

COLLOQUIAL TEXTS IN SARIKOLI

BY

T. N. PAKHALINA

As is well known, so far only a few texts representing the Iranian language spoken in Sarikol have been published. What we have got are in all three short tales taken down by R. B. Shaw and presented by him in his treatise "On the Ghalchah Languages (Wakhí and Sarikolí)" in 1876.¹ Some Sarikoli songs communicated in 1920 by E. and P. Sykes in their book "Through Deserts and Oases of Central Asia" were only presented in English so that no fresh linguistic information can be obtained from their work.

The materials collected by R. B. Shaw, the tales already mentioned, a sketch of the grammar, and a list of words, have subsequently been utilized by quite a number of scholars in their contributions devoted to the comparative and historical study of Iranian languages and dialects.²

The colloquial Sarikoli texts here published were taken down by the present writer in Sarikol in 1957. They represent only a small portion of all the materials collected, the complete publication of which is in preparation.³ The texts were recorded while conversing with Sarikolis, most of whom were our permanent

¹ Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. 45, 1876.

² Cf. W. Geiger, "Die Pamir-Dialekte" (Grundriss der iranischen Philologie, I, 2); W. Tomaschek, "Die Pamir-Dialekte" (Central-asiatische Studien, Wien, 1880), numerous articles by G. Morgenstierne, I. I. Zarubin, and other scholars.

³ Some specimens have been published in: Iranskij sbornik k semidesjatiptjiletiju professora I. I. Zarubina, Moskva 1963, pp. 81-94, and Kratkije soobščenija Instituta Narodov Azii, 67, Iranskaja Filologija (published in honour of A. A. Freiman), Moskva 1963, pp. 46-54.

aids: Pulod Mamad, born 1924 (from the village of Vačá), Tobylđi Ušur, born 1929 (from the village of Varšidé), and Gylmir Mamad, born 1932 (from the village of Čušmón). Only a few of the colloquial phrases here published were taken down from other Sarikolis, natives of the villages Baldír and Kičiktáŋg.

After every Sarikoli phrase the name of the village from which its author comes is indicated in brackets; the following abbreviations are used: B. = Baldír, Č. = Čušmon, K. = Kičiktáŋg, T. = Tŋŋ, V. = Varšide, Vača = Vača.

Investigations carried on in the area inhabited by Sarikolis have proved that their language is not uniform. Dialectal differences occur, and it seems possible to distinguish between three basic dialects: a central dialect spoken in the villages Varšidé, Tiznéf, Čušmón, and in a part of Baldír, the dialect spoken in the villages Tŋŋ, Kičiktáŋg, Bŋŋŋsól, which differs most from the central dialect, especially in the vocalism, and the intermediate dialect of the villages Vačá, Maryóng and a part of Baldír.

The texts are presented in a phonological notation based on the international system generally adopted for the transcription of Iranian languages.

1. déyr=am yót=o? (V.) - 'did I arrive late?'
2. хы leq wéyðan! (V.) - 'let us undress!'
3. divér báwey! (V.) - 'shut the door!'
4. yóng=am sýt (V.) - 'I caught a cold'.
5. a=tá čoy buxt? (V.) - 'who sent you?'
6. bačó=ri uš xyrón! (V.) - 'feed (nurse) the child!' (uš 'soup, food').
7. мы kól=ik ðizd (V.) - 'my head aches'.
8. wáz=am par ta yot (V.) - 'I came to fetch you'.
9. ta yét=ic waz čósam (V.) - 'I shall await your arrival' ('-wait till your a.').
10. mút=am a=tamáš čéwg=o? (V.) - 'did I distress you?'
11. a=pyléf mír=ri ðo! (V.) - 'give me some money!'
12. waz arón i sewg wázonam (V.) - 'I know only a single tale'.
13. a=čút, beyl mas zozd (B.) - 'he takes the hoe, (and) also the spade'.
14. frk ar čér=at řew qalí (V.) - 'whatever happens ('at any

