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### **Preface by the editors**

This special issue of the Journal of Endangered Languages is devoted to Language Documentation in Comparative Turkic Linguistics. The aim of the editors has been to present case studies advocating for reasonable standardization of text representations and linguistic descriptions based on the international scholarly tradition in comparative Turkic linguistics. The contributions include previously unpublished texts. Some authors present several texts demonstrating varieties according to style, gender or register, e.g. colloquial or written standard, with audio recording. This is the first time the Journal of Endangered Languages is publishing audio recordings, a great step in supporting language documentation. Links to online corpora and even to a video recording of a Khalaj speaker are being made accessible.

The Turkic varieties in this volume represent different branches of Turkic. The Southwestern, Oghuz branch, is represented by the Bayat variety of Iraq Turkic, the Sheki dialect of Azeri, the Maku dialect of Azeri, the Golan Turkmen dialect, and Turkmen. Spoken Kazakh, Southwest Karaim, Finland Tatar, and Kirghiz are Northwestern, Kipchak, languages. The Northeastern, Siberian, branch is represented by Khakas in South Siberia, Dolgan in Northern Siberia, and Yellow Uyghur in China. Khalaj, an archaic Turkic language, constitutes an own branch. The selected varieties include some endangered languages. Southwest Karaim is practically extinct today, the recording was made with one of the last speakers. The authors of the studies on Bayat Turkic in Iraq, Golan Turkic in Syria, and Yellow Uyghur in China express their concern about the weak status of these varieties.

The first part of the volume includes two theoretical articles authored by Peter Austin and Lars Johanson. Peter Austin, a leading scholar in issues of language endangerment, language documentation, and revitalization discusses the role of citizen science for endangered language studies. Lars Johanson, a prominent linguist, advocates for the documentation of Turkic varieties in a comparative framework. The second part presents the case studies.

The articles in the second part, listed alphabetically by author's surnames, give brief information about the variety, the speaker(s), their community, and the circumstances of the recording. The sample texts are presented in Turcological transcription with interlinear morphological glosses and free translation. The Turcological transcription and notations are provided on page 301–310. They follow Johanson (2021), Johanson & Csató (eds.) (2022), Johanson (ed.) (2023) and the recommendations of the journal Turkic Languages. The texts are accompanied of a short descriptive overview of the specific characteristics of the variety, illustrated mainly by examples from the text. These linguistic accounts are not meant to present any detailed description of the given variety. They are illustrations of how a relatively standardized comparative description of

Turkic can be applied. References and readings, including the most important publications on the variety, and very short biographical statement about the author(s) complete the presentations.

Our thanks go first to Süer Eker and Ülkü Çelik Şavk, the editors of the Journal of Endangered Languages, for inviting us to edit this special issue. We are likewise grateful to the authors for their contributions, and to our external reviewers, Christiane Bulut, Lars Johanson, Vladimir Monastryev, Irina Nevskaya, Hans Nugteren, Aleksandr Petrov, Elisabetta Ragagnin, Murad Suleymanov, and Abdurishid Yakup, for their valuable comments and suggestions. We owe Peter Austin a great debt of thanks for his invaluable contribution as a reviewer and for his substantial support in editing the manuscript. Last but not least, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all the speakers whose audio/video recordings made the publication of this volume possible.

### References

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