On some exponents of (in)definiteness in Kurdish and Lari

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The presentation deals with the exponents of (in)definiteness in Lari (Southwest Iranian) and in Kurdish (Northwest Iranian). Lari is spoken in the Larestan (Lar) region of Fars province, in parts of Hormozgan province in the south of Iran and in some of Arabic-speaking countries like United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman. Kurdish is considered as a general name of closely-related group of Northwest Iranian languages that are spread on a vast geographical area of the Middle East – Iran, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq; in Central Asia – Turkmenistan, and in the Caucasus – Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan.

In the modern Iranian languages the category of (in)definiteness is represented by the diverse morphological exponents such as article proper, deictic elements, numeral "one", definite and indefinite pronouns, case markers, stress, and etc.

The category of (in)definiteness in Lari and Kurdish are represented by the exponents listed below. Lari: -ak, -aka and $-\ddot{u}$ definiteness; -i/-e indefiniteness Kurmanji: -ak, -k indefiniteness (singular); -in, -n indefiniteness (plural) Sorani: $-(y)\grave{e}k$ indefiniteness; $-\acute{a}ka$, $-\acute{a}$ definiteness; Suleimani: $-\bar{e}(k)$ indefiniteness; Awromani/Avromani: -ew/ewi (m., singular), -ewa (f. singular); indefiniteness, singleness Zaza(ki): $-\bar{e}/-\bar{e}(n)$ indefiniteness, unity

In Lari the productive derivational suffix with a meaning of diminutive -ak, -aka (descends from Iranian *-(a)ka) is a marker of definiteness unlike the widely spread model of close connection between the markers of definiteness and the demonstratives.

The presentation is focused on investigation of *ak*, *-aka* (both in Kurdish and in Lari). The diachronic and synchronic typological attitude. On the one hand, the comparison with the Persian and some other West and East Iranian languages allows to explore the specific features of "Kurdish (in)definiteness". On the other hand, the typological attitude reveals certain universal resemblances.

References:

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