



ABSTRACTS

How long was Sogdian spoken in Transoxiana? (a Toponymical Approach)

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It is known that the East Iranian Sogdian language or some of its dialects were spoken by the inhabitants of Zaravshan and Kashkadarya valleys and Tashkent oasis from the deep antiquity until the 11th century. The last dated texts and the notes about this language in the foreign sources are attributed to this time. A descendant of a dialect very close to literary Sogdian, namely the Yaghnobi language is still surviving in the highland valley of Yaghnob. But, as for the main oases, such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Tashkent, Qarshi, we have no information on the language from the 11th century onwards. Yet the absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence. A more precise information on this subject can be useful for the ethnic history of Central Asia. In this paper, I shall try to use the toponymical data in order to show that Sogdian was probably spoken in rural areas around Bukhara till the 16th century, while large towns, such as Bukhara and Samarkand were already persianized in the 10th century.

Sogdian $\gamma wt'w$

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It is well known that Sogdians have preserved $\beta a \gamma (<ba\gamma a)$, the old word for "god" (cf. widengren G, Die Religionen Irans, Stuttgart: 1965 : 320). There are many forms and compounds of the word in sogdian texts such as :

$\beta \gamma 'nyk'$ "divine" (SCE 501; KG 512);

$\beta \gamma yst 'n$ "abode of the gods" (VJ. 1001, Henning, tales, 473 .41)

$\beta \gamma 'n \beta \gamma tm$ "god of gods" (SCE. 254) and so on.

There are other words with similar sense too, such as: 'zrw' "Manichean Zurvan". "Buddhist Brahma" (VJ. 910);

"s'wr "SK. asura" (BSTBL, PADM.3).

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$\gamma wt'w$ (TSP.15.19) or $xwt'w$ (KG, 578) is a Sogdian word meaning "Lord, king" in Buddhist, Manichean and Christian Sogdian. But in some Buddhist Sogdian texts it is used in the sense of "god", eg., $mwrt'n'k \gamma wt'w$ "SK. yama" (P6,94).

As the word "xodā" is used for both above mentioned senses: The great God (Allah)" and "king" in New Persian in the Islamic Period, in this paper all the Sogdian words for "god" are studied and compared in order to find out the exact meaning, usage and frequency.