

# Ethnologue: Languages of Iran

## Twenty-sixth edition data

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## List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
DBS	Deaf Bible Society
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
DOOR	Deaf Opportunity Outreach
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

## How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Iran that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 87 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Iran. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

**Primary language name** [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. Macrolanguage member languages. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 30) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 35) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Province” (page 43) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Iran and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 46) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 49) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 51) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or

alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 301 unique names are associated with the 87 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 59). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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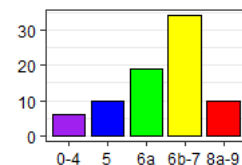
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## Country Overview

Name of country	Iran
Other names	Islamic Republic of Iran
Population	85,029,000 (2021 UNDESA)
Principal language	Iranian Persian
Literacy rate	86% (2016 UNESCO)
Deaf population	3,978,100
International conventions	CDE (1968), CSICH (2006), ICCPR (1975), UNCRPD (2009), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Anonby 2016, Bulut 2014, Drower 1937, Oberling 1974, Schmitt 1989, Sebeok 1970, Stilo 1981, Windfuhr 2009

### Language counts

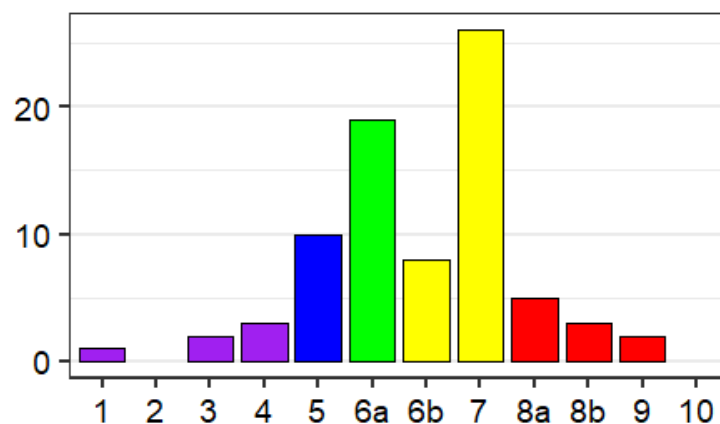
The number of established languages listed for Iran is 79. All are living languages. Of these, 66 are indigenous and 13 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 6 are institutional, 10 are developing, 19 are vigorous, 34 are in trouble, and 10 are dying. Also listed are 6 unestablished languages and 2 macrolanguages.



See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

## Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Iran with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 35) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

## Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Iran. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Iran and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

### Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Iran by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 30) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

**Table 1:** Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
10,000,000 to 99,999,999	2	2.5	2.5%	65,400,000	72.99350	72.99350%
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	9	11.4	13.9%	16,740,000	18.68366	91.67716%
100,000 to 999,999	18	22.8	36.7%	6,928,000	7.73240	99.40956%
10,000 to 99,999	15	19.0	55.7%	460,500	0.51397	99.92352%
1,000 to 9,999	11	13.9	69.6%	67,180	0.07498	99.99850%
100 to 999	4	5.1	74.7%	1,280	0.00143	99.99993%
10 to 99	1	1.3	75.9%	60	0.00007	100.00000%
0	2	2.5	78.5%		0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	17	21.5	100.0%			

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>
<i>Totals</i>	79	100.0		89,597,020	100.00000	

### Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Iran by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 35) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Iran. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

**Table 2:** Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	1	1.3	1.3%	53,800,000	60.0466	60.0466%	53,800,000	53,800,000
3	2	2.5	3.8%	12,171,000	13.5842	73.6308%	6,085,500	6,085,500
4	3	3.8	7.6%	2,661,000	2.9700	76.6008%	887,000	1,330,500
5	10	12.7	20.3%	5,747,200	6.4145	83.0153%	574,720	457,500
6a	19	24.1	44.3%	14,104,100	15.7417	98.7570%	742,321	340,500
6b	8	10.1	54.4%	361,560	0.4035	99.1605%	45,195	11,015
7	26	32.9	87.3%	730,490	0.8153	99.9758%	28,096	24,950
8a	5	6.3	93.7%	21,450	0.0239	99.9998%	4,290	5,000
8b	3	3.8	97.5%	220	0.0002	100.0000%	73	110
9	2	2.5	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	79	100.0		89,597,020	100.0000			

## Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 6 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

**Table 3:** Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Afro-Asiatic	9	11.4	1,662,510	1.9	184,723	2,675
Dravidian	1	1.3	23,800	0.0	23,800	23,800
Indo-European	61	77.2	73,226,510	81.7	1,200,435	70,400
Kartvelian	1	1.3	67,200	0.1	67,200	67,200
Sign language	1	1.3	250,000	0.3	250,000	250,000
Turkic	6	7.6	14,367,000	16.0	2,394,500	862,500
<i>Totals</i>	79	100.0	89,597,020	100.0		

## Alphabetical Listing of Languages

**Aimaq** [aiq]. *Users:* 239,000 in Iran (2021). *Location:* Mazandaran province: scattered. *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Dialect:* Teimuri (Teimurtash). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Barbari and Berberi are also applied to Hazara people in Mashad. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,891,900. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Afghanistan. Also established in: Turkmenistan. Unestablished in: Tajikistan.

**Alviri-Vidari** [avd]. *Location:* Markazi province: Saveh area; Qom province. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects:* Alviri (Alviri), Vidar (Vidari). Related to Gozarkhâni [goz] and Vafsi [vaf]. *Lg Use:* Shifting to South Azerbaijani [azb]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *DLS:* Still. *Other:* Muslim.

**Arabic, Gulf Spoken** [afb] (Gulf Arabic). *Users:* 282,000 in Iran (2021). *Location:* Hormozgan province and nearby Persian gulf islands; also Bushehr, Fars, Kerman, and Yazd provinces. *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects:* Al-Hasâ, Khamseh. *Lg Use:* The largest of 5 Khamseh clans uses Iranian Persian [pes] as L1. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Lari [lrl]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: High in Persian [pes]. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,097,400. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia. Also established in: Bahrain, Egypt, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. Unestablished in: Canada, United States.

**Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken** [acm] (Arabi, Mesopotamian Gelet Arabic). *Users:* 1,360,000 in Iran (2021). *Location:* Bushehr province: Deylam county; Khuzestan province: southwest Zagros mountains, Shatt al Arab river area. *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialect:* Khuzistani Arabic. *Type:* SVO; 32 consonant phonemes. *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Mandaic [mid]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Muslim. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,162,050. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Iraq, Syria. Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, India, Kuwait, Lebanon, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

**Arabic, Standard** [arb]. *Users:* 1,320,000 in Iran (2015 SIL), all users. *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1979, Constitution, Article 16), used in education. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type:* VSO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); dual number; definite and indefinite affixes; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark number, gender of subject; aspect; 28 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; trilateral roots, few affixes. *Lg Dev:* Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1645–2008. *Writing:* Arabic

script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 273,989,700. Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Saudi Arabia. Also established in 30 other countries and unestablished in 1 more.

**Armenian** [hye] (Armani, Armjanski, Eastern Armenian, Ermenice, Erâmani, Haieren, Somekhuri). *Users*: 111,000 in Iran (2021). *Location*: Ardebil, East Azerbaijan, and West Azerbaijan provinces; Ahar, Isfahan, Khoi, Shahpur, Shiraz, Tabriz, and Tehran areas. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Armenian. *Dialects*: Jolfâ (Dzhulfa, New Julfa), Urmia-Maragheh (Urmia-Maragha). *Type*: SVO; both prepositions and postpositions; noun head final; indefinite article affix; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; comparatives; 30 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, church. Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use South Azerbaijani [azb]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 80%. Taught in primary schools in Armenian communities, for some subjects (reading, writing, history, literature, and religion, but not for math and science). Fully developed. Bible: 1666–2017. *Writing*: Armenian script, primary usage. Braille script. *Other*: Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,699,000. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Armenia, Azerbaijan. Also established in: Russian Federation.

**Ashtiani** [atn] (Ashtiyani, Astiani). *Users*: 27,100 (2021). *Location*: Markazi province: Ashtiyani and Tafresh. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Dialects*: Ashtiani, Tafresh. Transitional between central Iranian dialects and Talysh [tly]. Dialects may be separate languages. Reportedly very similar to Vafsi [vaf]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Assyrian Neo-Aramaic** [aii] (Aturaya Swadaya, Lishana Aturaya, Swadai, Swadaya). *Users*: 15,000 in Iran (1994). Ethnic population: 112,000 (2021). *Location*: West Azerbaijan province: west of Lake Urmia; many in Reza'iyeh (Rizaiye) and Tehran. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Dialect*: Urmi. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Senaya [syn]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1852–1919. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Religious separation of Assyrian from Chaldean happened in the 16th century. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700). Indigenous in: Iraq. Also established in: Armenia, Georgia, Syria. Unestablished in: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

**Avestan** [ave] (Avesta, Pazend, Zend). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. No ethnic community. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian. *Dialects*: Old Avestan (Gathic), Younger Avestan. *Lg Use*: The sacred language of Zoroastrian scriptures. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Avestan script, used until 7th century. Gujarati script.

**Azerbaijani** [aze]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 24,041,370. *DLS*: .

*Other:* Includes: North Azerbaijani [azj] (Azerbaijan), South Azerbaijani [azb]. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,041,370.

**Azerbaijani, South** [azb] (Azeri, Türki). *Users:* 11,600,000 in Iran (2021). Ethnic population: 17,200,000 (2021). *Location:* Ardebil, East Azerbaijan, Qazvin, West Azerbaijan, and Zanjan provinces. *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). Spoken as primary language by 18 people groups around the 19th century. Has no official status. Used at home, in literature, and trade. *Class:* Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani. A member of macrolanguage Azerbaijani [aze]. *Dialects:* Aynallu (Inallu, Inanlu), Karapapakh, Tabriz, Afshari (Afsar, Afshar), Shahsavani (Shahseven), Moqaddam, Baharlu (Kamesh), Nafar, Qaragozlu, Pishagchi, Bayat, Qajar. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Also use English [eng]. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Alviri-Vidari [avd], Armenian [hye], Iranian Persian [pes], Karingani [kgn], Kho'ini [xkc], Muslim Tat [ttt]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: High, in Persian [pes]. Fully developed. Bible: 2013. *DLS:* Ascending (0.25). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iraq and Iran. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Other:* Muslim. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,935,990 (as L1: 14,932,010; as L2: 3,980). Also indigenous in: Turkey. Also established in: Azerbaijan, Iraq, Syria. Unestablished in: Canada, Sweden, United States.

