

# Abkhaz

## A Comprehensive Self-Tutor

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Abkhaz belongs to the small North West Caucasian language-family, whose other members are the various Circassian dialects and Ubykh, extinct since 1992. It is spoken by (a) upto 100,000 Abkhazians either in the historical homeland of the Republic of Abkhazia, located in north-west Transcaucasia, or in Russia, and (b) an indeterminate number of members of the diaspora-communities, which have been centred on Turkey since the great exodus from Abkhazia following Russia's conquest of the North Caucasus in 1864; ethnic Abkhazians in Turkey number between 300,000 and half a million, and smaller communities are found elsewhere in the Near East (plus Europe and America). Each member of the language-family is characterised by (i) large consonantal phoneme-inventories coupled with minimal vowel-systems, (ii) morphs often consisting of just a consonant(-complex) ± vowel, and (iii) extreme polysynthetic verbal complexes, all of which combine to present the learner/speaker with considerable challenges. Serious attempts to provide Abkhaz (and Circassian) with scripts only began in Tsarist Russia in the late 19th century, by which date all speakers of Ubykh had migrated to the Ottoman Empire (settling in regions of today's Turkey). Since that time, a number of orthographies have been used for Abkhaz.

The current, Cyrillic-based standard in Abkhazia was devised (by a committee!) after Stalin died (1953), though a slight spelling reform was introduced in the late 1990s to regularise the marking of the feature of labialisation. The most divergent Abkhaz dialect, Abaza, is spoken in the actual North West Caucasus (Russia), where it has its own alphabet. Whilst grammatical sketches and grammars of Abkhaz designed for linguists exist in a variety of languages (including the author's grammar 'Lingua Descriptive Studies 2: Abkhaz', originally published in 1979, though it was most recently reprinted), this is the first attempt to produce a comprehensive, graded self-tutor. It is based on the literary dialect, Abzhywa, which is one of only two dialects remaining in the ancestral territory (the other being Bzyp). The work consists of: Introduction, 19 explanatory chapters with exercises plus one chapter of texts, an Appendix dealing with mathematical terms, Key to the exercises, and a grammatical Summary.

ISBN 978 3 89586 670 8. LINCUM Student Grammars 03. USD 80.50 / EUR 65.40 / GBP 55.60. Course discounts available! Please ask.

different families achieve their levels of complexity, with polysynthetic verbal systems coupled with minimal noun-morphology in the North West contrasting with complex nominal morphologies accompanied by relatively simply verbal structures in the North Central and North East, with South Caucasian occupying a middle area of reasonably complex verbal and nominal systems together.

### Chapter 5 Syntax

This is the largest of the chapters and introduces material from members of all the families for all the major syntactic constructions. Since syntactic properties are normally not examined in detail in the traditional grammars produced by native linguists, the information contained here should be especially useful.

### Chapter 6 Lexis

Some properties of word-formation are presented, especially the numerical systems.

### Chapter 7 What Does the Future Hold?

There is a discussion of the scripts employed for the literary languages of the region, and the opportunity is taken to stress views already expressed by the author as to the possibility of introducing a roman-based orthography that could be used to represent ANY of the northern languages. Failing this, a unified Cyrillic-based system is also discussed.

### Appendix Kartvelian Preverbs

The book, which is dedicated to the memory of Helma van den Berg, who died during the final weeks of its preparation, is completed by a comprehensive list of references which should serve as a useful bibliography for anyone new to the subject.

Unlike G. Klimov's earlier introduction (available in both Russian and German translation), with its division into self-contained descriptions for the different language-families, information here is presented on a thematic basis.

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ISBN 3 89586 734 9 (Hardbound). LINCUM Handbook in Linguistics 19. 420pp. USD 188.60 / EUR 153.30 / GBP 130.30. 2004.

## A Short Grammar of Georgian

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Georgian is the official language of Georgia. It's the primary language of about 3.9 million people in Georgia itself (about 83 percent of the population), and of another 500,000 abroad (chiefly in Turkey, Iran, Russia, USA and Europe). It is the literary language for all ethnographic groups of Georgian people, especially those who speak other South Caucasian languages (or Kartvelian languages).

Georgian can be characterised as an agglutinative language. It shows split ergativity, poly-personal verbal constructions and has a subject-verb-object primary sentence structure.

