

Abdullah Incekan. *Kurdisch für Fortgeschrittene. Lehr- und Arbeitsbuch des Kurmancî mit Lösungen und Audiomaterial*

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Electronic version

URL: <https://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/54699>

DOI: [10.4000/abstractairanica.54699](https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.54699)

ISSN: 1961-960X

Publisher:

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Electronic reference

Khanna Omarkhali, "Abdullah Incekan. *Kurdisch für Fortgeschrittene. Lehr- und Arbeitsbuch des Kurmancî mit Lösungen und Audiomaterial*", *Abstracta Iranica* [Online], Volume 44 | 2022, document 1, Online since 30 July 2022, connection on 07 August 2022. URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/54699> ; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.54699>

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Abdullah Incekan. *Kurdisch für Fortgeschrittene. Lehr- und Arbeitsbuch des Kurmancî mit Lösungen und Audiomaterial*. Wiesbaden : Reichert Verlag, 2021, 272 p.

- 1 Kurmanji – also called Northern Kurdish and spoken by the majority of Kurds – is the northern dialect of the Kurdish language, which belongs to the north-western Iranian group within the Indo-European language family. The political situation of the Kurds and the absence of official institutions supporting the development of the language, as well as assimilation attempts in some countries, has influenced the development of Kurmanji, and it still faces many unsolved issues, e.g. that of standardisation.
- 2 There is a number of Kurmanji grammars and textbooks available in German or German translation, e.g. Emir Djeladet Bedir Khan and Roger Lescot: *Kurdische Grammatik / Kurmancî-Dialekt* (Berlin, Bonn 1986); Petra Wurzel: *Rojbaş. Einführung in die kurdische Sprache* (Wiesbaden, 1997), to name but a few. To these is now added the course book *Kurdisch für Fortgeschrittene. Lehr- und Arbeitsbuch des Kurmancî mit Lösungen und Audiomaterial* (Kurdish for advanced learners. Teaching and Workbook of Kurmancî with key to the exercises and audio material) published by Reichert publishing house (Wiesbaden 2021). It is meant (p. 9) as a continuation of the author's introductory course book *Kurdish Kompakt. Lehr- und Übungsbuch mit Lösungen und CD* (Wiesbaden 2010, 2015).

- 3 The book under review is designed for advanced learners. It consists of 21 lessons, each of which contains an authentic text as well as brief and clear explanations of various aspects of Kurmanji grammar (case system, tenses, ergativity, adjectives, suffixes, etc.) and exercises. Some colloquial forms are also explained. At the end of the book the author provides a key to the exercises, Kurdish-German and German-Kurdish glossaries, a table with verbs and an index of grammatical themes. The book comes with audio material, both on CD and online.
 - 4 The texts are from different regions, thus showing the spectrum of regional variation of Kurmanji. While the sources are not always named, most texts are taken from publications of the publishing houses Nûbihar (e.g. by Bedran Ezeban, Rojen Bernas) and Avesta (e.g. by Mueyed Teyib, Jan Dost) in Turkey, some are by writers from the Soviet Union (e.g. Emerîkê Serdar, Fêrikê Usiv) and some from the Kurdish oral tradition. There is also an appendix that contains five texts (pp. 131-139). Two texts are from Sivas province, one is by the author himself, and the other two are translations of excerpts from *Anton Pavlovich Chekhov* (“Zêrê Qezenckirî”, translated by Heciyê Cindî) and *Franz Kafka* (“Lêxistina li derîyê serayê” by the author of the book under review).
 - 5 The book also reflects the problem of non-standardised orthography: in some places the author follows Bedirxan’s orthography, e.g. by noting the *i* preceding *y* as short, e.g. *beqê jî gotiyê* (p. 26) “and the frog told him”, while p. 27 he writes *ketîyî* and *ketîye* with long “î” before “y”. The “strong *r*” is noted as *r* on p. 104 (*dengê zarokekî*), but as *rr* on p. 20 (*birrîn, kirrîn*).
 - 6 The book is well structured, has all tools for self-learning and is definitely recommended for all those who wish to improve their Kurmanji skills either by self-study or in a language course aiming at the level B1-B2.
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