**Bakhtiâri** [bqi] (Lori, Lori-Bakhtiâri, Lori-ye Khaveri, Luri). *Users:* 1,270,000 (2021). 350,000 monolinguals. *Location:* Khuzestan province; also west Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Lorestan, and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad provinces; Esfahan and Markazi provinces: Dorud, Masjed-e Soleiman, and Shahr-e Kord. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Luri. *Dialects:* Masjed-e Soleiman, Shahr-e Kord, Izeh, Haftgel, Aligudarz, Chelgerd, Kohrang (Kuhrang), Haflang (Haftlang), Charlang (Chaharlang). Bakhtiâri is on a continuum of related varieties between Northern Luri [lrc] and Southern Luri [luz]. Farsi dialects in Chaharmahâl va Bakhtiâri Province are mutually intelligible with Bakhtiâri. Lexical similarity: 75% with Southern Luri (Mamasani) [lrc], 86% with Southern Luri (Boyerahmadi) [luz], 73% with Northern Luri (rural), 78% with Northern Luri (Khorramabadi), 76% with Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, commerce. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Dezfuli [def]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: High in Persian [pes]. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS:* Emerging (0.08). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other:* Little contact with Southern Luri [luz], some contact with Northern Luri [lrc]. Muslim.

**Balochi, Southern** [bcc] (Baloci, Baluchi, Baluci, Balóchi). *Users:* 514,000 in Iran (2021). *Location:* Hormozgan province: southeast coast; Kerman province: Qaleh Ganj and Rudbar-e Jonubi counties; Sistan and Baluchestan province. *Status:* 5\* (Developing). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi. *Dialects:* Makrani (Lotuni), Koroshi. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L1: Very low. Literacy rate in L2: Very high in Persian [pes]. Some local literacy classes and online learning. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1999. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script. *Other:* Muslim. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,570,700. Also indigenous in: Pakistan. Also established in: Oman, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Qatar, Saudi

Arabia.

**Balochi, Western** [bgn] (Baloci, Baluchi, Baluci, Yarahmadza). *Users*: 763,000 in Iran (2021).

All Balochi in Iran: 2,000,000 (2021). *Location*: Kerman province: Rigan and Fahraj counties; Sistan and Baluchestan province: north; South Khorasan province: northeast. *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi. *Dialects*: Rakhshani (Raxshani), Sarawani. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Brahui [brh]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1984–2005. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan. *Other*: Distinct from Eastern Balochi [bgp] and Southern Balochi [bcc]. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,283,350. Also indigenous in: Afghanistan, Pakistan. Also established in: Turkmenistan. Unestablished in: Tajikistan.

**Bashkardi** [bsg] (Bashaka). *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Location*: Hormozgan province: east; Kerman province: south; Sistan and Baluchestan province: southwest. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi. *Dialects*: Northern Bashaka, Southern Bashaka. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.

**Brahui** [brh] (Barahui, Birahui, Brahudi, Kur Galli). *Users*: 23,800 in Iran (2021), increasing.

*Location*: Sistan and Baluchestan province: central, including Zahedan. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Dravidian, Northern. *Dialects*: Jharawan (Jhalawan), Kalat, Sarawan. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; case-marking (10 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; 27 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal. *Lg Use*: Neutral attitudes. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use Western Balochi [bgn]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1998. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script, used in one newspaper. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,865,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Afghanistan, Pakistan. Unestablished in: Turkmenistan.

**Dari** [prs] (Afghan Persian). *Users*: 401,000 in Iran (2021). *Location*: South Khorasan province.

*Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Type*: SOV; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; causatives; 23 consonants, 7 vowels, 2 diphthongs. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 30,291,510 (as L1: 10,277,510; as L2: 20,014,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Afghanistan. Also established in: Pakistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

**Dari, Zoroastrian** [gbz] (Dari, “Gabar” *pej.*, “Gabri” *pej.*, “Yazdi” *pej.*). *Users*: 8,000 (1999).

*Location*: Kerman and Yazd provinces: settled communities. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Dialects*: None known. Related to Parsi-Dari [prd] and Nāyini [nyq]. *Lg Use*: Used by Persian Zoroastrians in

personal communications as a private language. Shifted to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literate in Persian [pes]. Dictionary. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Different from Dari dialect of Eastern Farsi [prs] of Afghanistan, though both names refer to Darius, the ancient Persian Emperor ('dar' is Classical Persian for court). Many Zoroastrians speak Parsi-Dari and do not know Zoroastrian Dari [gbz]. Zoroastrian.

**Dezfuli** [def] (Dezfuli-Shushtari, Dezhfili, Dizfuli). *Users*: Very few. *Location*: Khuzestan province: Dezful and Shushtar. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Unclassified. *Dialects*: Dezfuli, Shushtari. *Lg Use*: Elderly only. Many shifted to Bakhtiâri [bqi]. Many shifted to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Dzhidi** [jpr] (Djudi, Judeo-Persian, Judi). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1909. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 55,000. Indigenous in: Israel.

**Eshtehardi** [esh]. *Location*: Markazi province: Karaj district, Eshtehard area. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: Reportedly similar to Takestani [tks]. May be the same language as some dialects spoken southwest of Qazvin. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Takestani [tks]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.

**Fars, Northwestern** [faz]. *Location*: Fars province: scattered. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Sivandi [siy]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Distinct from Farsi [prs] or [pes]. Muslim.

**Fars, Southwestern** [fay]. *Users*: 113,000 (2021). *Location*: Fars province: Buringun, Davani, Kondazi, Papun, Masarm, Somghun, and others. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Fars. *Dialects*: Basseri, Old Shirazi, Delvari. Related to Iranian Persian [prs] or [pes] and Lari [lrl]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Distinct from Iranian Persian [prs] or [pes]. Muslim.

**Gazi** [gzi]. *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Location*: Esfahan province: small area east of Kashan. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Georgian** [kat] (Gorji, Gruzin). *Users*: 67,200 in Iran (2021). *Location*: Esfahan province: Esfahan area, Najaf Abad, Shahin Shahr, and Yazdan Shahr; Mazandaran province: Behshahr. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Kartvelian, Georgian. *Dialect*: Fereydan (Ferejdan). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, object; ergativity; passives; tense and aspect; 27 consonants, 5 vowels, no diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; long consonant clusters. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1743–2021. *Writing*: Braille script. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, primary usage.

Khutsuri (Asomtavruli and Nuskhuri) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,878,780 (as L1: 3,724,240; as L2: 154,540). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Georgia, Turkey. Also established in: Azerbaijan. Unestablished in: Armenia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

**Gilaki** [glk] (Gelaki, Gilani, Guilaki, Guilani). *Users*: 2,550,000 (2021), decreasing. 2,000 Galeshi. Ethnic population: 4,600,000 (2021). *Location*: Gilan province: coast south of Caspian and Talish sea. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Caspian. *Dialects*: Galeshi (Rural Deylami), Rashti, Rudbari (Urban Deylami), Some'e Sarai, Lahijani, Langerudi, Rudsari, Bandar Anzali, Fumani. Reportedly similar to Mâzanderâni [mzn]. *Type*: SOV; case-marking (3 cases); 22 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, market, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: High in Persian [pes]. Taught as subject in some secondary schools; maximum 2 hours per week on Gilaki culture and literature. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2012. *DLS*: Ascending (0.30). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Heavy influence from Farsi. Muslim.

**Gozarkhani** [goz] (Gozärkhon). *Location*: Qazvin province: Alamut area, Gozarkhan, Tajrish, north of Tehran. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Maraghehi [vmh] and Semnani [smy]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim.

**Gujarati** [guj]. *Users*: 36,800 in Iran (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Gujarati. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; split ergativity; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 31 consonants, 8 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1823–2005. *Writing*: Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Bahrain, Fiji, Kenya, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Zambia. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, Réunion, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

**Gurani** [hac] (Avromani, Awroman, Awromani, Gorani, Hawramani, Hawrami, Hewrami, Hourami, Howrami, Ourami). *Users*: 180,000 in Iran (Paul 2007). Population provisionally estimated to be two-thirds of the 300,000 speakers in Iran and Iraq (2007 L. Paul). *Location*: Kermanshah province; Kordestan province: Iraq border area, Hewraman. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Zaza-Gorani. *Dialects*: Hawraman i Luhon, Hawraman i Taxt, Kandula, Gurani (Gorani), Bewyani,

Gawrajuyi, Zardayana. Zaza-Gurani group includes Southern Zazaki [diq] (Zaza) (Turkey), and Gurani [hac], Bajelani [bjm] (Bajalani), Shabak [sdb], and Sarli [sdf] (Iraq); Hawrami [hac] (Iran). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Most also use Central Kurdish [ckb]. Most also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use Southern Kurdish [sdh]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Other*: Muslim, Ahl-e Haqq. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 300,000. Also established in: Iraq (Macho).

**Harzani** [hrz] (Harzandi). *Users*: 35,800 (2021). *Location*: East Azerbaijan province: Marand-Jolfa area northwest of Tabriz. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Karingani [kgn] and Talysh [tly]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Hazaragi** [haz] (Hazara, Hezare'i, Hezareh). *Users*: 399,000 in Iran (2021). Population increased significantly due to influx of Hazaragi-speaking refugees from Afghanistan. *Location*: Razavi Khorasan province: widespread, especially urban centers. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2008–2015. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Ethnic group names are (Central) Dai Kundi, Dai Zangi, Behsud, Yekaulang, (Southern) Polada, Urusgani, Jaguri, Ghazni Hazaras, Dai Miradad. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,660,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Afghanistan. Also established in: Pakistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Tajikistan.

