

A Content Analysis of Some Agricultural Work Songs in South Khorasan

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Abstract

In the present study, the work songs of South Khorasan in the field of agriculture are investigated. The tools and stages of planting, growing, and harvesting of the major crops of South Khorasan, including wheat, barley, barberry, and saffron, are reflected in these work songs. "Sickle" (=Mengal) is the most crucial tool of the farmer's work which is compared to a "beloved" without whom life is impossible. "Scales" is another tool that is mentioned in these songs. The stages of planting, growing, and harvesting, including threshing and separating straw from grain, are reflected in the work songs of wheat and barley. The barberry tree is depicted as a woman who is expected to be fertile and reproductive. Different stages of planting, growing, and especially the harvesting of barberry are mentioned, including how to pick, dry, transport, and market it. The saffron flower is likened to a beautiful bride taken by the farmer and lifted from the ground. The right time and season to pick saffron flowers to have high-quality saffron are mentioned in these work songs. What distinguishes the present research from similar researches is that in the current study, the different stages of agricultural work, namely planting, growing, and harvesting, which is reflected in the work songs, have been taken into account.

Keywords: Work Songs, South Khorasan, Barberry and Saffron, Wheat and Barely

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