- work, business') you will turn up' (qatí 'with, along with', here adv.).
15. taw yoð, ca sawd! (K.) - 'do come, if it is possible'
 16. om taw so, om waz! (K.) - 'you go, and I (will go) as well'
 17. i beyt na wázonam, i ɯsɯl na wázonam (V.) - 'I do not know a single song, nor do I know a single dance'.
 18. yad xɯʃrɯy nist, xɯʃrɯyéw yɯ=yur⁴ (V.) - 'she (i. e. the woman here next) is not beautiful, the most beautiful is that (other) one'.
 19. maʒ qárn=aʒ xob séðjit (V.) - 'night had fallen long ago' ('day had become night long ago').
 20. jald=jald wayéw tez! (V.) - 'walk as fast as you can! ('fast-fast')'.
 21. yad čarj, mɯ=r xɯʃ sɯt (V.) - 'this is good, I like(d) it'.
 22. máʒon maš Baldír tézan (V.) - 'in the day-time we shall go to Baldír'.
 23. waz šič xúfsam (V.) - 'I shall go to sleep at once'.
 24. maš ɯmɛyð ɯč lewr (V.) - 'our hope is very great' ('we have every hope').
 25. ewdénj xálg xɛyl ɯč čarj (V.) - 'the people here are very nice'.
 26. mɯ qád=ik az ta sal=pal pastéyz kaxt⁵ (V.) - 'I am a little smaller than you'.
 27. xɯ čarón weyð! (V.) - 'take off your čapan!'⁶
 28. a=qamčí čí čarón=am láčewg (V.) - 'I left the whip on the čapan'.
 29. ta leq tɯ=rɯ rɯsɯðj (V.) - 'your dress becomes you'.
 30. iw mas na wázonam ziv (V.) - 'not even a single language do I know'.
 31. a=dí wazónd na səwd (V.) - 'to understand this is impossible'.
 32. yad pečká at na səwd (V.) - 'this stove cannot be opened' ('- does not open').
 33. ta awuɯ zúxt=o? (V.) - 'did she record ('take (down)') your voice (on the tape-recorder)?'

⁴ the suffix =yur indicates substantive use of a pronoun, a numeral (iwew=yur), or an adjective (zɯl=yur 'the younger, the youngest one').

⁵ the suffix =ɛyz forms abstract nouns: past-ɛyz 'lowness': 'my height slightly makes lowness in proportion to you': sal=pal 'a little, slightly'.

⁶ gown (made of chintz, silk or sateen).

34. a=divér=af šux čəyǰ (V.) – ‘they have (already) locked the door’.
35. maᅒ biyúr=ic čer kanl (V.) – ‘you work from morning till night’ (‘evening’) (‘– all day till evening’).
36. mí=ri mařak lévin (V.) – ‘this (brooch) is called (they call) *mařak*’.
37. waz tuǰik či ziv na wázonam (V.) – ‘I do not understand Tāǰiki’ (‘on the language of the Tāǰiks’ = Russ. *potadžikski*).
38. kɯ=dúnd=am řoyd (V.) – ‘now, that much I have read’.
39. nɯrněǰ səwg ca=ráng? (V.) – ‘to-day’s tale, how was it (was it nice or not)?’
40. suat či cund? – suat či iw (V.) – ‘what o’clock is it? – one o’clock’.
41. řič riřnugi sút (K.) – ‘now it has become light’.
42. xú tar dil a=mú ron (K.) ‘you abuse me by yourself’ (‘in your heart’).
43. mú paprús pódum=ik sawd (K.) – ‘my cigarettes crumble (become dust) (in my pocket)’.
44. lág=am na wanǰit (K.) – ‘I had not seen (him) at all’.
45. lagéw na čómbam (V.) – ‘I shall not agree at all’.
46. wáz=ik mas lévam waxéyǰ ziv (V.) – ‘I also speak Wakhī’.
47. aróy nafar čaréyn čer káyin (V.) – ‘three men are working’.
48. мы γον čift (V.) – ‘my lips have got chapped’.
49. řamúl a=dí řud (V.) – ‘the wind blew it (*viz.*: the candle) out’
50. yad čarm mě přeř (V.) – ‘this skin (leather) is well prepared’.
51. мы cem řa gýdúr řizǰěǰ (Vača) – ‘my eyes have been aching twice’.
52. мы řazén ba řéyl γoc (Vača) – ‘my daughter is a dutiful girl’.
53. yad čer mút=ri na řurd (V.) – ‘this affair (work) does not please me’.
54. mě řatí čæyg luzim nist (Vača) – ‘it is not necessary to hasten very much’
55. zabú tom waz tút=ri řap kam (V.) – ‘afterwards, then I will tell you’.
56. řag nist (V.) – ‘not at all is (such a word) found (in our language)’.