**Hulaulá** [huy]. *Users*: 350 in Iran. *Location*: Kordestan: Kerend, Sanandaj, and Saqqez. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern, Trans-Zab. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Central Kurdish [ckb]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Worldwide*: Also indigenous in: Israel.

**Iranian Sign Language** [psc] (Persian Sign Language, ZEI, Zaban Eshareh Irani). *Users*: 250,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 165,000–330,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.2%–0.4% of total population. Ethnic population: 3,000,000 (2019). Total deaf and hard of hearing population reported to be as high as 3,000,000 (Sanjabi et al 2016). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Type*: SOV; one-handed fingerspelling system representing written Farsi (Arabic script). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Some also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: First school for deaf children founded in 1920s by Jabbar Baghcheban, who introduced a system for representing the sounds of Farsi manually in oralist education, which eventually was repurposed and adapted as a fingerspelling system representing written Farsi. Significant dialect differences between those born before or after the 1979 Iranian revolution, with greater use of fingerspelling in the older generation (Sanjabi et al 2016).

**Jadgali** [jdg] (Jat, Jatgali, Jatki). *Users*: 10,000 in Iran (2017). *Location*: Sistan and Baluchestan province: Saravan area. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-

Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Sindhi. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Different from Inku [jat] of Afghanistan. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,600. Indigenous in: Pakistan.

**Kabatei** [xkp]. *Location*: Gilan province: Rudbar district. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: Kalas, Kabate. Reportedly similar to Upper Taromi [tov]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.

**Kajali** [xkj]. *Location*: East Azerbaijan province: Kaqazkonan district, Kajal. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Shahrudi [shm] and Koresh-e Rostam [okh]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Karakalpak** [kaa]. *Users*: 55,300 in Iran (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2019. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 871,970. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan.

**Karingani** [kgn] (Karingani-Kalasuri-Khoynarudi, Keringani). *Users*: 22,800 (2021). *Location*: East Azerbaijan province: Dizmar district, Keringan village; Hasanu district, northeast of Tabriz. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: Various dialects. Reportedly very similar to Harzani [hrz]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to South Azerbaijani [azb]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.

**Kashkay** [qxq] (Kashkai, Qašqā'ī, Qashqa'i, Qashqay, Turki). *Users*: 1,020,000 (2021). Ethnic population: 2,000,000 (2021). *Location*: Fars province: most; Bushehr, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Esfahan, and Hormozgan provinces; Gachsaran, Firuzabad, and Shiraz are centers. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Turkic, Southern. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Azerbaijani [azb]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, commerce. Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use Southern Luri [luz]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: High in Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.08). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Nomadic. Muslim.

**Kazakh** [kaz] (Gazaqi, Kazak, Kazakhi). *Users*: 3,000 in Iran (1982). *Location*: Golestan province: Gorgan city, Caspian sea area. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 18 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1820–2011. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China and Iran. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,517,990 (as L1: 16,382,990; as L2: 135,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan. Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in:

Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United States.

**Khalaj** [klj] (Arghu, Chaladsch, Jalái, Turkic Khalaj). *Users*: 19,000 (2018). *Location*: Qom province: northeast of Arak. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Turkic, Southern. *Dialects*: Not a dialect of Azerbaijani [azb], as previously supposed. Distinct from other extant Turkish languages (Doerfer et al 1971). *Lg Use*: Adults only. Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literate in Persian [pes]. *Dictionary*. *Grammar*. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Muslim.

**Kho'ini** [xkc]. *Location*: Zanjan province: Kho'in district. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: Various dialects. Related to Kabatei [xkp] and Takestani [tk]. Closely related varieties spoken in nearby villages of Balbavin, Sefidkamar, Halab, and Sa'dabad. *Lg Use*: Shifting to South Azerbaijani [azb]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.

**Khorasan Arabic** [auz]. *Users*: 5,000 in Iran (Versteegh 2014). *Location*: South Khorasan province. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects*: None known. Khorasan Arabic is affected by interference from Persian, unlike Uzbeki Spoken Arabic, which is heavily influenced by Turkic (Versteegh 2014). *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Iranian Persian [pes] (Versteegh 2014). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,700. Also indigenous in: Uzbekistan (Uzbeki Spoken Arabic).

**Khorasani Turkish** [kmz] (Quchani, West Khorasani Turkic, West Xorasan Turkic, Xorasan, Xorasan Turkic). *Users*: 960,000 (2021). *Location*: Northeast, North Khorasan Province, northwest of Mashhad; Bojnurd area (West Quchani, Quchan area (North or Northeast Quchani, probably largest), Soltanabad area near Sabzevar (South Quchani). *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Dialects*: West Quchani (Northwest Quchani), North Quchani (Northeast Quchani), South Quchani. Midway linguistically between Azerbaijani and Turkmen [tuk], but not a dialect of either. The Oghuz-Uzbek dialect of Uzbek, Northern [uzn] in Uzbekistan is reportedly a dialect. Different from Khorasani, a local Persian dialect in Khorasan. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Grammar*. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Khunsari** [kfm] (Khunsaric, Kuk). *Users*: 27,100 (2021). *Location*: Esfahan province: Isfahan and Kashan areas. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Dialects*: May be one of a large complex of dialects in Esfahan Province. Other Northwestern closely related dialects include Vonishun, Qohrud, Keshe, Zefre, Sedeh, Gaz, Kafran, Mahallat, So, Mejme, and Djaushaqan. Distinct from Kumzari [zum] of Oman. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Koresh-e Rostam** [okh]. *Location*: East Azerbaijan province: Koresh-e Rostam district. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.

**Koroshi** [ktl]. *Users*: 160. 40–50 families (Borjian 2014). Ethnic population: 10,000 (Nourzaei et al 2015). *Location*: Fars province; Hormozgan province, near Bandar Abbas. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi. *Dialects*: None known. Closely related to Southern Balochi [bcc]. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Appears to be Baluchi with some features of Farsi. They work for the Qashqa’i people.

**Kurdish, Central** [ckb] (Kordi, Korkora, Kurdi, Kurdy, Sine’i, Sorani, Wawa). *Users*: 571,000 in Iran (2021). *Location*: West Azerbaijan and Kordestan provinces; also Hamadan, Kermanshah, and Zanjan provinces; Mahabad area (Mukri dialect); Sanandaj (Sine) area (Sanandaji dialect). *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto provincial working language in northwest. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. *Dialects*: Mukriyani (Kordi, Mokri, Mukri), Jafi, Pijdari, Ardelani (Sanandaji, Sina’i, Sine’i, Sineyi). *Type*: SOV; no grammatical gender or case; noun head initial; tense-split ergative pattern; 9 vowel phonemes, 31 consonant phonemes (McCarus 2009). *Lg Use*: Mukri dialect also used as literary language similar to Central Kurdish (Sorani) literary language used in Iraqi Kurdistan (Hajo 1994). Used as L2 by Gurani [hac], Hulaulá [huy]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: High in Persian [pes]. Taught as subject in secondary schools in Saqqez. Taught as subject at 2 universities. Fully developed. Bible: 2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. *Other*: 90% in cities or villages, 10% nomadic. Kordi may also refer to Northern Kurdish varieties (such as in Khorasan Province), and Southern Kurdish [sdh] varieties, such as Kermanshahi [sdh]. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,287,840. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Iraq. Unestablished in: Kuwait, Sweden, United States.

**Kurdish, Northern** [kmr] (Eastern Kurmanji, Kordi, Kordi Kormanji, Kurdi, Kurmancî, Kurmanji). Autonym: Kurdî-Kurmancî, Kurmancî. *Users*: 527,000 in Iran (2021). *Location*: Gilan and Golestan provinces; North Khorasan province: Quchan and Bojnurd towns; Mazandaran province: Kalardast region; Razavi Khorasan, Qazvin, and West Azerbaijan provinces; east of the Caspian Sea, north and west of Lake Urmia (Khorasani Kurmanji dialect). *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. *Dialects*: Khorassani Kurmanji, Southeastern Kurmanji. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in 1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Other*: Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Georgia, Lebanon, Turkmenistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

**Kurdish, Southern** [sdh] (Kurdî Xwarîn, Pehlewani). *Users*: 3,840,000 in Iran (2021). *Location*:

Hamadan, Ilam, Lorestan, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, and Kordestan provinces; Sistan and Baluchestan province: southeast small area. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. A member of macrolanguage Kurdish [kur] (Iraq). *Dialects*: Kolyai, Kermanshahi (Kermanshani), Kalhori, Garrusi (Bijari), Sanjabi, Malekshahi (Maleksh ay), Bayray, Kordali, Luri (Lori). *Lg Use*: Home. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use Northern Luri [lrc]. Used as L2 by Gurani [hac]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1894–1900. *DLS*: Emerging (0.08). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Other*: Muslim, Ahl-e Haqq. *Worldwide*: Also indigenous in: Iraq.

**Laki** [lki] (Alaki, Leki). *Users*: 1,260,000 (2021). 150,000 monolinguals. *Location*: Ilam, Hamadan, and Lorestan provinces: Aleshtar, Khorramabad, Kuhdasht, and Nurabad-e Dolfan. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. *Dialects*: Lexical similarity: 70% with Iranian Persian [pes], 78% with Luristani (Khorramabadi), 69% with Northern Luri [lrc] (central rural dialects). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Most also use Northern Luri [lrc]. Used as L2 by Northern Luri [lrc]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim, Ahl-e Haqq.

