The work

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A demo of a documentary on the Naqshe Khani (Carpet Singing) can be found here: [https://youtu.be/vhgHJ6xiau8](https://youtu.be/vhgHJ6xiau8)

Two categories of work music traditions that accompany carpet weaving:

1. Naqshe Khani (Pattern Singing)

   - consists of recitals and tunes which serve as a guide of patterns for the weavers while they are weaving
   - dialogue between weavers in which one dictates the patterns and the other(s) responds by confirming that the task is done
   - each carpet zone has its own reciting/singing style and customized vocabulary for Pattern Singing
   - example: “Sefid yeki pish raft!” (White goes one front!) and the response to it “pish raft” (It went!)

   A demo of a documentary on the Naqshe Khani phenomenon can be found here: [https://youtu.be/vhgHJ6xiau8](https://youtu.be/vhgHJ6xiau8)

2. The Singings, Prayers and Religious Chants

   - The melodies the weavers sing while weaving are very different in nature. In most cases, the melodies they sing reflect their emotional or physical state at the time of weaving
   - An example of a Qashqai nomad weaver singing while weaving: [https://youtu.be/NhqyIN8CPDg](https://youtu.be/NhqyIN8CPDg)

Research Questions

The following research questions, which were drafted prior to the pilot study, were central for developing the research frame and structure:

- What role do sung or recited genres have on the process of carpet weaving?
- What styles of Naqshe Khani exists today in Iran? In which languages or dialects are they performed?
- Can there be any common patterns of the performed genres identified accompanying the weaving process in the different regions?
- What impact has Naqshe Khani had on the process of carpet weaving?
- Are there crucial differences between carpets belonging to the same category (region and style) which are woven by Naqsh Khani and the ones woven using printed models, woven from memory or imaginary weaving?

Aims and Objectives

At the end of this research, the following results are anticipated:

- Synchronic analysis of the current conditions of existence of the intangible cultural heritage (oral) around carpet weaving
- Analysis of the development and the role of Naqsh Khani in the carpet weaving tradition, the current degree of practice of Naqsh Khani and the effects of its decline
- Comparative musical and linguistic analysis of the Naqsh Khani in four regions of Iran
- Analysis of the musical construction of the Pattern Singing from a modal perspective and mode distribution of Dastgah
- Realisation of a typology of the existing cultural heritage around carpet weaving which will be duly archived, disseminated with an open-access policy within the documentation and publication platform of the Commission “Vanishing Language and Cultural Heritage” at the Austrian Academy of Sciences

Methods

A qualitative contrastive approach with different methods of data elicitation:

- primary methods of data elicitation such as in-depth interviews, life histories, participant observation
- supplemental techniques: weavers’ performances; field notes and written documents (historical texts and diaries)
- the data based on narratives will be subjected to an inductive content analysis
- the analysis of the musical construction of the Naqsh Khani will be carried out from a modal perspective and mode distribution of Dastgah

Stages of Data Sampling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stages</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary interaction</td>
<td>Preparation for the interview, recognizing inhibitions, adjusting methodological approach</td>
<td>- obtaining an outline of weavers’ profile and background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life history / Background interview</td>
<td>The personal info and background of weaving</td>
<td>- Understanding the context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-depth interview and performance recording</td>
<td>Directed questions regarding specific tasks or technical questions</td>
<td>Documentation and identification of the various weavers’ knowledge on the oral and singing cultures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference

FARHADI, Morteza. [2000]: Vanishing languages and cultural heritage. [in Persian: خرید کتاب، کاروان ناکش و کارفکانه، فراموش شدگان و اسناد کارورزی، دانشگاه علوم اجتماعی، تهران، جلد 1، صفحات 103-111] (in English: The work songs, the forgotten work songs of workers and masters, Social Sciences periodical, Tabatabai university).