A Short Grammar of Georgian starts with a presentation of the Georgian writing system. The following chapters discuss nominal and verbal morphology with a special focus on poly-personal verbal conjugation. The data is presented in a very simple way so that one can learn the general items of Georgian Grammar rather easily.

Besides the clear short description of Georgian grammar categories in traditional terms the author exposes some original views of the most complicated categories: such as version, personality, ergativity, destination and class-category.

Prof. Makharoblidze is Professor in the Georgian Language Department of Tbilisi State University.

ISBN 978 3 89586 151 2. LINCUM Studies in Caucasian Linguistics 16. 146pp. USD 63.00 / EUR 51.20 / GBP 43.50. 2009.

## Introduction to the Study of the Languages of the Caucasus

GEORGE HEWITT  
SOAS, London

**Chapter 1 Origins and Progress of the Study**  
The chapter includes a survey of those who have made the most significant contributions to our understanding of the nature of, and relations between, the relevant languages and notes some websites that offer sources of information.

**Chapter 2 The Language-families and Individual Languages**  
The individual languages along with appropriate sociolinguistic data are here introduced.

**Chapter 3 Phonological Systems**  
Consonant- and vowel-systems, with discussion of such interesting features as the level of minimalism in the North West Caucasian family and the differing consonantal inventories in the North East that one finds in the works of different commentators, are included here.

**Chapter 4 Morphology**  
This is the first of the two central substantial chapters. It compares the ways in which the

## Essentials of Georgian Grammar

With Conjugation Tables of  
250 Most Commonly Used Verbs

SHORENA KURTSIKIDZE  
University of California, Berkeley

Essentials of Georgian Grammar is a student-tested basic grammar book for both beginner and intermediate level students. The book is organized as a 50-lesson course, each lesson designed for a 3-hour per-week study. Each lesson is structured in a way that makes it easy for a student to gradually advance from simpler to more complex material.

Students who already have some familiarity with the Georgian language will find it helpful to practice the beginning lessons and then follow the order of the book chapters starting from the new material.

The book can be used for the classroom instruction or for self-study. The structure of the book is useful for teachers as well as for individual students since it has been classroom-tested for several years. The book covers all the essentials of Georgian grammar. Teachers can simply follow the order and use their own additional exercises or materials as needed.

The explanations of grammatical rules are maximally simple and short. Therefore, anyone who knows elementary grammatical terminology should be able to understand it. The book

contains useful exercises, thematic vocabularies, and reading texts. In the Appendix of the book, there are conjugation tables of 250 most commonly used Georgian verbs. This is the first time these types of tables have been introduced in a Georgian grammar course, making it very easy for the student to learn the major tenseformation rules in Georgian. This model proved to be the most effective way to learn the conjugation patterns of the Georgian verb. After completing the course, the student will be able to read, write, and speak in Georgian. The book provides the basic background and gives the student an opportunity to pursue advanced studies in the Georgian language.

ISBN 3 89586 997 X. **LINCOM Student Grammars 02.** 463pp. USD 109.80 / EUR 89.30 / GBP 75.90. 2006. Course and students' discounts available!

## Abkhazian Folktales (with grammatical introduction, translation, notes, and vocabulary)

GEORGE HEWITT  
*SOAS, London*

The inspiration for this introduction to folk-texts in Abkhaz (North West Caucasian) was the late Helma van den Berg's parallel collection of folk-literature for the North East Caucasian Dargi people (Dargi Folktales, CNWS 2001). The small volume entitled 'Oral Tales of the Abkhazians' (in Abkhaz) published in 2000 by the Abkhazian folklorist Zurab Dzhap'ua (Dzhap'wa) provided the source for the selection of the twenty texts which are here presented in original Cyrillic-based script and accompanied by IPA-transcription, morphological analysis, morpheme-glosses, annotation and translation; the volume starts with an extensive grammatical sketch of Abkhaz and ends with a vocabulary. Included myths describe the creation of the world, an Abkhazian version of Noah and the flood, man's relations with the Prince of the Dead, and God's expulsion of the Devil from heaven. The Abkhazian version of the Greek Prometheus is *Abksj'yl*, and five stories relate the cycle of his birth, exploits and death; an appendix presents for comparison a poem by the Georgian Vazha-Pshavela on the fate of the Georgian equivalent to this hero, Amiran. It is hoped that this book will complement the eleven Abkhazian tales gathered from Abkhazians in Turkey and published with French translation by Georges Dumézil in his *Etudes Abkhaz* (1967) and that it will at the same time contribute to a better understanding in the English-speaking world of Abkhazian society through its legends.

