

On the Etymology of Some Place-names of the Arasbārān Region

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This scholarly article explores the historical and linguistic roots of several place names in the Arasbārān region, located in northwestern Iran. The study focuses on toponyms containing the elements *-dil*, *siγ-*, *-kalā*, and *xū/ōγ-*, aiming to trace their etymological origins through a multidisciplinary approach combining historical linguistics, geography, and regional ethnography.

The author investigates how these linguistic elements may reflect influences from ancient languages once spoken in the region, such as Iranian, and possibly Caucasian languages. For instance, the suffix *-dil* might point to Old Persian or Median linguistic layers, while elements like *siγ-* could indicate connections with ancient place-naming traditions or natural features.

By analyzing these place names in their geographical and cultural contexts, the article sheds light on the deep historical roots of the region's identity. It also underscores the importance of toponyms as living linguistic fossils that preserve traces of migration patterns, political history, and cultural interaction.

The study contributes to Iranian historical linguistics by offering new hypotheses about how certain place names in Arasbārān evolved, and it invites further research into the region's linguistic heritage and its role in shaping local identity.

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