57. tá=nder žyl=myl pyl yóst=o? (V.) – 'have you got a little money?'
58. na=m xeđj veđj (K.) – 'I did not hear (what you asked me).'
59. a=dí tag na wázon! (V.) – 'you at all events do not know this.'
60. nalíst=ir=an tidméj sýt (V.) – 'we wanted to go and sit down'.
61. tæw ar mađón mo ðæy! (Vača) – 'don't break in (on the conversation)!'
62. my kól=ik pir=pir γarst (V.) – 'my head is spinning', 'I feel dizzy (on account of the altitude).'
63. yú=da albáta mû az gap na naxtízd (K.) – 'he will certainly not disobey me'.
64. yad baláx my par kól=ik bylandéyz kašt (V.) – 'this pillow is (fairly) high under my head'.⁷
65. waz k=éwd níṢam, mobudú yz γaðó yođd (Vača) – 'I will sit down just here (for a while), maybe that boy will come'.
66. báli, aǰab čarj čér=at čəǰj! (V.) – 'oh, how well you have done!' ('– you have performed your work!')
67. a=kitúb par balaš ðo! (V.) – 'tuck the book in under the pillow!'
68. yz bemúr seđj, tézam wi ma⁸ kol (V.) – 'he has become ill, I shall go and sit at his bedside' ('– I shall go (and sit) at the head (of his bed)')
69. fýk čer (l)ákan sewd, margí lákan mo sewd! (V.) – 'let happen whatever it may be, (only) let it not be death!'
70. nymoyjénj qír ðar na rast, tez ca, frops! (V.) – 'the mountain that can be seen is not far away, if you set out, you will reach it'.
71. qír pa qír na fropst, xalg pa xalg fropst (V.) – 'mountain will not come to mountain, (but) man will come to man'.⁹

⁷ literally: 'this pillow makes height for my head'; byland=éyz abstract noun formed from byland 'high', cf. p. 63, n. 5.

⁸ ma is in Sarikoli used as a preposition; it corresponds to Shughni *mi-* Roshani *ma-* (Hufl *mi-*) occurring as first members of compounds, cf. I. I. Zarin, *Šugnanskie teksty i slovar'*, 1960, p. 177 b, and V. S. Sokolova, *Rušan-skie i xufskie teksty i slovar'*, 1959, p. 203 a.

⁹ Cf. N. P. *kūh be-kūh namīrasad, ādam be-ādam mīrasad*.

