Challenge

The Persian language as spoken in Iran is suffused with regional and dialect variation. However, a shortage of learning materials focused on Persian dialects makes it challenging for language analysts to accomplish their tasks when confronted with this variation. CASL researchers are working to develop materials in a set of major Persian dialects, including Shirazi and Esfahani. In addition, CASL is describing accented versions of Persian spoken by native speakers of languages from other families such as Armenian and Azerbaijani. **These materials will be integrated into a modular course designed to give language analysts a better understanding of the dialects.**

Approach

CASL is compiling a comprehensive survey of 18 major Persian dialects. Course materials will include the following:

- **Dialect sketches.** Description of salient phonetic, morphological, and lexical characteristics, emphasizing their difference from the standard.

- **Maps.** Accurate and up-to-date maps will help students understand where dialects are spoken.

- **Written, audio, and video samples.** These materials will provide students with authentic examples of the dialects in action. For example, an intersentential example of code-switching between Azerbaijani and Persian is:

  - **Azerbaijani:** baba dodәn soux yel ver  
    (For God’s sake, it is really blowing cold air!)
  - **Persian:** baba migæm særde  
    (I’m telling you it’s cold!)

  An intrasentential example is:
  - **ba inke pændzæræs atsxdl issidi** (Although the window is open, it’s hot!)

Dialect Differences

Examples of dialect differences in the phrase “I told her/him…”

- **Standard:** /man behesh goftam/
- **Bandari:** /me behesh umgu/
- **Gilaki:** /man una bugoftam/

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