ISBN 3 89586 797 7. **Languages of the World/Text Collections 22.** 340pp. USD 105.40 / EUR 85.70 / GBP 72.90. 2005.

## Karbardian (East Circassian)

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Karbardian, the eastern form of Circassian, is a member of the Northwest Caucasian language family, which includes the Western Circassian or Adighé dialects, the transitional Beslency Circassian, the distinct Abkhaz and its closely related, Abaza, and Ubykh, transitional between Circassian and Abkhaz-Abaza. It is native to the northwestern portion of the Caucasus where it is spoken by roughly 360,000 people. It is the household language of a large portion of the 4.5 million Circassian of the diaspora (Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Israel, with a few communities in Europe and the United States). The languages of

this family are notable for their extreme complexity at all levels of grammar. While Karbardian is quite rich syntactically, morphologically, and phonologically, it is the simplest member of the family phonetically, with only 49 consonants, where Ubykh 81 for a maximum. The grammar includes chapters on Phonetics, Phonology, Inflectional Morphology, Derivational Morphology, Discourse, and a sample text.

ISBN 3 89586 245 2. **Languages of the World/Materials 200.** 122pp. USD 71.20 / EUR 57.90 / GBP 49.20. 2006.

## A Grammar of Icari Dargwa

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MUTALOV  
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Moscow; Daghestanian State University*

Dargwa is a language (or a cluster of closely related languages) belonging to the Nakh-Daghestanian language group. Most of its speakers live in the Republic of Daghestan in the North Caucasus (Russian Federation). Icari is the variety of Dargwa spoken by the people of the village of Icari and by its former inhabitants who have moved to other places within Daghestan.

Many structural properties of Icari are typical of the Nakh-Daghestanian group: a rich consonant system, several series of locative cases, class agreement, morphological ergativity, a complex verb system with a whole range of tense/aspect/mood paradigms and numerous nonfinite derivations (participles, converbs and verbal nouns). Unlike most languages of the group, Dargwa has personal agreement of the verb, which in Icari follows the hierarchy 2 > 1 > 3. This work places particular emphasis on the structure of the verb and the tense/aspect/mood system of Icari. It also includes data on the semantics of different nominal and verbal forms. This sketch of the language's grammar is accompanied by a glossed text, a list of verbal roots, a list of basic nominal lexemes and an index of grammatical morphemes.

ISBN 3 89586 014 X. **Languages of the World/Materials 92.** 250pp. USD 100.50 / EUR 81.70 / GBP 69.50. 2003.

## Abkhaz

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Abkhaz is one of the three languages comprising the Abkhazo-Adyghean, or West Caucasian branch of North Caucasian linguistic family (the other branch being Nakh-Daghestanian, or East Caucasian). Abkhaz is spoken by approximately 100,000 people in the former Soviet union (mainly in the Republic of Abkhazia, Caucasus), and by at least the same number of speakers in Turkey and some Middle east countries (small Abkhaz colonies can be found also in Western Europe and the USA). Abkhaz is notorious for its huge consonantal inventory (up to 67 consonants in its Bzyp dialect) and by its minimal vocalic system: only two vowels. Though Abkhaz was studied by a number of scholars (among whom P. Uslar in XIX century, or more easily K. Lomtadize in Georgia and G. Hewitt in Great Britain), many aspects of Abkhaz grammar (especially its syntax) still have to be adequately described. Abkhaz is the only West Caucasian language to possess the category of grammatical classes, manifested in personal pronouns, verb conjugation, numerals and in category of number. Abkhaz is an ergative language, the ergative

construction being represented not by case endings, as in related Circassian and Ubykh (Abkhaz does not have the case system), but by order of actant markers. The verbal root consists usually of one consonant, preceded by a string of prefixes (class-personal, directional, temporal, negational, causative, etc.) and followed by few suffixes. Verbs can be stative or dynamic, finite or non-finite.

The grammatical sketch of Abkhaz includes information about its phonological system, morphology, and syntax. A short text is provided with grammatical comments.

