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## The bibliographies in Iraqi Turkmen Folklore

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### Abstract

Iraqi Turkmen Folklore is a cherished custom passed down through generations within Turkish communities, forming an integral element of Turkish culture. Our research presents and categorizes instances of Iraqi Turkmen folklore, including "Havalar" (folk songs), proverbs, lullabies, "Hoyratlar" (traditional stories), idioms, and riddles.

Ata Terzibaşı, a well-known writer referenced in the paper, collated, studied, and analyzed several Iraqi Turkmen folklore items, comparing them to those from Turkish and Azerbaijani folklore. His creations have been featured in several articles, essays, and books. Research on Turkmen Folklore in Iraq started following the Ottoman era.

**Bibliography:** Bibliography refers to the listing and organization of topics and works utilized in any study or investigation. It is a form of referencing that presents the content in a list format. It shares similarities with specific topics written by an institution and serves as a guiding source for the mentioned references.

**Keywords:** Iraqi Turkmen folklore, Turkish communities, Turkish culture, folk songs

### Introduction

#### **Iraqi Turkmen Folk Songs (Kirkuk, Tuz Khurmatu, Erbil, Mosul-Tal Afar)**

Iraqi Turkmen Folk Songs convey a range of emotions such as love, despair, joy, advise, patriotism, and valor. These songs are believed to have originated and spread in Iraq when the Turks moved there, although the exact timeline is unknown.

Folk melodies in the Turkic realm have varying names throughout the areas inhabited by Iraqi Turkmen.

Abbas al-Azzawi, a well-known Iraqi historian, discusses the distinctive music of the Mongols and Turkmen during their invasion of Iraq in 656 AH in his Arabic book "Music in the Era of the Mongols and Turkmen." He also clarifies that Turkish music was present among the Turkish population in Iraq prior to this era. He observes that localities like Tabriz, Maragha, Karabakh, and other areas with Azerbaijani populations have a rich heritage of lively folk music.

A strong historical relationship exists in language, literature, culture, and music between Turkish people in Iraq and those in locations like Urfa and Diyarbakir in southeastern Anatolia. This link has enhanced the bond between Azerbaijani Turks and Iraqi Turks, enabling the latter to firmly maintain their identity, culture, and music. Nevertheless, as a result of different political eras and conflicts in the area, the resemblances have slowly faded, prompting Iraqi Turks to create their unique music style.

### Examples of Long Folk Songs

Baba, today,  
The mountains have turned green,  
Who slept, who woke up,  
My eyes, my lord.  
Fire fell into my heart,  
My beloved also burned inside,  
Oh, oh, from afar,  
I don't know where to go.

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Baba, today,  
The mountains shattered me,  
Those who saw me cried,  
My eyes, my lord,  
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh,  
Oh, oh, from afar,  
I don't know where to go.

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### **Iraqi Turkmen Hoyrats**

One significant form of Iraqi Turkmen oral literature is hoyrats, a poetic genre comprising quatrains that convey the philosophy, lifestyle, emotions, and worldview of the people. These quatrains succinctly express emotions or thoughts and are transmitted orally and in written form across generations. Hoyrats are four-line poems where individuals convey emotions such as sorrow, sadness, grief, suffering, dishonesty, duplicity, and love.

Ata Terzibaşı, known for his study of Turkmen literature, defined hoyrats as quatrains that convey people's inner emotions through the adept use of small words with profound meanings. Hoyrats, despite their brevity, convey profound and significant emotions and messages, allowing individuals to express their sentiments via rich and meaningful content.

### **Examples of Hoyrats**

If I had gone to Kerkuk,  
And had spoken to the golden rose,  
If I had kissed that blessed soil,  
And then died.

The melody of Altunköprü,  
The yellow melon's fruit,  
Even if I stayed away for a hundred years,  
I wouldn't get over this love.

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### Proverbs and Sayings in Iraqi Turkmen Folklore

Turkmen proverbs embodying the life and cultural aspects of the Turkmen people are conveyed with a genuine and unique manner. They are similar to proverbs in Turkish spoken in Turkey in terms of form and organization. They possess a style that will appeal to everyone in terms of meaning.

Turkmen proverbs encompass a diverse array of themes including the value of work, the dangers of laziness, bravery, dignity, patriotism, friendship, condemnation of uselessness, bribery, envy, wisdom, manners, religious beliefs, lack of love, eloquence, negative effects of unnecessary speech, women's roles in society, neighborly rights, and hospitality. Thus, it is evident that there are several similarities with Turkish proverbs.

### Proverbs Examples

1. "Look at the cloth of the groom, look at his grandmother's daughter; buy the cloth from the edge, buy the daughter from her mother."
2. "A person of habit doesn't give up their habit, A person's character doesn't change."

### Idioms Examples

1. "What's your name? Tell me, What's your job? Come and go."
2. "They said 'Your neck is bent', he replied: 'Is my waist straight?'"
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### Riddles

In Kirkuk, the equivalent of the word "riddle" is "TAPMACA." Suphi Saatçi describes the tradition of asking riddles as follows: "Tapmaca is mainly asked and managed by older individuals such as grandmothers and aunts. Riddles are generally asked in the Kirkuk region in the form of the colloquial expression 'Tap nedi tapış, nedi?' which translates to 'What is found, what is the discovery?' When listeners hear this, they become fully attentive,

understanding that a riddle is about to be asked. Riddles are a way to entertain and educate crowds in lively environments." Tapmacalar ile ilgili örnekler

- 1) Spread beneath, eternal essence, extinguished when dead, life's drama, three main elements, essence of existence, one is wind, one is sun, what is the other? (Water)
- 2) Lelem from hand to above, Speaking from the lake above, I saw a strange bird, From its knees below? (Grasshopper)

### Lullabies

There are approximately two and a half million Turkmen living in Iraq. Like the Turkish people of Anatolia, they are pure and genuine Turks. The Turkic world possesses a rich folkloric structure, and one of the Turkic tribes that carries this richness is the Iraqi Turkmen. Lullabies hold a significant position in Iraqi Turkmen folklore. While in Turkey the term "lullaby" is used, in Iraqi Turkmen dialect, it is referred to as "leyle". Lullabies sung to soothe children do not differ in form and meaning. They are only different in meaning. Lullabies are sung in a style specific to mothers. They serve as a comfort for mothers. The foundation of infinite love and devotion between mother and baby begins with lullabies.

Lull my child, lull,  
Lull my eyes, lull,  
Lull my soul, lull,  
Lull, sweet lull,  
Sleep my child, sleep.

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### Conclusion

The folklore of Iraq, integral to the Turkic world, boasts a significant historical background. It is a lifestyle that developed from the settlement and merging of the traditions of the ancient Oghuz tribes. Iraqi Turkmen folklore include folk beliefs, ceremonial riddles, lullabies, proverbs, and riddles. The study highlights the significance of reproducing printed materials like magazines and newspapers that cover important folklore topics and distributing them to students in schools. It also stresses the importance of introducing and captivating individuals with folklore from a young age.

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