

# Phonology of East Caucasian languages

George Moroz

Linguistic Convergence Laboratory, NRU HSE

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part of the online [course on East Caucasian languages](#)

last version of the presentation is available here: [tinyurl.com/y2foe0gg](https://tinyurl.com/y2foe0gg)



# Outline of the talk

Introduction

Data

Methods

# About phonology of East Caucasian languages

- phonology
  - [Kibrik and Kodzasov 1990]
  - The indigenous languages of the Caucasus: [Job and Smeets 1994], [Smeets 1994]
  - Yaziki mira: [Alekseev et al. 2001] and predecessor projects
  - [Grawunder 2017]
  - The Oxford Handbook of Languages of the Caucasus: [Beguš 2021], [Boris 2021a], [Boris 2021b]
  - The Mouton Handbook of Languages of the Caucasus
  - and phonological part in more general descriptions of East Caucasian languages
- historical-comparative phonetics
  - S. M. Gasanova, G. Kh. Ibragimov, P. T. Magomedova, U. A. Meylanova, B. B. Talibov, S. M. Khaydakov, A. E. Alekseev, Ju. D. Desheriev, B. K. Gigineishvili, D. S. Imnaishvili, J. Nichols, S. L. Nikolayev, S. A. Starostin, A. S. Kasyan, N. A. Ardoteli, O. A. Mudrak

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Introduction

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Methods

# Languages

- Nakh
  - Chechen
  - Ingush
  - Tsova-Tush  
(Bats, Batsbi)
- Tsezic (Didoic)
  - Tsez
  - Hinuq
  - Bezhta
  - Hunzib
  - Khwarshi-Inkhoqwari
- Avar–Andic
  - Avar
  - Andi
  - Botlikh
  - Godoberi
  - Chamalal
  - Tindi
  - Bagvalal
  - Akhvakh
- Dargwa
- Lak
- Lezgian
  - Archi
  - Tabasaran
  - Aghul
  - Lezgian
  - Udi
  - Budukh
  - Kryz
  - Rutul
  - Tsakhur
- Khinalug

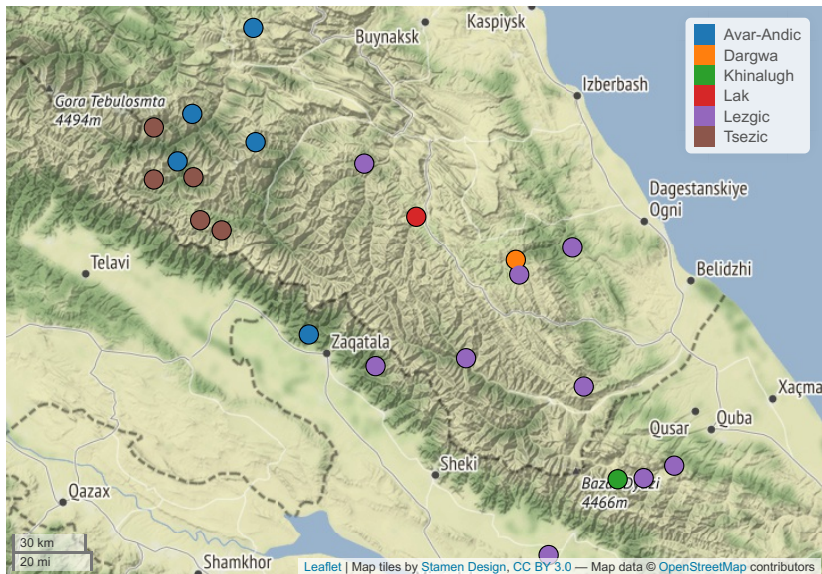
## Languages not present in [Kibrik and Kodzasov 1990]

- Nakh
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- Khinalug

## Languages not present in [Kibrik and Kodzasov 1990]

- Nakh, Chechen
- Nakh, Ingush
- Nakh, Tsova-Tush [[Holisky and Gagua 1994](#)]
- Dargwa, Mehweb [[Moroz 2019](#)]
- Andic, Botlikh
- Andic, Godoberi
- Andic, Bagvalal

# Data (language view)





# Outline of the talk

Introduction

Data

Methods

# Phonology of East Caucasian languages can be presented like this...

	Stops				Fricatives				Affricates				Son.
	Voiced		Voiceless		Voiced	Voiceless			Voiced	Voiceless			
			Gem.	Ej.			Gem.				Gem.	Ej.	
Lab.	b б	p п											w в m м
Den.	d д	t т	t: тт	t' тІ	z з	s с	s: сс		c ц	c: цц	c' цІ		n н
Alv.					ž ж	š ш	š: шц	ž дж	č ч	č: чч	č' чІ		r р
Lat.						l лъ	l: лълъ			λ лІ	λ' кь		l л
Pal.													j й
Vel.	g г	k к	k: кк	k' кІ			x хъ						
Uv.		q хъ		q' кь	в гъ	χ х	χ: хх						
Ph.					ʕ гІ	ħ хІ							