ISBN 3 89586 136 7. **Languages of the World/Materials 119.** 88pp. USD 63.80 / EUR 51.90 / GBP 44.10. 2003.

## Svan

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Svan is the smallest and least well-known of the Kartvelian (South Caucasian) languages. The traditional Svan homeland is in the northwest highlands of the Republic of Georgia, and the speech community comprises 35,000 to 40,000 people. In most recent respects, Svan retains the principal features of a Kartvelian language: subject and object agreement; verbal marking of aspect, evidentiality and 'version' [similar to active/medial opposition of Indo-European]; and a complex split-ergative morphosyntax. On the other hand, Svan morphophonemics has become far less transparent than that of Georgian or Laz-Mingrelian.

There is a great deal of allomorphy in noun declension and in some verbal paradigms (e.g. in the imperfect), and the pattern of Proto-Kartvelian verbal ablaut has been restructured in a distinctive way. Although the sketch is primarily concerned with the synchronic grammar of the four Svan dialects, attention is given to certain issues in Kartvelian historical morphology, such as quantitative and qualitative vowel alternations and the evolution of the case system.

ISBN 3 89586 154 5. **Languages of the World/Materials 139.** 58pp. 2 maps. USD 51.80 / EUR 42.10 / GBP 35.80. 1997.

## DESCRIPTION DE L'INGOUCHE : PARLER DU CENTRE NORD DU CAUCASE

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C'est la première description fonctionnaliste synchronique de l'ingouche (dialecte de la langue nakh) parlé sur le territoire caucasien de l'ingouchie, république fédérée à la Russie. La phonologie, la syntaxe et la syntématique sont les principaux axes de recherche.

L'ingouche présente un système vocalique à trois oppositions d'aperture pour les voyelles brèves, à deux degré d'aperture pour les voyelles longues. Il n'y a ni voyelles nasales ni diphtongues dans cette langue. Le système phonologique présente des corrélations de sonorité, de nasalité, de sulcalité, de glottalisation et de fermeture.

Une place prépondérante est laissée à l'étude syntaxique : l'inventaire des classes est ordonné autour de la dichotomie prédicant non verbal (prédication connective) et prédicant verbal (prédication nucléaire). L'étude des fonctions syntaxiques, considérées comme des signes linguistiques à part entière, permet de dresser un système relationnel cohérent et économique. La structure ergative, la valence des verbes en relation avec les rôles sémantiques et les

changements diathétiques ont été également étudiés.

ISBN 3 89586 403 X. **LINCOM Studies in Caucasian Linguistics 15.** 540pp. USD 123.40 / EUR 100.30 / GBP 85.30. 2001.

## Kartvelian Morphosyntax Number Agreement and Morphosyntactic Orientation in the South Caucasian Languages

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The Kartvelian (South Caucasian) family comprises three languages: Georgian, Svan and Zan (Laz-Mingrelian). The protolanguage, Proto-Kartvelian, is believed to have been characterized by ergative-absolutive case marking and a verb with two sets of crossreferencing affixes (Set S ["subject"] and Set O ["object"]). These affixes manifest a nominative-accusative pattern in all the daughter languages, and probably did so in Proto-Kartvelian. In the course of four millennia the Kartvelian languages and their dialects have undergone changes in various morphosyntactic components: agreement (in particular, agreement for number), case assignment, and also in the internal structure of case paradigms. These changes are described in detail, dialect by dialect, in the monograph. The conclusion I draw is that certain of these changes can be described in terms of drift toward or away from three TYPES of morphosyntactic ORIENTATION. By "orientation" is meant a typology of dialects according to the structuration of their morphosyntactic components to accord syntagmatic and paradigmatic "privileges" (control of agreement, especially obligatory agreement; link to unmarked member of paradigmatic set, etc.). Orientation can be described both in terms of degree of asymmetry (does one clausal argument-type receive special privileges not shared with others; in other words, can one speak meaningfully of a grammatical SUBJECT?), and in terms of alignment (nominative, absolutive, etc.) The following three orientations can be discerned in the Kartvelian languages and their dialects:

**Type A:** split-absolutive orientation [the most archaic, still preserved in some northeast Georgian mountain dialects]. **Type B:** nominative (semantic-subject) orientation [the modern literary Georgian language and most contemporary dialects]. **Type C:** Discourse-prominence orientation [several dialects from southwest Georgia].