**Laraki** [zum] (Komzāri, Komzari). *Users*: 700 in Iran, all users. L1 users: 670 in Iran (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). L2 users: 30 (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). 70 monolinguals (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). *Location*: Hormozgan province: Qeshm, Shahāb, Lārak, Lārak Shahri. Spoken in a single town in Iran. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Luri. *Dialects*: 72% intelligibility of Musandam dialect of Laraki [zum] (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). 93% (100-word list) / 88% (225-word list) with Kumzari [zum] of Musandam; 76% (100-word list) / 66% (225-word list) with Minabi dialect of Bandari; 73% (100-word list) / 71% (225-word list) with Qeshmi dialect of Bandari; 70% (100-word list) / 60% (225-word list) with Iranian Persian [pes]; 12% (100-word list) / 10% (225-word list) with Standard Arabic [arb]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,060 (as L1: 6,030; as L2: 30). Also indigenous in: Oman (Kumzari).

**Lari** [lrl] (Larestani, “Achomi” *pej.*). *Users*: 121,000 (2021). *Location*: Fars province: Lar district, Shiraz; Bushehr and Hormozgan provinces. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Fars. *Dialects*: Lari, Gerashi, Evazi, Khonji, Aheli, Galedari, Ashkanani, Bastaki, Lengeyi, Ashnezi, Dayyeri. Verbal system distinct from Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Use*: Farsi [pes] is the language of education for children beginning at age 7 (2019 M. Ourang). Home. Some young people, all adults. Media and education in Persian [pes] is causing a shift away from teaching Lari to children (2019 M. Ourang). Negative attitudes. Also use Gulf Spoken Arabic [afb]. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: High in Persian [pes]. Taught as subject in some secondary schools. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.05). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim.

**Lasgerdi** [lsa] (Lasjerdi, Läsgerdi, Läsjerdi). *Users*: 1,000 (2006 census). *Location*: Semnan

province: Lasjerd southwest of Semnan. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Semnani. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 72%. *Dictionary*. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Luri, Northern** [lrc] (Lori, Luri, Luristani). *Users*: 1,900,000 (2021). *Location*: Ilam province; Hamadan province: south; Khuzestan province: Andimeshk; Lorestan province: Borujerd, and Khorramabad; Markazi province: south edge. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Luri. *Dialects*: Feyli, Khorramabadi, Borujerdi, Nahavandi, Andimeshki, Bala-Gariva'i, Mahali (Rural Mahali), Cagani, Solasi. Major Northern Luri dialects (Khorramabadi, Borujerdi) are found in Lorestan and Khuzestan. Borujerdi might be transitional between Luri and Persian [pes], as many city dialects are. Some areas in Ilam Province (Posht-e Kuh) reportedly speak Northern Luri dialects. A few villages in Iraq, using a dialect of Northern Luri (Fattah 2000). Reportedly similar to Kumzari [zum]. *Lexical similarity*: Mahali dialect: 80% with Iranian Persian [pes], 69% with Laki [lki], and 73% with Bakhtiâri [bqi] (Haflang); Khorramabadi dialect: 85% with Iranian Persian [pes], 78% with Laki [lki], and 75% with Bakhtiâri (Haflang). Similarity to Iranian Persian [pes] is due to lexical borrowing and language shift. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, commerce. Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use Laki [lki]. Used as L2 by Iranian Persian [pes], Laki [lki], Southern Kurdish [sdh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: High in Persian [pes]. *Radio*. *TV*. *Dictionary*. *Grammar*. *DLS*: Ascending (0.31). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Ethnic groups: Pish-e Kuh, some parts of Posht-e Kuh. Muslim.

**Luri, Southern** [luz] (Lor, Lori, Lori-ye Jonubi, Lur, Ruliy Luri). *Users*: 1,160,000 (2021), increasing. 300,000 monolinguals. *Location*: Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province; Fars province: northwest; Khuzestan province: east; some in Bushehr province. Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, Dehdasht (Kohgiluyeh dialect), Yasuji (Boyerahmadi dialect); Fars province, Nurabad (Mamasani dialect), Shul and Shiraz (Shuli dialect). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Luri. *Dialects*: Boyerahmadi, Yasuji (Yasichi), Kohgiluyeh, Mamasani, Shuli. Southern Luri is on a continuum between Bakhtiari [bqi] and Iranian Persian [pes] dialects such as Bushehri and Southwestern Fars [fay]. A non-Lur tribe in Fars Province called Kurdshuli reportedly speaks a Southern Luri dialect. Their winter quarters are at Qasr-e Dasht near Sivand, 70 km from Sharaz on Shiraz-Esfahan road. Reportedly similar to Kumzari [zum]. *Lexical similarity*: 75% with Iranian Persian [pes], 80% with Bushehri dialect of Iranian Persian; Mamasani dialect 75% with Bakhtiâri [bqi], Boyerahmadi dialect 86% with Bakhtiâri. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, commerce, some media. Used by all. Most also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Iranian Persian [pes], Kashkay [qxq]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: High in Persian [pes]. *Literature*. *Radio*. *Dictionary*. *Grammar*. *Texts*. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Mandaic** [mid] (Mandâyi, Mandôyi, Mandaayi, Mandaean, Mandi, Mandini, Modern Mandaic, Neo-Mandaic, Raṭnâ, Sabe'in, Sabean, Subbi). *Users*: 100 in Iran (2017). *Ethnic population*:

23,000. *Location*: Khuzestan province: Hoveiseh, other towns. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Mandaic. *Dialects*: Ahwaz (Ahvaz), Shushtar (Shustar), Khorramshahr. Iraqi Neo-Mandaic became extinct during the 20th century. Shushtar dialect may have no remaining speakers. The Khorramshahr and Ahwaz dialects are mutually intelligible. *Type*: SVO; 2 genders (masculine, feminine); 3 voices (active, middle, passive); 2 aspects (perfective, imperfective); 28 consonants, 6 vowels and 5 diphthongs; trilateral roots. *Lg Use*: Ethnic group of 5,000 in Khuzestan, Iran, speak Iranian Persian [pes] (1994 H. Mutzafi). Older adults only. Positive attitudes. Most shifted to Iranian Persian [pes]. Most shifted to Mesopotamian Spoken Arabic [acm]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Mandaic script. *Other*: Mandaean. *Worldwide*: Also indigenous in: Iraq.

**Mandaic, Classical** [myz] (Classical Mandaean). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Iran. No ethnic community. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Mandaic. *Dialects*: None known. Appears to be the direct ancestor of Modern Mandaic [mid]. *Lg Use*: Liturgical language used by followers of the Mandaean religion. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Mandaic script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also established in: Iraq.

**Maraghei** [vmh]. *Location*: Gilan province: upper Rudbar county (Rudbar-e Alamut). *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialect*: Dikini. Various other dialects. Reportedly similar to Gozarkhani [goz]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.

**Mazandarani** [mzn] (Gilaki, Mazanderani, Sari, Tabri). *Users*: 2,380,000 (2021), decreasing. Some monolinguals in rural areas. Ethnic population: 4,600,000 (2021). *Location*: Mazandaran province; some in Golestan and Semnan provinces. *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Caspian. *Dialects*: Mazanderani, Gorgani, Firoozkoohi. *Lg Use*: Reportedly increased interest, but increasing desire for children to be educated and therefore be taught Iranian Persian [pes] as first language to better their opportunities. Home, market, work. Mixed attitudes, from neutral to positive. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Very low. Literacy rate in L2: Very high in Persian [pes]. The educated can read Farsi [pes] well. Taught as subject in some secondary schools; maximum 2 hours per week on Mazandarani culture and literature. Literature. Radio. TV. Videos. Bible portions: 2021. *DLS*: Ascending (0.31). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Natanzi** [ntz]. *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Location*: Esfahan province: Natanz village on Isfahan-Kashan road. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Dialects*: Natanzi, Yarani (Yarandi), Farizandi. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Nayini** [nyq] (Biyabanak). *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Location*: Esfahan province: Anarak and Nayin east of Isfahan; Khur and Mehrjan, northeast of Isfahan (Khuri dialect). *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Dialects*: Nayini, Anarak, Khuri. Dialects listed may be separate languages. Khuri

distinct from other dialects. Related to Zoroastrian Dari [gbz]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

**Parsi-Dari** [prd] (Parsee, Parsee-Dari, Parsi). *Users*: 27,500 (2019). Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Dialects*: None known. Related to Dari [gbz]. *Lg Use*: Little use of other languages. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Zoroastrian.

**Pashto, Southern** [pbt] (Paktu, Pashtu, “Afghani” *pej.*). *Users*: 169,000 in Iran (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Razavi Khorasan and South Khorasan provinces: Afghanistan border east of Qa’en. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pashto. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; causatives. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2011–2019. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other*: Different from Northern Pashto [pbu] of Pakistan and India. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,871,430 (as L1: 16,391,430; as L2: 3,480,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan. Unestablished in: Belgium, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

**Persian** [fas]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 67,469,860. *DLS*: . *Other*: Includes: Dari [prs] (Afghanistan), Iranian Persian [pes]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,469,860.

**Persian, Iranian** [pes] (Farsi, New Persian, Parsi, Persian, West Persian, Western Farsi). *Users*: 75,200,000 in Iran, all users. L1 users: 53,800,000 in Iran (2021), increasing. 800,000 Eastern Farsi in Khorasan speak dialects which are transitional with Iranian Persian. L2 users: 21,400,000 (2021). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1979, Constitution, Article 15). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. A member of macrolanguage Persian [fas]. *Dialects*: Khuzestani, Ketabi, Tehrani, Fars Persian, Malayeri, Qazvini (Qazvini Persian), Mahalati (Mahalhamadani), Kashani, Esfahani, Sevei, Kermani (Kermani Persian), Araki, Karbalai, Sistani Persian, Mashadi (Meshed), Yazdi, Bandari, Bushehri, Kermanshahi Persian, Gorgani Persian, Perso-Tabaric, Qomi Persian, Khorasan Persian. Mutually intelligible with Dari [prs] and Tajiki [tgk]. Literary language virtually identical in Iran and Afghanistan, with very minor lexical differences. Many dialects may be separate languages. *Type*: SOV; noun head initial; no articles; tense and aspect; causatives; 23 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; stress on final syllable (or root). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Also use English [eng]. Also use Northern Luri [lrc]. Also use South Azerbaijani [azb]. Also use Southern Luri [luz]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1845–1995. *DLS*: Vital (0.82). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran.

