two genders, masculine and feminine, two numbers, and two cases, direct and oblique, as well as a vocative. These are preserved in Northern Kurdish, but gradually merge into a no-gender, no-case system as one moves southward (cf. the 1st sing. personal pronoun 'I, me': NK DIR *az* ~ OBL *min*, CK (*a*)*min*, SK *amin*). All three groups have an indefinite suffix going back to **-ēk* 'one', while Central and Southern Kurdish have a definite suffix going back to **-aka* (*-ak*). The 3rd singular enclitic pronoun is *-ī*, pl. *-yān* (cf. Persian *-eš*, *-ešān*). The 1st and 2nd plural

enclitic pronouns are archaic: 1PL *-n*, 2PL *-û* (beside *-mān* and *-tān*), which go back to Old Iranian **nah* and **wah*. The *ezafe* has two genders and two numbers, but is simplified according to the general tendency.

The verbal systems are of the typical modern Iranian type, with a three-stem system: present-imperfect, past, and perfect, as well as a split ergative. The present and imperfect take the prefixes NK *t-/di-*, CK *a-/da-*, SK *a-/mi-* (cf. Persian *mi-*) to express progressive tense. Present forms without a prefix or with the prefix *bi-* are subjunctive. The past tenses are ergative, but only Northern Kurdish has the pure passive type construction (1).

- (1) ta az nās kir-im
you.SING.OBL I.DIR familiar do.PAST-1ST.SING
 ‘you knew me’

In Central and Southern Kurdish, where there is no case distinction, the agent is expressed by enclitic pronouns. If the verb has a preverb, the enclitic pronouns come after it (2), otherwise they come between the verb stem and the ending (3).

- (2) a-t xwārd
PROG-you.AGT eat.PAST[-3SG]
 ‘you were eating’
- (3) nārd-it-īn
send.PAST-you.AGENT-COP.1PL
 ‘you sent us’

Note constructions of the type in (4), where the apposition *pēwa* ‘about’ governs the person implicit in the copula *-īt* ‘you are’; (5), where ‘to’ governs the pronoun implicit in the copula *-n-* ‘you are’; and (6), where ‘to’ governs the pronoun implicit in the copula *-m-* ‘I am’.

- (4) xaw-im pēwa dīw-īt
dream-1SG.ENCL about see.PAST-COP.2SG
 ‘I dreamed about you’

- (5) dā-m-ī-n-ē
give.PAST-COP.1SG-he.ENCL.OBL-COP.2PL-to
 ‘he gave me to you’
- (6) kitēb-ek-ān-it dā-m-ē
book-DEF-PLUR-you.AGT give.PAST-COP.1SG-to
 ‘you gave me the books’

In Northern Kurdish, the passive is formed with the auxiliary *hāt* ‘come’ + INF (7).

- (7) hāt-īye girt-in
come.PERF[-3SG] seize.PAST.INF
 ‘has been seized’

Central and Southern Kurdish have passive formations in present *rē-* or *yē-*, past *rā-* or *-yā-* (*kuž-yā-* ‘be killed’; *de-nūs-rē* [PROG-write.PRES-PASS.PRES. [-3SG]] ‘it is being written’).

Derivational nominal suffixes are common, as are a variety of types of compound. The meaning of verbs can be modified by preverbs, of which there are many, or the postverb *-awa/-āwa* (*-āw*), unique to Kurdish among Iranian dialects (*hāt-in* [come.INF] ‘to come’, but *hāt-in-āw* ‘to come back, return’). Verbal idioms consisting of adjectives or nouns plus verbs are common, as in all Iranian languages.

Bibliography

- Blau J (1989). ‘Le kurde.’ In Schmitt R (ed.) *Compendium linguarum iranicarum*. Wiesbaden: Reichert. 327–335.
- Blau J (2000). *Méthode de kurde: sorani* (rev. edn.). Paris: Harmattan.
- Blau J & Barak V (1999). *Manuel de kurde: kurmanji*. Paris: Harmattan.
- MacKenzie D N (1961). ‘The origins of Kurdish.’ *Transactions of the Philological Society* 59, 68–86.
- MacKenzie D N (1961–1962). *Kurdish dialect studies* (2 vols.). London/New York: Oxford University Press.
- MacKenzie D N (1986). ‘Kurds, Kurdistan v. language.’ In Bearman P J, Bianquis T, Bosworth C E, van Donzel E & Heinrichs W P (eds.) *Encyclopædia of Islam*, new edn., vol. 5. Leiden: Brill. 479–480.

Kurukh

P S Subrahmanyam, Annamalai University, Bangalore, India

© 2006 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Introduction

Kurukh is one of the tribal languages of the Dravidian family with a population of about 1.5 million; thus it is next only to Gondi within the family in terms of

number of speakers. The name of the language is spelt also as Kurukh; another name, Oraon, was also in use in earlier times. The main concentration of Kurukh speakers is found in Chota Nagpur and Bhagalpur districts of Bihar, India; some of them live also in Madhya Pradesh (Raygarh and Sarguja districts) and Orissa (Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts). Some have migrated in recent times to the tea districts of Assam and Nepal and are known there as