ISBN 3 929075 96 2. **LINCOM Studies in Caucasian Linguistics 12.** 260 pp. USD 117.20 / EUR 95.30 / GBP 81.00. 1998.

## Kontaktbedingter Sprachwandel in der adygeischen Umgangssprache im Kaukasus und in der Türkei

Vergleichende Analyse des russischen und türkischen Einflusses in mündlichen adygeischen Texten

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The North West Caucasian Adyghe language provides ideal conditions for the study of language change because of the sociolinguistic history of its speakers and their contact with typologically and genetically different languages. This study examines the socio-cultural and sociolinguistic factors which determine dominance relations in Adyghe-Russian language contact in the Caucasus and Adyghe-Turkish language contact in Turkey in the present century. The analysis is based on text material in the

## Tra mito e nazione Storia e antropologia della Georgia contemporanea

ALDO CASTELLANI

Lo scontro tra la Russia e la Georgia dell'estate del 2008, punta dell'iceberg dei rapporti tesissimi tra i due paesi, dà il via a un'indagine approfondita sulle intricate vicende storiche della Georgia. Il punto di vista scelto è quello, assai delicato, della costituzione del concetto di "nazione" e dei rapporti tra le diverse etnie che compongono la popolazione del paese caucasico.

L'operazione di scrittura è stata preceduta da viaggi compiuti nelle aree più desolate e dimenticate della Georgia, dove mi è capitato spesso di sentirmi rivolgere la domanda più temuta da tutti i viaggiatori: "Che ci fai qui?". Mi veniva da rispondere che ero lì per tentare di scrivere la verità. Allora alcuni, delusi, replicavano che non ci può essere spazio per la verità. Così, questo libro, pur con tutte le sue inevitabili mancanze e difetti, cerca di dare un contributo alla riflessione sul concetto di verità.

Aldo Castellani, nato a Firenze nel 1967, ha trascorso quattro anni nel Caucaso, dove ha insegnato Lingua e Letteratura Italiana all'Università di Tbilisi e ha collaborato come inviato con riviste e siti internet. Nel 2008 ha pubblicato presso Rubbettino *Storia della Cecenia. Memoria, tradizioni e cultura di un popolo del Caucaso*. Per Lincom ha pubblicato nel 2009 un sistema pratico di classificazione dei verbi georgiani.

**INDICE: Introduzione** L'EUROPA DELLE OCCASIONI PERDUTE? **Parte I** IL BROCCATO DELL'ARAZZO RUSSO - Abkhazi - Armeni - Azeri - Greci del Pontop - Meskheta - Osseti - Russi - Altri gruppi etno-linguistici. **Parte II** AI MARGINI DEL MONDO: IL PENSIERO FILOSOFICO E RELIGIOSO GEORGIANO. **Parte III** IL TRASFERIMENTO DEI MITI DI ORIGINE CULTURALE IN AMBITO POLITICO. La lunga notte di caos - L'epoca della volpe bianca - Velluti e rose - Dove sorge il sole.

ISBN 978 3 86288 009 6. **LINCOM Studies in Anthropology 12.** 265pp. USD 65.80 / EUR 54.40 / GBP 45.10. 2010 (written in Italian). 2010.

Abdzakh dialect of Adyghe, collected during fieldwork in Turkey (1979-1990) and Adygheya in the Caucasus (1990-1994).

In the comparisons of both contact situations, the focus is on the description of the linguistic features. The kind and extent of interference are dealt with on different levels of the Adyghe language. Lexical interference includes the borrowing of different parts of speech and devices of integration in Adyghe. Structural interference includes changes in Adyghe phonology, morphology, and syntax due to foreign elements (Russian and Turkish, respectively). After comparisons of the decisive social factors, the main part of the study closes with a tentative prognosis regarding the process of language change in the Abdzakh dialect and the Adyghe language in general in Turkey and the Republik of Adygheya in the Caucasus. [written in German]

ISBN 3 89586 083 2. **LINCOM Studies in Caucasian Linguistics 03.** 306 pp. USD 118.50 / EUR 96.30 / GBP 81.90. 1997.