*Other:* Muslim, Baha'i, Christian. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000). Also established in: Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

**Punjabi, Eastern** [pan]. *Users:* 36,800 in Iran (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Panjabi. *Type:* SOV; postpositions; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; 15 consonant and 24 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low). *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1959–2017. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Gurmukhi script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Fiji, Kenya, Mauritius, Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Réunion, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

**Razajerdi** [rat]. *Location:* Qazvin province. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects:* Various dialects. Related to Takestani [tks]. *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS:* Still. *Other:* Muslim.

**Romani, Balkan** [rmn] (Romani éhib). Autonym: Romani, Romani éhib. *Users:* 36,800 in Iran (2021). *Location:* Qazvin Province: Abyek district, Zargar village. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Balkan. *Dialects:* Zargari Romani, Romano. *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Printed or pre-recorded Romani language materials may not be understandable outside the country (or context of surrounding languages) in which they were produced. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2015. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, used in Greece. Latin script, used in Serbia. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 803,740 (as L1: 603,740; as L2: 200,000). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Serbia. Also established in: Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine. Unestablished in: France, Germany, Italy, Sweden.

**Rudbari** [rdb]. *Location:* Zanjan province: Sefid Rud valley. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects:* Various dialects. Transitional to Caspian languages. Related to Vafsi [vaf]. *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other:* Muslim.

**Sangisari** [sgr] (Mahdi Shahri, Mehdishahri, Sangesari, Sangsari, Sengiseri, Sengsari, Sängesäri, Sängsari, Sängsäri). *Users:* 43,300 (2021). *Location:* Semnan province; Shamirzad north of Mehdi (Shahmirzadi dialect). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Semnani. *Dialect:* Shahmirzadi. *Lg Use:* Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 89%. Literature.

Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim, Baha'i.

- Semnani** [smy] (Simnani). *Users*: 70,400 (2021). *Location*: Semnan province. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Semnani. *Dialects*: Biyabunaki might be a dialect of Semnani. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 93% in Persian [pes]. Literature. Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.
- Senaya** [syn] (Christian Neo-Aramaic, Lshan Sray, Senaaya, Shan Gyanan, Shan Sray, Soray, Sray). *Users*: 60 (1997 H. Mutzafi). *Location*: Qazvin and Tehran provinces. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Dialects*: None known. Qazvin variety slightly different from that spoken by Sanandaj-born people. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Syriac script. *Other*: Christian.
- Shahmirzadi** [srz]. *Location*: Semnan province: Shahmirzad. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Caspian. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Mazanderani [mzn] and Gilaki [glk]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *DLS*: Still.
- Shahrudi** [shm] (Koluri). *Location*: East Azerbaijan province: Khalkhal and Shahrud districts, Kolor, Lerd, and Shal. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: Reportedly similar to Koresh-e Rostam [okh]. Different from Sharudi, an Iranian Persian [pes] dialect. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.
- Sivandi** [siy]. *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Location*: Fars province: Sivand, northwest of Shiraz on Shiraz-Isfahan Road. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.
- Soi** [soj]. *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.
- Sorkhei** [sqo]. *Users*: 11,900 (2021). *Location*: Semnan province: Sorkheh, southwest of Semnan. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Semnani. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 86%. Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.
- Tajik** [tgk]. *Users*: 91,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Type*: SOV; verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; causatives; 27 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; nono-tonal; stress on final syllable. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes], especially men. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Bible: 1992–1999. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1928. Cyrillic script, used since 1940, primary usage. Hebrew script, used by Bukharan Jews in Uzbekistan. Latin script, used between 1928–1940. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,287,420. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

Also established in: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan. Unestablished in: Germany, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Ukraine.

**Takestani** [tks] (Southern Tati, Takistani, Tati). *Users*: 405,000 (2021). *Location*: Qazvin province: Takestan area; Markazi and Zanjan provinces: Saveh area. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: Khalkhal, Tarom, Zanjan, Kharaqan, Ramand (Takestan). Khalkhal dialect is reportedly similar to Talysh [tly]. Transitional between Talysh and Semnani [smy] languages. Similar to Eshtehardi [esh]. *Lg Use*: Most shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Eshtehardi [esh]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Different from Tat [ttt] of the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, and Iran. Muslim.

**Talysh** [tly] (Talesh, Taleshi, Talish, Talishi, Talyshi). *Users*: 158,000 in Iran (2021). *Location*: Ardebil province: Ardabil and Namin counties; Gilan province: Kapur-Chal, Masal, and Masuleh, to Azerbaijan border in Caspian coastal plain and mountain areas. Astara, Azerbaijan, and the Caspian littoral areas (Northern Talyshi dialect); Gilan province: Asalem-Hashtpar area along Caspian littoral (Central Talyshi dialect); Gilan province: Masal, Masuleh, Shandermen, and surrounding mountainous areas (Southern Talyshi dialect). *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: Northern Talyshi, Central Talyshi, Southern Talyshi. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literate in Persian [pes]. Newspapers. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in Azerbaijan. *Other*: Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 229,590. Also indigenous in: Azerbaijan. Unestablished in: Russian Federation.

**Taromi, Upper** [tov]. *Location*: East Azerbaijan province: upper Tarom; Zanjan province: Hazarrud and Siavarud areas. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh. *Dialects*: Various dialects. Reportedly similar to Kabatei [xkp]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.

**Tat, Muslim** [ttt] (Mussulman Tati). *Users*: 8,000 in Iran. *Location*: Gilan and Qazvin provinces. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Tat. *Lg Use*: Shifted to South Azerbaijani [azb]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Cyrillic script, used in Russia. Latin script, official usage in Azerbaijan. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Different from Takestani [tks] of Iran. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 34,020. Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Azerbaijan, Russian Federation.

**Turkish** [tur]. Autonym: Türkçe. *Users*: 11,900 in Iran (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; indefinite articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; comparatives; 19 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentiality. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1827–2006. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous.

*Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey. Also established in: Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Syria, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

**Turkmen** [tuk] (Torkomani, Türkmen dili, Türkmençe). *Users*: 765,000 in Iran (2021). Ethnic population: 2,650,000 (2021). *Location*: Golestan, Razavi Khorasan, and North Khorasan provinces: Turkmenistan border area; Mazandaran province: Gonbad-e Kavus and Pahlavi Dezh. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkmenian. *Dialects*: Anauli, Khasarli, Nerezim, Nokhurli (Nohur), Chavdur, Esari (Esary), Goklen (Goklan), Salyr, Saryq, Teke (Tekke), Yomud (Yomut), Trukmen. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; no articles; case-marking (5 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 23 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; vowel harmony; evidentials. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan and Iran. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan, not used in Afghanistan. Latin script, official usage in Turkmenistan since 1991. *Other*: Not a literary language in Iran. Many are seminomadic. Ethnic groups: Yomut, Goklan. Turkmen in Iran shows many Persian [pes] features. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,562,260. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Afghanistan, Turkmenistan. Also established in: Iraq, Russian Federation, Turkey. Unestablished in: Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

**Urdu** [urd]. *Users*: 91,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postposition; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; direct and oblique cases; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 35 consonants, 21 vowels; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1843–1998. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Bangladesh (Bihari), Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Nepal, South Africa. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

**Vafsi** [vaf]. *Users*: 22,800 (2021). *Location*: Markazi province: Arak district, Vafs, near Tafresh; some in Hamadan province. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran. *Dialects*: Various dialects. Transitional between central

Iranian dialects and Talysh [tly]; reportedly very similar to Ashtiani [atn]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Muslim.

## Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Iran are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

### 10,000,000 to 99,999,999

**Persian, Iranian** [pes] *Users:* 53,800,000 in Iran (2021), increasing. 800,000 Eastern Farsi in Khorasan speak dialects which are transitional with Iranian Persian. 75,200,000 in Iran, all users. L2 users: 21,400,000 (2021). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1979, Constitution, Article 15). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000).

**Azerbaijani, South** [azb] *Users:* 11,600,000 in Iran (2021). Ethnic population: 17,200,000 (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,935,990 (as L1: 14,932,010; as L2: 3,980).

### 1,000,000 to 9,999,999

**Kurdish, Southern** [sdh] *Users:* 3,840,000 in Iran (2021). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous).

**Gilaki** [glk] *Users:* 2,550,000 (2021), decreasing. 2,000 Galeshi. Ethnic population: 4,600,000 (2021). *Status:* 4 (Educational).

**Mazandarani** [mzn] *Users:* 2,380,000 (2021), decreasing. Some monolinguals in rural areas. Ethnic population: 4,600,000 (2021). *Status:* 5\* (Developing).

**Luri, Northern** [lrc] *Users:* 1,900,000 (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken** [acm] *Users:* 1,360,000 in Iran (2021). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,162,050.

**Bakhtiâri** [bqi] *Users:* 1,270,000 (2021). 350,000 monolinguals. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Laki** [lki] *Users:* 1,260,000 (2021). 150,000 monolinguals. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Luri, Southern** [luz] *Users:* 1,160,000 (2021), increasing. 300,000 monolinguals. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Kashkay** [qxd] *Users:* 1,020,000 (2021). Ethnic population: 2,000,000 (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

### 100,000 to 999,999

**Khorasani Turkish** [kmz] *Users:* 960,000 (2021). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous).

**Turkmen** [tuk] *Users:* 765,000 in Iran (2021). Ethnic population: 2,650,000 (2021). *Status:* 5\*

(Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,562,260.

**Balochi, Western** [bgn] *Users*: 763,000 in Iran (2021). All Balochi in Iran: 2,000,000 (2021).

*Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,283,350.

**Kurdish, Central** [ckb] *Users*: 571,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto provincial working language in northwest. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,287,840.

**Kurdish, Northern** [kmr] *Users*: 527,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

**Balochi, Southern** [bcc] *Users*: 514,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,570,700.

**Takestani** [tks] *Users*: 405,000 (2021). *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Dari** [prs] *Users*: 401,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 30,291,510 (as L1: 10,277,510; as L2: 20,014,000).