72. i xac pa di čed δéyxon! (V.) – ‘sprinkle some water here in the house!’
73. taw a=xí mo xwcawón, divezdér leq pámez! (V.) – ‘don’t chill yourself, put thicker clothes on!’
74. ingúm=at taw yot ca, wáz=am a=tá wand (V.) – ‘when you were approaching at that moment, I saw you’.
75. mû pa δist stawr, kaló=xayl yost (K.) – ‘I possess great (and) small (horned) cattle’.
76. xoréf maδón lewréw Yurkónd (V.) – ‘of (our) towns Yarkand is the biggest’.
77. divez=divez x̄lmgéf vor! (V.) – ‘bring some exceedingly thick logs!’
78. waz ta pa čed duyím=aθ yódam, taw cáyz=ir na yoδ? (Vača) – ‘I always come to your house (*viz.* to visit) you, why do you not come (to see me)?’
79. yoδ, níθan! – ey, taw láka, uzír mû=yan čer, zabú=ya tom níθan=a! (V.) – ‘come, let us sit down (for a while) – no, drop it, right now I have some work (to do), afterwards, then perhaps we may sit down!’.
80. wáz=am ky=pa=dí ȳinik ḡyriftúr seδj, ná=yik yad mas pec bast, na waz (V.) – ‘I have been captivated by this woman here, neither does she hide her face, nor (do) I’.
81. tí=ri az di kitubéf čidúm x̄lš? – wáz=am k=a=dí r̄xšt r̄yxtí kitúb xu čewg, k=a=dí zózam (V.) – ‘which of these books do you like? – I have taken a fancy just to this book with the red cover, this is the one I will buy’.
82. a=tá narz som, my zorđík taw (V.) – ‘I will sacrifice myself to you, you are my little heart’ (‘– my darling’).
83. či x̄mgénj a=qalám vor, či zymoδénj qalam luzím nist (V.) – ‘bring the pen which is on the board, the pen which lies on the ground is not necessary’.
84. či pečkaénj a=čewgúm vor, či posténj mo vor! (V.) – ‘bring the tea-pot which is on the stove, don’t bring the one which is below!’
85. agar wánd=am=ik a=wí ca, wí=r=am=ik levd (V.) – ‘if I should see him, I would tell him’.
86. x̄éb=at=ik iθčít ca, wi kitúb=am=ik ty=r δujít (V.) – ‘if you had come yesterday, I would have given you that book’.

87. šič=ik mû ar dil kam dayd, mû ziv adu séšj=o? iw dáw=ik nûmúyd, lom nist (K.) – ‘now it runs short in my mind; has my (power of) speech been exhausted (‘- come to an end’)? – one (or) two (words) turn up, then (again) there is nothing (more)’.
88. yû na wazónd=ir vešj (K.) – ‘he in all probability does not know (how to light a lamp)’.
89. paprús tížd waxt ыč qéx=o? (V.) – ũč kéxam (K.) – ‘do you cough much, when you smoke cigarettes?’ – ‘I do cough much’.
90. aróy paprús mú=yan vûd, tar ko sût? (K.) – ‘I had three cigarettes, what has become of them?’ (‘- to where have they gone?’).
91. wáz=am šovdméyĵ vûd, téw=at yot, wáz=am na šuvd (V.) – ‘I intended to go to sleep, (but) you came, (and) I didn’t go to sleep’.
92. ta naviščénĵ sewg ca=ráng? (V.) – ‘the tale you wrote down, how was it?’
93. néwz¹⁰ cavur=pinz maš yost (V.) – ‘still four (or) five days are (left)’ – ‘I have still four or five days left’.
94. či gap čéyg=am vûd, Pylód Mamád dayd (V.) – ‘I was engaged in conversation, (when) Pulod Mamad entered.’
95. xato ca kánam, xeyz kal (V.) – ‘if I make a mistake, (please,) correct me!’
96. xû bačo=kačó=ri gûrm=am čawg, šič mû dil xû pa čed túydáw (T.) – ‘I was longing for my chicks, (so) I want (‘my heart, mind (is)’) to go home straight away’.
97. yы nĵr biyúr na navištméyĵ sŷt (V.) – ‘to-night he did not intend to take down (any tales)’.
98. céyz=ir yot? – vrud xabar zošt (V.) – ‘why did he come?’ – ‘(he came) to call on his brother’.
99. dar=wáxt aló=yik мы tar cem čarĵ nŷmóyd, šič=ik žit nŷmúyd – (V.) ‘formerly it seemed good to me (‘to my eye’), now it seems bad’.
100. cund asúk yost wi qad? (V.) – ‘how tall may he be?’ (‘how much may his height be like?’)