## A Grammar of Hunzib with texts and lexicon

HELM VAN DEN BERG

Hunzib is a non-written language, spoken by some 2000 inhabitants of Daghestan (Russia). It belongs to the Tsesic group of the Avar-Andi-Tsesic branch of East-Caucasian languages. This relatively little described language has 27 consonants and 16 vowels. Word stress is generally linked to the prefinal vowel of the word. Hunzib has five noun classes, which serve as the basis for agreement between nouns and coreferent adjectives, pronouns, verbs and adverbial constructions. This agreement is generally indicated by class prefixes; these operate on a nominative-ergative system. Demonstrative pronouns in the nominative distinguish between three degrees of distance: near the speaker 'this', near the hearer 'that', far from both speaker and hearer 'yonder'.

A Hunzib verb consists of a central part, the stem, which can be preceded by a class prefix and followed by endings. Simple stems consist of a

root only, complex stems of a root and one or more derivational suffixes. Half of the roots can be disrupted by a plural infix. The most frequent valency types are (1) Subject; (2) Agent, Patient; (3) Experiencer, Patient. Derivational suffixes (like causative, antipassive and others) can affect the valency of the verb.

A Grammar of Hunzib consists of three parts. The grammatical sketch of the Hunzib language (part one) covers the phonology, morphology and syntax of the language. The second part is a corpus of texts with a morpheme analysis. Part three is a Hunzib-English lexicon. All material was gathered during three periods of one-site fieldwork in Daghestan (1990-1994).

ISBN 3 89586 006 9. **LINCOM Studies in Caucasian Linguistics 01.** 400pp. USD 124.60 / EUR 101.30 / GBP 86.10. 1995.

## Tsakhur

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Tsakhur is spoken by some 13.000 people who dwell in about 30 villages or settlements at the headwaters of the river Samur (valley of Gorgan Magal) in Southern Daghestan. An important group of Tsakhur speakers can also be found in Northern Azerbajdzhan (along the two tributaries of the Agri-Chay river (Katekh-Chay and Kurmukh-Chay)). "Tsakhur" is the somewhat disputed name for a dialect continuum, that is named for the village of Tsakhur (in the Samur valley). Together with Rutul, the language forms the western branch of the Samur languages, itself being a subgroup of South East Caucasian (Lezgian). Though Tsakhur is only sporadically written (a new "written language" has recently been reintroduced), it is quite vivid in ordinary life (competing especially with Azeri).

Tsakhur is a "typical" Lezgian language, operating on a system of semantic ergativity and noun classification, based on extensive case marking and a complex verbal paradigms. Though Tsakhur is heavily agglutinating, inflectional features can often be observed. As opposed to some other Lezgian languages, Tsakhur shows a tendency towards personal agreement (restricted, however, to the first

person), ergative case marking of personal pronouns, and the development of focus particles.

The booklet informs on the basic structure of Tsakhur (phonology, morphology, and syntax), which is (at least partly) explained on the basis of internal and external reconstruction. The material stems either from written sources or from own field notes. A sample text together with an interlinear interpretation helps to illustrate the linguistic structure of the language.

ISBN 3 89586 150 2. **Languages of the World/Materials 133.** 72pp. USD 51.80 / EUR 42.10 / GBP 35.80. 1997.

## Basic Georgian

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"BASIC GEORGIAN" by Professor Tamar Makharoblidze is a book of practical Georgian for non-linguists. It's an intensive course of the Georgian Language, which has 28 lessons with vocabulary, grammar, texts and exercises for each lesson. There is also an introduction with general information about Georgia and some additional information with common phrases.

This book makes available to study Georgian easily, step by step disclosing the poly-personal verbal grammar in a very easy way. This is a result orientated practical book.

ISBN 978 3 89586 115 4. **LINCOM Practical Language Courses 01.** 350pp. USD 68.30 / EUR 55.50 / GBP 47.20. 2008.

## Godoberi

ALEXANDR E. KIBRIK (ed.)  
*Lomonosov State University, Moscow*

The volume is a result of one of collective field trips traditionally organized under the auspices of the Philological Faculty of *Lomonosov State University*. Godoberi is spoken almost exclusively in the village of Godoberi in the mountains of Daghestan (North-East Caucasus). The number of Godoberians is approximately 2500. Godoberi is one of the languages that belong to the Andic branch of Nakh-Dagestanian (or, in other terms, East Caucasian) languages. The volume contains chapters on phonology, morphology, syntax, analyses several texts and contains a short dictionary.