# Phonology of East Caucasian languages can be presented like this...

	Stops			Fricatives			Affricates				Son.
			plosives			fricatives		affricates			sonorant
			asp	ej	vcd	asp	vcd	asp	ej	vcd	
Lab.	labial		p		b						w, m
Den.	dental	-gem	t	t'	d	s	z	c	c'		n
		+gem				s:		c:	c':		
Alv.	alveolar	-gem				š	ž	č	č'	ẓ̌	r
		+gem				š:		č:	č':		
Lat.	lateral					ɬ (ɬ:)		ɬ̪	ɬ̪'		l
Pal.	palatal					ç, ç <sup>w</sup>					j
Vel.	velar	-gem	k, k <sup>w</sup>	k', k' <sup>w</sup>	g, g <sup>w</sup>						
Uv.		+gem	k:, k: <sup>w</sup>	k':, k': <sup>w</sup>							
Ph.	uvular	-gem		q', q' <sup>w</sup>		χ, χ <sup>w</sup>	ʁ, ʁ <sup>w</sup>	qχ, qχ <sup>w</sup>			
		+gem				χ:					

# Phonology of East Caucasian languages can be presented like this...

	Stops			Fricatives			Affricates			Son.	
		plosives			fricatives		affricates			sonorant	
		asp	ej	vcd	asp	vcd	asp	ej	vcd		
Lab.	labi	labial dental alveolar palatal			velar		uvular		pharyngeal		epig
Den.	den				-lab	+lab	-lab	+lab	-lab	+lab	-lab
Alv.	plosive	+v	b	d		g	g <sup>w</sup>				(ʔ)
	alve	-v	p	t		k	k <sup>w</sup>	q	q <sup>w</sup>		
		ej	p'	t'		k'	k' <sup>w</sup>	q'	q' <sup>w</sup>		
Lat.	fricative	+v		z	ž	(ɣ)		ʁ	ʁ <sup>w</sup>		
	late	-v		s	š	x	x <sup>w</sup>	χ	χ <sup>w</sup>	ħ	ħ <sup>w</sup> (h)
Pal.	pal	+v		(ʒ)	(ž)						
	affricate	-v		c	č						
Vel.		ej		c'	č'						
	vel										
	sonorant	m, w		n, l, r		j					
Uv.											
Ph.	uvular	-gem		q', q' <sup>w</sup>		χ, χ <sup>w</sup>	ʁ, ʁ <sup>w</sup>	qχ, qχ <sup>w</sup>			
		+gem				χː					



This way is...

- boring,



# This way is...

- boring,
- mechanical,

## This way is...

- boring,
- mechanical,
- it is hard to make generalisations (at least, on the fly)

# Phonology of East Caucasian languages can be presented like this...

Nakh-Daghestanian: Essential background, what's distinctive... (Johanna Nichols)

The N-D phonological signature

Complex consonant inventories. Typically:  
3 or more manners.      t    t'    d    tt      /t/ usually [tʰ]  
Uvular, sometimes lateral, sometimes pharyngeal series

Vowel systems vary in size:  
3 or 4 vowel qualities:      Lak, several Dargwa  
5      Avar, most Andic  
6-8      most Tsezic, most Lezgian; Nakh  
9-10      Kryz, Budukh, Khinalug      }      ± length, nasalization

Pharyngealization  
Epiglottalization vs. true pharyngealization  
Segment? syllabic feature? consonant feature? vowel feature?

Syllable structure fairly simple: mostly CVRC

Tones ...

zoom

37:24 / 1:30:04



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(If you have not seen it, go and watch [our previous lecture!](#))

## Those ways are...

- To list all inventories
  - boring,
  - mechanical,
  - hard to make generalisations (at least, on the fly)
- To present generalisations
  - restricted to peculiarities,

## Those ways are...

- To list all inventories
  - boring,
  - mechanical,
  - hard to make generalisations (at least, on the fly)
- To present generalisations
  - restricted to peculiarities,
  - you need to be a specialist

# Thanks

- reasercher teams that collected all data
- if you like presented maps, see [lingtypology](#)

# Thanks

- reasercher teams that collected all data
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- source code and data for this presentation are available online:  
<https://tinyurl.com/y2oh9sg8>
- and YOU for your attention

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