¹⁰ newz=newz ‘still, yet’, Nos. 108, 109: cf. wez/z, ‘a load’, werz/z ‘a bull’.

101. na wanjénj čizéf=i mǎ=ri visónd (V.) – ‘he showed me (such) things which I had not seen (before)’.
102. ca wáxt=ic=ik iš na sýt, tom Wača sóyan (V.) – ‘as long as it has not become cold (yet), we shall proceed to (the village of) Vača’ (= ‘before the weather gets cold, -’).
103. fál=ic=ik ca sýt, tóm=a yódam (V.) – ‘on the day after to-morrow, then, may be, I shall come’ (‘when it has come to the day after to-morrow, then -’).
104. maš xǎbaᅇ na fǎrd=ic xǎlg=ir na dóyan (V.) – ‘until we ourselves have tasted (‘until our own not gulping’) (the soup), we shall not give (it) to the men’.
105. az inguvénj ilú=m čarj (V.) – ‘I feel slightly better than before’.
106. tew bur niᅇ, xǎlg xeyl brózan (V.) – ‘sit down, by all means, the people will have a drink’.
107. biyurnénj gap Pylod mas na wazónd (V.) – ‘yesterday’s word (i. e. the word you wrote down yesterday), Pulad does not understand it either’.
108. newz nyě xum sýt, newz alíd=ir dar=wáxt (V.) – ‘it is only just getting dark (‘evening has only just set in’), it is still (too) early yet to sleep’.
109. newz xer xum na séᅇj=at alósam=o? newz waxt yost (V.) – ‘it has not got dark yet, and am I really to go to sleep? there is still (plenty of) time’.
110. wi čarjéw az pec mas wafu nist¹¹ (V.) – ‘there is no faith whatever in that beauty’.
111. xǎpík=an wi šiletéw xig ciz (V.) – ‘of the bread (it is best) to eat the crumb (‘its softest part’).¹²
112. gǎxǎtéw=am xyg, xǎrvú=yam na byrúxl (V.) – ‘the *meat* I partook of, (but) the soup I did not drink’.
113. wáz=am čarjéw itéq zuxt (V.) – ‘I bought the very best boots’.
114. yot yót=i, pa čedéw=i na deyd (V.) – ‘he actually did come, (but) the house he did not enter’.
115. wef ar maᅇón čarjéw yad (V.) – ‘out of them the very best is this one’.

¹¹ pec ‘face’; čarjéw, properly the superlative of čarj ‘good, beautiful’, in this phrase has the meaning of ‘a beauty’.

¹² šilet-ew, superlative of šilet ‘soft’; xig, short infinitive ‘to eat’; ciz=N.P. čiz.