ISBN 3 89586 044 1. **LINCOM Studies in Caucasian Linguistics 02.** 303pp. USD 119.70 / EUR 97.30 / GBP 82.70. 1996.

## Nomen und nominales Syntagma im Lasischen

Eine deskriptive Analyse  
des Dialekts von Ardeçan

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Das Lasische gehört neben dem Mingrelischen und Georgischen zum Georgisch-Zanischen Zweig der Südkaukasischen Sprachfamilie (auch: Kartvelsprachen). Anders als seine Schwestersprachen ist das Lasische mehrheitlich außerhalb Georgiens an der nordöstlichen Schwarzmeerküste der Türkei beheimatet.

Aufgrund seiner soziopolitischen Situation muß das Lasische als eine bedrohte Sprache eingestuft werden. Während die Älteren mehrheitlich zweisprachig Lasisch/Türkisch sind, erwerben nur noch wenige der unter 30-jährigen das Lasische als ihre Muttersprache.

Das Lasische ist eine im Bereich des Prädikats kopfmarkierende Sprache (head marking language) mit polypersonaler Verbmorphologie (auch: cross-referencing language, language with bound pronoun affixes), reichhaltigem Tempus, Aspekt, Modus-System, Präverben und dem für die südkaukasischen Sprachen charakteristischen System der Applikativ- und Diathesemarkierungen am Verb (Versionsvokal, Charakter-vokal). Im Bereich des Nomens verfügt das Lasische über ein transnumerales Numerussystem mit sekundärem Plural und einem in den einzelnen Varietäten unterschiedlich gestaltetem Kasusystem.

Die in der Türkei gesprochenen Varietäten des Lasischen sind alle linguistisch wenig untersucht, der Dialekt, dem die Aufmerksamkeit der vorliegenden Arbeit gilt, ist bisher noch keine eigenständige Erforschung zuteil geworden. Dieses Buch bietet daher erstmalig einen Überblick über die Morphosyntax des nominalen Syntagmas und eine ausführliche Analyse der Charakteristika der Wortart Nomen und der Funktionen der nominalen Kategorien Numerus und Kasus in dieser Varietät des Lasischen.

ISBN 3 89586 447 1. **LINCOM Studies in Caucasian Linguistics 17.** 260pp. USD 112.30 / EUR 91.30 / GBP 77.60. 2001.

## Per una classificazione dei verbi georgiani ai fini pratici della realizzazione di un vocabolario georgiano-italiano

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*Università di Camerino*

Viene proposto un sistema di notazione per i verbi georgiani da adottare in un futuro dizionario georgiano-italiano (ma anche georgiano verso altre lingue) in modo da permettere ai fruitori del dizionario stesso di riconoscere e/o formare tutte le voci del verbo georgiano, che, come noto, si caratterizzano per un'estrema varietà e mobilità di affissi.

Il lavoro è chiaramente suddiviso in due parti: nella prima parte viene presentato il problema e viene analizzata la delicata questione della classificazione e della lessicalizzazione dei verbi georgiani, presentando esempi tratti dai dizionari precedenti e dalla letteratura specifica sull'argomento; la seconda parte, più tecnica, affronta in pratica il problema della classificazione, proponendo un certo numero di classi e sottoclassi verbali, con le relative caratteristiche comuni e la notazione proposta per il dizionario, che deve assolvere a due criteri fondamentali di chiarezza e concisione.

ISBN 978 3 89586 064 5. **Linguistics Edition 69.** 61pp. USD 58.10 / EUR 47.20 / GBP 40.10. 2008.

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## Über den passiven Charakter des Transitivs in den kaukasischen Sprachen

HUGO SCHUCHARDT

Der passive Charakter des Transitivs führte mich schon vor Jahren vom Baskischen zu den kaukasischen Sprachen, und ich bemühte mich innerhalb deren erstaunlicher Mannigfaltigkeit diese Tatsache in allen ihren Gestaltungen zu verfolgen. Sie erschien mir, selbst da, wo ich Übereinstimmungen in der äusseren Sprachform nicht wahrzunehmen vermochte, als das

Bindeglied nicht nur zwischen den einzelnen nordkaukasischen Sprachen, sondern auch zwischen diesen insgesamt und den südkaukasischen Sprachen. Dadurch gewann die Untersuchung ein selbstständiges Interesse (aus der Einleitung).

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