



## GIŌNI

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**GIŌNI (Giāni)**, a Persian dialect of the Northern Lor type, spoken in the village of Giān/Giō (the archaeological site Giyan Tepe, q.v.), 12 km west of the city of Nehāvand. Giōni is closely related to Bālā Gariva'i and Ḳorramābādi, all of which differ markedly from Southern Lori dialects such as Bakṭiāri and from standard Persian. Giōni shows numerous Northwest Iranian features.

**Phonology.** Giōni has an eleven vowel system /ī, Ī, ē, e, ö, a, ā, ō, o, ū, u/. Ī is articulated extraordinarily close to *i*. Lax *e* has a wide range of articulation, tending to the central. *ö* is a lax front rounded vowel. *ū* is a tense high front rounded vowel. The diphthongs /*öø*, *ōw*, *ay*, *ey*/ occur. *ø* is a front-rounded semivowel.

The consonantal system is close to that of Persian. Early New Persian *ɣ* and *q*, however, have merged in Giōni *q*, a voiceless velar stop. Word-initial *r* and *l* are realized as tensed *R* and *L*, which are also reflexes of geminated *r* and *l*. *R* is trilled; *L* is produced by flattening the tongue tip across the alveolar ridge and allowing breath to escape along the sides of the tongue. *l* in contact with *ī* is realized as *L*.

Raising, merger, fronting, and laxing processes similar to those found in other West Persian dialects occurred in Giōni (see [DEZFŪLĪ-ŠŪŠṬARĪ](#)). Early New Persian *ō* has merged with *ū* as in *gūš* (ear), but *ē* remained a distinct phoneme *Ī* as in *bĪl* (shovel). *ā* was raised to *ō* before nasals as in *dōna* (seed), *šōm* (dinner). *ū* was fronted to *ū̄* before dental stops and *y* as in *dū̄* (smoke), *mū̄* (hair). The sequence *-ih-* became *Ī* as in *bĪ* (quince). *ē* and *ō* were laxed



generally before consonant clusters as in *beḵt* (he sifted), *soḵt* (it burned). *ā* was laxed before the sequence *-nd-* as in *man* (he remained).

*b* was spirantized postvocally as in *kōøk* (partridge), *aftōw* (sun). Syllable-final *d* was often lost as in *bī* (willow), *kūū* (blue; Pers. *kabūd*). *h* in many cases corresponds to early New Persian *kò* as in *harde* (to eat), *hoftie* (to sleep); *f* is dropped and the preceding vowel lengthened in the past stems of the three verbs *gere:te* (to take), *go:te* (to say), *ra:te* (to go).

Synchronically, *ī* raises a preceding *ā* to *ū* as in *emūīm* “we came” (< *emā-* + *īm*); *ī* to *ī* as in *mūīm* “we give” (*mī-* + *dī* + *-īm*); and *ö* to *ü* (imper. sg. *Röø* “go,” pl. *Rūit*); *ū* raises *ā* in the preceding syllable to *ō* as in *bōzū* (arm), *jōrū* (broom); a preceding dental fronts *o* to *ö* as in *tö* (you [sg]), *sös* (weak).

Word-final *n* is deleted without nasalization of the preceding vowel as in *garde* (neck), but plural *gardenyā* (necks).

Nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs are stressed on their final nonenclitic syllables. The verbal prefixes *ba-* (subjunctive, imperative), *na-* (negative), and *ma-* (negative imperative) are stressed. The continuous prefix *mī-* is not.

Morphology. Noun plurals are formed by the stressed suffix *-yā*. The *ezāfa* (q.v.) acts as in Persian, but is realized only after constituents ending in consonants. Thus, *hōna gap* (big house), but *asp-e gap* (big horse). Giöni has a contrastive suffix, stressed *-eka*, which is like colloquial Persian *-ē*. As in Persian, the *ezāfa* is deleted when *-eka* marks noun-modifier strings: *asp-e gap* “big horse,” *asp gapeka* “the big horse.” The definite object marker (= Persian *[r]o*) is unstressed *-(n)a*.

The antecedent of a restrictive relative clause is marked by the enclitic *-ī*. An indefinite noun singled out from another indefinite noun or nouns is marked with a phonetically identical but historically different enclitic *-ī*.

The independent pronouns are: *me*, *tö*, *ū*, *īmā*, *šemā*, *ūnō(n-)*. Suffixal pronouns are: *-(e)m*, *-(e)t*, *-(e)š*, *-(e)mō(n-)*, *-(e)tō(n-)*, *(e)šō(n-)*. Demonstrative pronouns, which cannot modify nouns, are *ya* (this), *va* (that), *yenō(n-)* (these), *venō(n-)* (those). Demonstrative adjectives are *ī* (this/these), *ū* (that/those); plurals of *ī* and *ū*, which act as demonstrative pronouns, are *īnō(n-)*, *ūnō(n-)*. *hī(n-)* corresponds to the Persian possessive formative *māl*: *hīn-e men e* (it’s mine).



The verbal system is close to that of Persian. Present tense endings are stressed – *em*, *-ī*, *-a*, *-īm*, *-īt*, *-an*. Past tense endings have the same phonetic shape, but are unstressed. The third person singular termination in the past is Ø. Examples: *mīrīza* (he pours), *Rekt* (he poured), *mīrekt* (he was pouring). The present perfect is based on a past participle in *-a*: *Rektám* (< *Rektá* + *-m*), *Rektí* (*Rekta* + *-i*, with elision of final *-a* before *ī* of the second person). Third person singular of “be” may occur with all forms: *Rektam a*, *Rektí a*, etc. Past perfect is formed with *bī* “was”: *Rektūim* “I had poured” (*Rekta* + *bī* + *-m*).

An inchoative occurs, formed from present stem plus *-y-*, past stem plus *-es-*: (cf. Mid. Pers. *-ihist*) as in *mīsūzyan* (they are getting burned), *soktes:an* (they got burned). The present inchoative can suggest futurity as in *mītarsyem* (I’ll get scared). A transitivizer *-enā* (Mid. Pers. *-ēnīd*) occurs as in *mīsūzenem* (I burn [it]), *sūzenām* (I burned [it]).

*hīsem* “I am” etc., negative *nīsem*, correspond to Persian *hastam*, *nīstam*. “Become” is expressed with forms built on a root *bū-* as in *mūem* “I become” (< *mī-* + *bū* + *-em*).

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