116. matú=yan wi a=qɪrčéw zozl (V.) – ‘of the materials buy the thickest!’
117. x́íng=an wi a=dɪvezéw x́ɪčéyǵ, wi barikéw láka! (V.) – ‘cut off the thickest (end) of the log, and leave the thinnest one!’
118. ǵíx̄t=an wi farbeyéw xig na číkanam (V.) – ‘the fattest (part) of the meat I cannot eat’.
119. úš=at máš=ir čǵǵ, magár namodǵéw ar wi nist (V.) – ‘soup you have prepared for us, only salt there is not in it’.
120. awú na deyd, turikéw seǵǵ (V.) – ‘the weather has not broken, (but) it has become pitch-dark’.
121. digár i caǵá na seǵǵ, wi peǵéw i vraǵč (V.) – ‘nothing else has happened (to him), he has (only) broken a leg’.
122. az čarǵéw mas yad čarǵ (V.) – ‘this is better than the very best’.
123. čarǵéw=ir ɸɪr čer luzím (V.) – ‘for the best (share) much work is necessary (– it is necessary to work hard)’.
124. waz a=farqéf¹⁸ sɸɪréwan, tom tír=rí ɸom (V.) – ‘I shall pick out (all) distinctions (i. e. differences in words and grammatical forms), (and) then I shall give (them) to you’.
125. a=váz=at mǵwɪ az imí sɸɪréwan, ǵiǵu=ǵiǵu ar ǵal ɸóyan (V.) – ‘we shall separate the goats and the sheep from each other (and) place them separately in the pen’.
126. suwát cavúr=ir wist minút réǵǵit=at xálg xeyl=af tɸyd (V.) – ‘it was 20 minutes to 4 (‘20 minutes to 4 had been left’), when (literally: and) the men went away’.
127. máš=an lewr ca seǵǵ, x=otó a=čéd=an patéwd (V.) – ‘when we had grown up, we left the house of our father’.
128. ta tid a=zabú tom maš aróy maǵ zabú tézan (V.) – ‘after your departure, then we shall set out after three days’.
129. tó=ki kɸ=dí uš péxt=ic niǵ, naxaráǵ mo teǵ! (V.) – ‘sit down (and wait) till this soup is made, don’t leave without having had a meal!’
130. wáz=am aróy ɸéic=ir pa iw aróy yaktú zuǵt (V.) – ‘I bought a shirt for each of (my) three sons’.

¹⁸ the usual meaning of farq in Sarikoli is ‘parting (of the hair)’ (=N.T.).

131. awú patéwd=ic lang, sovz žikér, cbréw! (V.) – 'before the weather breaks up¹⁴, look out for some greens (and) pick (them) up!'
132. wáz=am a=tá tar maktab či tid wand (V.) – 'I saw you when you were walking to school'.
133. agar wáz=am=ik a=wí ca wánjít, wí=r=am=ik lévjít (V.) – 'if I had seen him, I would have told him'.
134. wí cém xeyl=af rux=rúšt seďj (V.) – 'his eyes became bright red (very red, i. e. bloodshot)'.
135. yá=yat i¹⁵ mas az Kušyór ižč (V.) – 'he seems also to have come from Kashgar'.
136. lévd=atí¹⁵ ikó, tamáš mo yóďit? (V.) – 'is it to be supposed that you should not come?'
137. kí=yám=atí¹⁵ ta pyl zužčénj! 'V' – 'it looks as if he had taken your money'.
138. nyr wuz xer nalst=ic sewg lévam, rygán tom maďúr=ic lévam, i a=séwg adu kam xy, tom tézam; tóm=af=ik tamáš az Baldír yot, tom tamáš=ir lévam (Č.) – 'to-day until sunset, I shall still tell (you) a tale, (and) to-morrow, then, until noon, I shall tell (and) finish one tale and then go away; then when you have come (back) from Baldír, then I shall tell (you) (another tale)'.
139. téw=at marzúnj sýt=o? – wáz=am marzúnj sýt, šič sóyam uš xóram; xy qeč seyr kam xy, vúrj=ir wuž wéydam xy, jáld=až yódam (Č.) – 'have you got hungry? – I have got hungry, I will go straight away and have some food; I shall eat my fill ("satisfy my stomach"), I shall feed the horse ("put grass for the horse") and come (back) in a hurry'.
140. az tɯng ižčénj xálg xeyl=af nyr tidméjy vɯd, pigán žylík čer yost, ná tidméjy=af sýt (V.) – 'the people who had arrived from Tung intended to leave to-day, (but) to-morrow there is some ('a little') work (to do), (so) they did not intend to leave'.

¹⁴ patewdew properly means 'to throw (off, away, down), to leave' (No. 127).

¹⁵ the suffix =atí, used only in colloquial language, denotes supposition or conjecture; levd in No. 136 seems to be the short infinitive of levdew 'to say, to speak'.