**Hazaragi** [haz] *Users*: 399,000 in Iran (2021). Population increased significantly due to influx of Hazaragi-speaking refugees from Afghanistan. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,660,000.

**Arabic, Gulf Spoken** [afb] *Users*: 282,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,097,400.

**Iranian Sign Language** [psc] *Users*: 250,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 165,000–330,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.2%–0.4% of total population. Ethnic population: 3,000,000 (2019). Total deaf and hard of hearing population reported to be as high as 3,000,000 (Sanjabi et al 2016). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous).

**Aimaq** [aiq] *Users*: 239,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,891,900.

**Gurani** [hac] *Users*: 180,000 in Iran (Paul 2007). Population provisionally estimated to be two-thirds of the 300,000 speakers in Iran and Iraq (2007 L. Paul). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 300,000.

**Pashto, Southern** [pbt] *Users*: 169,000 in Iran (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,871,430 (as L1: 16,391,430; as L2: 3,480,000).

**Talysh** [tly] *Users*: 158,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 229,590.

**Lari** [lrl] *Users*: 121,000 (2021). *Status*: 6b (Threatened).

**Fars, Southwestern** [fay] *Users*: 113,000 (2021). *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Armenian** [hye] *Users*: 111,000 in Iran (2021). *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,699,000.

**10,000 to 99,999**

- Tajik** [tgk] *Users:* 91,000 in Iran (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,287,420.
- Urdu** [urd] *Users:* 91,000 in Iran (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).
- Semnani** [smy] *Users:* 70,400 (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).
- Georgian** [kat] *Users:* 67,200 in Iran (2021). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,878,780 (as L1: 3,724,240; as L2: 154,540).
- Karakalpak** [kaa] *Users:* 55,300 in Iran (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 871,970.
- Sangisari** [sgr] *Users:* 43,300 (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).
- Gujarati** [guj] *Users:* 36,800 in Iran (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).
- Punjabi, Eastern** [pan] *Users:* 36,800 in Iran (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000).
- Romani, Balkan** [rnm] *Users:* 36,800 in Iran (2021). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 803,740 (as L1: 603,740; as L2: 200,000).
- Harzani** [hrz] *Users:* 35,800 (2021). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).
- Parsi-Dari** [prd] *Users:* 27,500 (2019). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous).
- Ashtiani** [atn] *Users:* 27,100 (2021). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).
- Khunsari** [kfm] *Users:* 27,100 (2021). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).
- Brahui** [brh] *Users:* 23,800 in Iran (2021), increasing. *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,865,000.
- Karingani** [kgn] *Users:* 22,800 (2021). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).
- Vafsi** [vaf] *Users:* 22,800 (2021). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).
- Khalaj** [klj] *Users:* 19,000 (2018). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).
- Assyrian Neo-Aramaic** [aii] *Users:* 15,000 in Iran (1994). Ethnic population: 112,000 (2021). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).
- Sorkhei** [sqo] *Users:* 11,900 (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).
- Turkish** [tur] *Users:* 11,900 in Iran (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).
- Jadgali** [jdg] *Users:* 10,000 in Iran (2017). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all

countries: 25,600.

## 1,000 to 9,999

**Dari, Zoroastrian** [[gbz](#)] *Users:* 8,000 (1999). *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

**Tat, Muslim** [[ttt](#)] *Users:* 8,000 in Iran. *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 34,020.

**Bashkardi** [[bsg](#)] *Users:* 7,030 (2000). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

**Gazi** [[gzi](#)] *Users:* 7,030 (2000). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

**Natanzi** [[ntz](#)] *Users:* 7,030 (2000). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened).

**Nayini** [[nyq](#)] *Users:* 7,030 (2000). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened).

**Sivandi** [[siy](#)] *Users:* 7,030 (2000). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

**Soi** [[soj](#)] *Users:* 7,030 (2000). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened).

**Khorasan Arabic** [[auz](#)] *Users:* 5,000 in Iran (Versteegh 2014). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,700.

**Kazakh** [[kaz](#)] *Users:* 3,000 in Iran (1982). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,517,990 (as L1: 16,382,990; as L2: 135,000).

**Lasgerdi** [[lsa](#)] *Users:* 1,000 (2006 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

## 100 to 999

**Laraki** [[zum](#)] *Users:* 670 in Iran (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). 700 in Iran, all users. L2 users: 30 (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). 70 monolinguals (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 6,060 (as L1: 6,030; as L2: 30).

**Hulaulá** [[huy](#)] *Users:* 350 in Iran. *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

**Koroshi** [[ktl](#)] *Users:* 160. 40–50 families (Borjian 2014). Ethnic population: 10,000 (Nourzaei et al 2015). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

**Mandaic** [[mid](#)] *Users:* 100 in Iran (2017). Ethnic population: 23,000. *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

## 10 to 99

**Senaya** [[syn](#)] *Users:* 60 (1997 H. Mutzafi). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

## 0

**Avestan** [[ave](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status:* 9 (Second language only).

**Mandaic, Classical** [[myz](#)] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Iran. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known.

## Unknown

**Dezfuli** [[def](#)] *Users*: Very few. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct).

**Alviri-Vidari** [[avd](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Arabic, Standard** [[arb](#)] *Users*: 1,320,000 in Iran (2015 SIL), all users. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1979, Constitution, Article 16), used in education. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

**Dzhidi** [[jpr](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 55,000.

**Eshtehardi** [[esh](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Fars, Northwestern** [[faz](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Gozarkhani** [[goz](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Kabatei** [[xkp](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Kajali** [[xkj](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Kho'ini** [[xkc](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Koresh-e Rostam** [[okh](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Maraghei** [[vmh](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Razajerdi** [[rat](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Rudbari** [[rdb](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Shahmirzadi** [[srz](#)] *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous).

**Shahrudi** [[shm](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Taromi, Upper** [[tov](#)] *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

## Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Iran are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

### 1 (National)

**Persian, Iranian** [pes] *Users:* 75,200,000 in Iran, all users. L1 users: 53,800,000 in Iran (2021), increasing. 800,000 Eastern Farsi in Khorasan speak dialects which are transitional with Iranian Persian. L2 users: 21,400,000 (2021). *Status:* Statutory national language (1979, Constitution, Article 15). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Also use English [eng]. Also use Northern Luri [lrc]. Also use South Azerbaijani [azb]. Also use Southern Luri [luz]. *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 1845–1995. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000).

### 3 (Wider communication)

**Azerbaijani, South** [azb] *Users:* 11,600,000 in Iran (2021). Ethnic population: 17,200,000 (2021). *Status:* Spoken as primary language by 18 people groups around the 19th century. Has no official status. Used at home, in literature, and trade. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Also use English [eng]. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Alviri-Vidari [avd], Armenian [hye], Iranian Persian [pes], Karingani [kgn], Kho'ini [xkc], Muslim Tat [ttt]. *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 2013. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iraq and Iran. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,935,990 (as L1: 14,932,010; as L2: 3,980).

**Kurdish, Central** [ckb] *Users:* 571,000 in Iran (2021). *Status:* De facto provincial working language in northwest. *Lg Use:* Mukri dialect also used as literary language similar to Central Kurdish (Sorani) literary language used in Iraqi Kurdistan (Hajo 1994). Used as L2 by Gurani [hac], Hulaulá [huy]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,287,840.

### 4 (Educational)

**Arabic, Standard** [arb] *Users:* 1,320,000 in Iran (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* Recognized language (1979, Constitution, Article 16), used in education. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

**Armenian** [hye] *Users:* 111,000 in Iran (2021). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, church. Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use South Azerbaijani [azb]. *Writing:* Armenian script,

primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,699,000.

**Gilaki** [glk] *Users*: 2,550,000 (2021), decreasing. 2,000 Galeshi. Ethnic population: 4,600,000 (2021). *Lg Use*: Home, market, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2012. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

## 5 (Developing)

**Balochi, Southern** [bcc] *Users*: 514,000 in Iran (2021). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,570,700.

**Balochi, Western** [bgn] *Users*: 763,000 in Iran (2021). All Balochi in Iran: 2,000,000 (2021). *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Brahui [brh]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,283,350.

**Mazandarani** [mzn] *Users*: 2,380,000 (2021), decreasing. Some monolinguals in rural areas. Ethnic population: 4,600,000 (2021). *Lg Use*: Reportedly increased interest, but increasing desire for children to be educated and therefore be taught Iranian Persian [pes] as first language to better their opportunities. Home, market, work. Mixed attitudes, from neutral to positive. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. TV. Videos. Bible portions: 2021. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Talysh** [tly] *Users*: 158,000 in Iran (2021). *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in Azerbaijan. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 229,590.

## 5 (Dispersed)

**Dari** [prs] *Users*: 401,000 in Iran (2021). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 30,291,510 (as L1: 10,277,510; as L2: 20,014,000).

**Georgian** [kat] *Users*: 67,200 in Iran (2021). *Writing*: Braille script. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, primary usage. Khutsuri (Asomtavruli and Nuskhuri) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,878,780 (as L1: 3,724,240; as L2: 154,540).

**Kazakh** [kaz] *Users*: 3,000 in Iran (1982). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China and Iran. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,517,990 (as L1: 16,382,990; as L2: 135,000).

**Kurdish, Northern** [kmr] *Users*: 527,000 in Iran (2021). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in

1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

**Pashto, Southern** [pbt] *Users*: 169,000 in Iran (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,871,430 (as L1: 16,391,430; as L2: 3,480,000).

**Turkmen** [tuk] *Users*: 765,000 in Iran (2021). Ethnic population: 2,650,000 (2021). *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan and Iran. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan, not used in Afghanistan. Latin script, official usage in Turkmenistan since 1991. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,562,260.

## 6a (Vigorous)

**Aimaq** [aiq] *Users*: 239,000 in Iran (2021). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,891,900.

**Arabic, Gulf Spoken** [afb] *Users*: 282,000 in Iran (2021). *Lg Use*: The largest of 5 Khamseh clans uses Iranian Persian [pes] as L1. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Lari [lrl]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,097,400.

**Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken** [acm] *Users*: 1,360,000 in Iran (2021). *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Mandaic [mid]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 18,162,050.

**Bakhtiâri** [bqi] *Users*: 1,270,000 (2021). 350,000 monolinguals. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, commerce. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Dezfuli [def]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Hazaragi** [haz] *Users*: 399,000 in Iran (2021). Population increased significantly due to influx of Hazaragi-speaking refugees from Afghanistan. *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,660,000.

**Iranian Sign Language** [psc] *Users*: 250,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 165,000–330,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.2%–0.4% of total population. Ethnic population: 3,000,000 (2019). Total deaf and hard of hearing population reported to be as high as 3,000,000 (Sanjabi et al 2016). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Some also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary.

**Jadgali** [jdg] *Users*: 10,000 in Iran (2017). *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,600.

**Kashkay** [qxq] *Users*: 1,020,000 (2021). Ethnic population: 2,000,000 (2021). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, commerce. Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use Southern Luri [luz]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Khorasani Turkish** [kmz] *Users:* 960,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Kurdish, Southern** [sdh] *Users:* 3,840,000 in Iran (2021). *Lg Use:* Home. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use Northern Luri [lrc]. Used as L2 by Gurani [hac]. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 1894–1900. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran.

**Laki** [lki] *Users:* 1,260,000 (2021). 150,000 monolinguals. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Most also use Northern Luri [lrc]. Used as L2 by Northern Luri [lrc]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Lasgerdi** [lsa] *Users:* 1,000 (2006 census). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Luri, Northern** [lrc] *Users:* 1,900,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, commerce. Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use Laki [lki]. Used as L2 by Iranian Persian [pes], Laki [lki], Southern Kurdish [sdh]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Luri, Southern** [luz] *Users:* 1,160,000 (2021), increasing. 300,000 monolinguals. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, commerce, some media. Used by all. Most also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Iranian Persian [pes], Kashkay [qxq]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Parsi-Dari** [prd] *Users:* 27,500 (2019). Very few monolinguals. *Lg Use:* Little use of other languages. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Sangisari** [sgr] *Users:* 43,300 (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Semnani** [smy] *Users:* 70,400 (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Shahmirzadi** [srz] *Lg Dev:* Dictionary.

**Sorkhei** [sqo] *Users:* 11,900 (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary.

## 6b (Threatened)

**Assyrian Neo-Aramaic** [aii] *Users:* 15,000 in Iran (1994). Ethnic population: 112,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Senaya [syn]. *Writing:* Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

**Brahui** [brh] *Users:* 23,800 in Iran (2021), increasing. *Lg Use:* Neutral attitudes. Also use Iranian Persian [pes]. Also use Western Balochi [bgn]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic

script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script, used in one newspaper. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,865,000.

**Gurani** [[hac](#)] *Users*: 180,000 in Iran (Paul 2007). Population provisionally estimated to be two-thirds of the 300,000 speakers in Iran and Iraq (2007 L. Paul). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Most also use Central Kurdish [[ckb](#)]. Most also use Iranian Persian [[pes](#)]. Also use Southern Kurdish [[sdh](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 300,000.

**Laraki** [[zum](#)] *Users*: 700 in Iran, all users. L1 users: 670 in Iran (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). L2 users: 30 (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). 70 monolinguals (Anonby and Yousefian 2011). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,060 (as L1: 6,030; as L2: 30).

**Lari** [[lrl](#)] *Users*: 121,000 (2021). *Lg Use*: Farsi [[pes](#)] is the language of education for children beginning at age 7 (2019 M. Ourang). Home. Some young people, all adults. Media and education in Persian [[pes](#)] is causing a shift away from teaching Lari to children (2019 M. Ourang). Negative attitudes. Also use Gulf Spoken Arabic [[afb](#)]. Also use Iranian Persian [[pes](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Natanzi** [[ntz](#)] *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Nayini** [[nyq](#)] *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Soi** [[soj](#)] *Users*: 7,030 (2000).

## 7 (Shifting)

**Alviri-Vidari** [[avd](#)] *Lg Use*: Shifting to South Azerbaijani [[azb](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar.

**Ashtiani** [[atn](#)] *Users*: 27,100 (2021). *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [[pes](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Bashkardi** [[bsg](#)] *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [[pes](#)].

**Dzhidi** [[jpr](#)] *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [[pes](#)]. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 55,000.

**Eshtehardi** [[esh](#)] *Lg Use*: Shifting to Takestani [[tkz](#)].

**Fars, Northwestern** [[faz](#)] *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [[pes](#)]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Fars, Southwestern** [[fay](#)] *Users*: 113,000 (2021). *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [[pes](#)]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Gazi** [[gzi](#)] *Users*: 7,030 (2000). *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [[pes](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Gozarkhani** [[goz](#)] *Lg Use*: Shifting to Iranian Persian [[pes](#)]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Harzani** [hrz] *Users:* 35,800 (2021). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Kabatei** [xkp] *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes].

**Kajali** [xkj] *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Karingani** [kgn] *Users:* 22,800 (2021). *Lg Use:* Shifting to South Azerbaijani [azb].

**Khalaj** [klj] *Users:* 19,000 (2018). *Lg Use:* Adults only. Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar.

**Kho'ini** [xkc] *Lg Use:* Shifting to South Azerbaijani [azb].

**Khunsari** [kfm] *Users:* 27,100 (2021). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Koresh-e Rostam** [okh] *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes].

**Maraghei** [vmh] *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes].

**Razajerdi** [rat] *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes].

**Romani, Balkan** [rmn] *Users:* 36,800 in Iran (2021). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, used in Greece. Latin script, used in Serbia. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 803,740 (as L1: 603,740; as L2: 200,000).

**Rudbari** [rdb] *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Shahrudi** [shm] *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Sivandi** [siy] *Users:* 7,030 (2000). *Lg Use:* Also use Iranian Persian [pes].

**Takestani** [tks] *Users:* 405,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Most shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. Used as L2 by Eshtehardi [esh]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Taromi, Upper** [tov] *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes].

**Vafsi** [vaf] *Users:* 22,800 (2021). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

## 8a (Moribund)

**Dari, Zoroastrian** [gbz] *Users:* 8,000 (1999). *Lg Use:* Used by Persian Zoroastrians in personal communications as a private language. Shifted to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Texts. *Writing:* Unwritten.

**Hulaulá** [huy] *Users:* 350 in Iran. *Lg Use:* Shifted to Central Kurdish [ckb]. *Writing:* Hebrew script.

**Khorasan Arabic** [auz] *Users:* 5,000 in Iran (Versteegh 2014). *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Iranian Persian [pes] (Versteegh 2014). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,700.

**Mandaic** [mid] *Users:* 100 in Iran (2017). Ethnic population: 23,000. *Lg Use:* Ethnic group of

5,000 in Khuzestan, Iran, speak Iranian Persian [pes] (1994 H. Mutzafi). Older adults only. Positive attitudes. Most shifted to Iranian Persian [pes]. Most shifted to Mesopotamian Spoken Arabic [acm]. *Writing*: Mandaic script.

**Tat, Muslim** [ttt] *Users*: 8,000 in Iran. *Lg Use*: Shifted to South Azerbaijani [azb]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Cyrillic script, used in Russia. Latin script, official usage in Azerbaijan. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 34,020.

## 8b (Nearly extinct)

**Dezfuli** [def] *Users*: Very few. *Lg Use*: Elderly only. Many shifted to Bakhtiâri [bqi]. Many shifted to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Arabic script, Nastaliq variant.

**Koroshi** [ktl] *Users*: 160. 40–50 families (Borjian 2014). Ethnic population: 10,000 (Nourzaei et al 2015). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant.

**Senaya** [syn] *Users*: 60 (1997 H. Mutzafi). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii]. *Writing*: Syriac script.

## 9 (Second language only)

**Avestan** [ave] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Lg Use*: The sacred language of Zoroastrian scriptures. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Avestan script, used until 7th century. Gujarati script.

**Mandaic, Classical** [myz] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Iran. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Lg Use*: Liturgical language used by followers of the Mandaean religion. *Writing*: Mandaic script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known.

## Unestablished

**Gujarati** [guj] *Users*: 36,800 in Iran (2021). *Writing*: Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

**Karakalpak** [kaa] *Users*: 55,300 in Iran (2021). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 871,970.

**Punjabi, Eastern** [pan] *Users*: 36,800 in Iran (2021). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Gurmukhi script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000).

**Tajik** [tgk] *Users*: 91,000 in Iran (2021). *Lg Use*: Also use Iranian Persian [pes], especially men. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1928. Cyrillic script, used since 1940, primary usage. Hebrew script, used by Bukharan Jews in Uzbekistan. Latin script, used between 1928–1940. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,287,420.

**Turkish** [tur] *Users:* 11,900 in Iran (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

**Urdu** [urd] *Users:* 91,000 in Iran (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

## Languages by Province

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Iran. Under the name of each province is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

### Ardebil

- Armenian [hye], 12
- Azerbaijani, South [azb], 13
- Talysh [tly], 27

### Bushehr

- Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 11
- Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 11
- Kashkay [qxq], 18
- Lari [lrl], 21
- Luri, Southern [luz], 22

### Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari

- Bakhtiari [bqi], 13
- Kashkay [qxq], 18

### East Azerbaijan

- Armenian [hye], 12
- Azerbaijani, South [azb], 13
- Harzani [hrz], 17
- Kajali [xkj], 18
- Karingani [kgn], 18
- Koresh-e Rostam [okh], 19
- Shahrudi [shm], 26
- Taromi, Upper [tov], 27

### Esfahan

- Bakhtiari [bqi], 13
- Gazi [gzi], 15
- Georgian [kat], 15
- Kashkay [qxq], 18
- Khunsari [kfm], 19
- Natanzi [ntz], 23
- Nayini [nyq], 23

### Fars

- Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 11
- Fars, Northwestern [faz], 15
- Fars, Southwestern [fay], 15

- Kashkay [qxq], 18
- Koroshi [ktl], 20
- Lari [lrl], 21
- Luri, Southern [luz], 22
- Sivandi [siy], 26

### Gilan

- Gilaki [glk], 16
- Kabatei [xkp], 18
- Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 20
- Maraghei [vmh], 23
- Talysh [tly], 27
- Tat, Muslim [ttt], 27

### Golestan

- Kazakh [kaz], 18
- Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 20
- Mazandarani [mzn], 23
- Turkmen [tuk], 28

### Hamadan

- Kurdish, Central [ckb], 20
- Kurdish, Southern [sdh], 20
- Laki [lki], 21
- Luri, Northern [lrc], 22

### Hormozgan

- Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 11
- Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Bashkardi [bsg], 14
- Kashkay [qxq], 18
- Koroshi [ktl], 20
- Laraki [zum], 21
- Lari [lrl], 21

### Ilam

- Kurdish, Southern [sdh], 20
- Laki [lki], 21
- Luri, Northern [lrc], 22

**Kerman**

- Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 11
- Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Balochi, Western [bgn], 14
- Bashkardi [bsg], 14
- Dari, Zoroastrian [gbz], 14
- Parsi-Dari [prd], 24

**Kermanshah**

- Gurani [hac], 16
- Kurdish, Central [ckb], 20
- Kurdish, Southern [sdh], 20

**Khuzestan**

- Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 11
- Bakhtiâri [bqi], 13
- Dezfuli [def], 15
- Kurdish, Southern [sdh], 20
- Luri, Northern [lrc], 22
- Luri, Southern [luz], 22
- Mandaic [mid], 22

**Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad**

- Bakhtiâri [bqi], 13
- Luri, Southern [luz], 22

**Kordestan**

- Gurani [hac], 16
- Hulaulá [huy], 17
- Kurdish, Central [ckb], 20
- Kurdish, Southern [sdh], 20

**Lorestan**

- Bakhtiâri [bqi], 13
- Kurdish, Southern [sdh], 20
- Laki [lki], 21
- Luri, Northern [lrc], 22

**Markazi**

- Alviri-Vidari [avd], 11
- Ashtiani [atn], 12
- Bakhtiâri [bqi], 13
- Eshtehardi [esh], 15
- Luri, Northern [lrc], 22
- Takestani [tk], 27
- Vafsi [vaf], 28

**Mazandaran**

- Aimaq [aiq], 11
- Georgian [kat], 15
- Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 20
- Mazandarani [mzn], 23
- Turkmen [tuk], 28

**North Khorasan**

- Khorasani Turkish [kmz], 19
- Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 20
- Turkmen [tuk], 28

**Qazvin**

- Azerbaijani, South [azb], 13
- Gozarkhani [goz], 16
- Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 20
- Razajerdi [rat], 25
- Romani, Balkan [rmn], 25
- Senaya [syn], 26
- Takestani [tk], 27
- Tat, Muslim [ttt], 27

**Qom**

- Alviri-Vidari [avd], 11
- Khalaj [klj], 19

**Razavi Khorasan**

- Hazaragi [haz], 17
- Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 20
- Pashto, Southern [pbt], 24
- Turkmen [tuk], 28

**Semnan**

- Lasgerdi [lsa], 21
- Mazandarani [mzn], 23
- Sangisari [sgr], 25
- Semnani [smy], 26
- Shahmirzadi [srz], 26
- Sorkhei [sqo], 26

**Sistan and Baluchestan**

- Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Balochi, Western [bgn], 14
- Bashkardi [bsg], 14
- Brahui [brh], 14
- Jadgali [jdg], 17
- Kurdish, Southern [sdh], 20

**South Khorasan**

Balochi, Western [bgn], 14

Dari [prs], 14

Khorasan Arabic [auz], 19

Pashto, Southern [pbt], 24

**Tehran**

Parsi-Dari [prd], 24

Senaya [syn], 26

**West Azerbaijan**

Armenian [hye], 12

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], 12

Azerbaijani, South [azb], 13

Kurdish, Central [ckb], 20

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 20

**Yazd**

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 11

Dari, Zoroastrian [gbz], 14

Parsi-Dari [prd], 24

**Zanjan**

Azerbaijani, South [azb], 13

Kho'ini [xkc], 19

Kurdish, Central [ckb], 20

Rudbari [rdb], 25

Takestani [tks], 27

Taromi, Upper [tov], 27

## Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Iran. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern**

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], [12](#)

Senaya [syn], [26](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern, Trans-Zab**

Hulaulá [huy], [17](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Mandaic**

Mandaic [mid], [22](#)

Mandaic, Classical [myz], [23](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic**

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], [11](#)

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], [11](#)

Arabic, Standard [arb], [11](#)

Arabic, Uzbeki Spoken [auz], [19](#)

### **Dravidian, Northern**

Brahui [brh], [14](#)

### **Indo-European, Armenian**

Armenian [hye], [12](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Balkan**

Romani, Balkan [rmn], [25](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Sindhi**

Jadgali [jdg], [17](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian**

Avestan [ave], [12](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pashto**

Pashto, Southern [pbt], [24](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi**

Balochi, Southern [bcc], [13](#)

Balochi, Western [bgn], [14](#)

Bashkardi [bsg], [14](#)

Koroshi [ktl], [20](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Caspian**

Gilaki [glk], [16](#)

Mazandarani [mzn], 23

Shahmirzadi [srz], 26

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Central Iran**

Ashtiani [atn], 12

Dari, Zoroastrian [gbz], 14

Fars, Northwestern [faz], 15

Gazi [gzi], 15

Khunsari [kfm], 19

Natanzi [ntz], 23

Nayini [nyq], 23

Parsi-Dari [prd], 24

Sivandi [siy], 26

Soi [soj], 26

Vafsi [vaf], 28

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish**

Kurdish, Central [ckb], 20

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 20

Kurdish, Southern [sdh], 20

Laki [lki], 21

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Semnani**

Lasgerdi [lsa], 21

Sangisari [sgr], 25

Semnani [smy], 26

Sorkhei [sqo], 26

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Talysh**

Alviri-Vidari [avd], 11

Eshtehardi [esh], 15

Gozarkhani [goz], 16

Harzani [hrz], 17

Kabatei [xkp], 18

Kajali [xkj], 18

Karingani [kgn], 18

Kho'ini [xkc], 19

Koresh-e Rostam [okh], 19

Maraghei [vmh], 23

Razajerdi [rat], 25

Rudbari [rdb], 25

Shahrudi [shm], 26

Takestani [tkc], 27

Talysh [tly], 27

Taromi, Upper [tov], 27

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Unclassified**

Dezfuli [def], 15

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Zaza-Gorani**

Gurani [hac], 16

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Fars**

Fars, Southwestern [fay], 15

Lari [lrl], 21

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Luri**

Bakhtiâri [bqi], 13

Kumzari [zum], 21

Luri, Northern [lrc], 22

Luri, Southern [luz], 22

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian**

Aimaq [aiq], 11

Dari [prs], 14

Dzhidi [jpr], 15

Hazaragi [haz], 17

Persian, Iranian [pes], 24

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Tat**

Tat, Muslim [ttt], 27

**Kartvelian, Georgian**

Georgian [kat], 15

**Sign language, Deaf community sign language**

Iranian Sign Language [psc], 17

**Turkic, Southern**

Kashkay [qxq], 18

Khalaj [klj], 19

**Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani**

Azerbaijani, South [azb], 13

**Turkic, Southern, Turkish**

Khorasani Turkish [kmz], 19

**Turkic, Southern, Turkmenian**

Turkmen [tuk], 28

**Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian**

Kazakh [kaz], 18

## Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 87 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

<b>acm</b>	Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken, 11	<b>kat</b>	Georgian, 15
<b>afb</b>	Arabic, Gulf Spoken, 11	<b>kaz</b>	Kazakh, 18
<b>aii</b>	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, 12	<b>kfm</b>	Khunsari, 19
<b>aiq</b>	Aimaq, 11	<b>kgn</b>	Karingani, 18
<b>arb</b>	Arabic, Standard, 11	<b>klj</b>	Khalaj, 19
<b>atn</b>	Ashtiani, 12	<b>kmr</b>	Kurdish, Northern, 20
<b>auz</b>	Arabic, Uzbeki Spoken, 19	<b>kmz</b>	Khorasani Turkish, 19
<b>avd</b>	Alviri-Vidari, 11	<b>kti</b>	Koroshi, 20
<b>ave</b>	Avestan, 12	<b>lki</b>	Laki, 21
<b>azb</b>	Azerbaijani, South, 13	<b>lrc</b>	Luri, Northern, 22
<b>aze</b>	Azerbaijani, 12	<b>lrl</b>	Lari, 21
<b>bcc</b>	Balochi, Southern, 13	<b>lsa</b>	Lasgerdi, 21
<b>bgn</b>	Balochi, Western, 14	<b>luz</b>	Luri, Southern, 22
<b>bqi</b>	Bakhtiâri, 13	<b>mid</b>	Mandaic, 22
<b>brh</b>	Brahui, 14	<b>myz</b>	Mandaic, Classical, 23
<b>bsg</b>	Bashkardi, 14	<b>mzn</b>	Mazandarani, 23
<b>ckb</b>	Kurdish, Central, 20	<b>ntz</b>	Natanzi, 23
<b>def</b>	Dezfuli, 15	<b>nyq</b>	Nayini, 23
<b>esh</b>	Eshtehardi, 15	<b>okh</b>	Koresh-e Rostam, 19
<b>fas</b>	Persian, 24	<b>pan</b>	Punjabi, Eastern, 25
<b>fay</b>	Fars, Southwestern, 15	<b>pbt</b>	Pashto, Southern, 24
<b>faz</b>	Fars, Northwestern, 15	<b>pes</b>	Persian, Iranian, 24
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This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

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