

# Phonology of T'ap'anta Abaza: examples from Inzhich-Chukun and Gwymlokt

G. A. Moroz  
(HSE University, Russia)

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 General information about Abaza

In this article I describe two varieties of Tapanta dialect of Abaza (glottocode abaz1241) spoken in two villages in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic: Inzhich-Chukun (in Abaza /jən'dʒəgi-tʃk'wən/) and Krasniy Vostok (in Abaza /gʷəm'lokt/). Abaza is a language of the Abkhaz-Abaza group of Northwest Caucasian family of languages. After the Caucasian War (1817–1864) a lot of Abaza, Abkhaz, Ubykh and Adyghe people were forced either to resettle from higher mountains or to immigrate to the Ottoman Empire. As a result Abaza people were split into those who remain in Russia (mostly in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic) and who moved to Turkey. According to the 2010 Russian census, there are slightly less than 38 thousand speakers of Abaza in Russia. The exact number of speakers in other countries, mainly in Turkey (Chirikba 2012: 21–23), is unknown. The data analyzed in this study were collected in 2018, 2019 and 2021 during a field trip to the villages. Even though traditionally Abaza is treated as a separate language with two dialects T'ap'anta and Shkharawa (Genko 1955: 5–7; Tabulova 1976: 3–4; Lomtadze 2006: 98), some of the researches consider Abkhaz and Abaza to be a dialect continuum (e. g. Hewitt 1979: 1; Colarusso 1988: 7–9; Chirikba 1996). However varieties of Inzhich-Chukun and Krasniy Vostok belong to the same dialect, those lects have their own differences, e. g. *Abaza language* is /abaza bæzsa/ in Inzhich-Chukun and /abaza bæzsa/ in Krasniy Vostok.

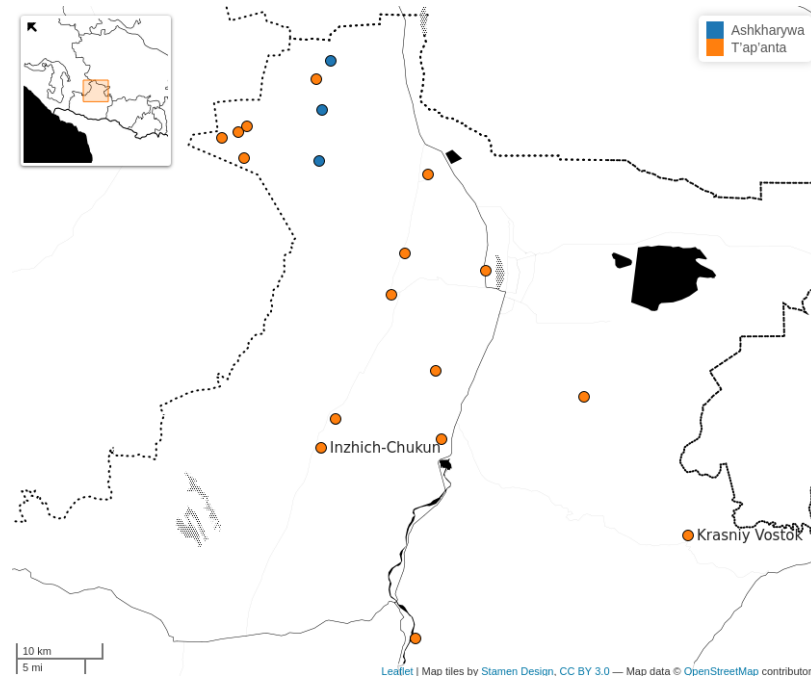


Figure 1: Villages of the Karachay-Cherkess Republic where Abaza speakers live colored by the dialect

## 1.2 State of research

Phonological inventory of Abaza can be found in multiple sources (Bouda 1940; Genko 1955; Allen 1956; Tabulova 1976; Colarusso 1988; O'Herin 1992, 2021; Chirikba 1996; Lomtadze 2006; Arkadiev 2019), however more detailed phonological description is limited to (Genko 1955; Tabulova 1976; Colarusso 1988; Arkadiev 2019) and lack any acoustic analysis that appears just recently (Mamonova, Moroz 2019).

## 2 Consonants

Table 1: Consonant system of most speakers from Inzhich-Chukun and Krasniy Vostok

|                       |                |                 |                 |       |        |                     |                |                |   |     |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|--------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|---|-----|
| labial                | b              | p'              | p <sup>h</sup>  |       |        |                     | v              | f              | m | w   |
| dental                | d              | t'              | t <sup>h</sup>  | dz    | ts'    | ts <sup>h</sup>     | z              | s              | n |     |
| alveolar              |                |                 |                 |       |        |                     |                |                |   | r   |
| post-alveolar         |                |                 |                 | dʒ(w) | tʃ'(w) | tʃ <sup>h</sup> (w) | ʒ(w)           | ʃ(w)           |   |     |
| retroflex             |                |                 |                 | dʒ̣   | tʃ̣'   | tʃ̣ <sup>h</sup>    | ʒ̣             | ʃ̣             |   |     |
| alveolo-palatal       |                |                 |                 | dʒ    | tʃ'    | tʃ <sup>h</sup>     | ʒ              | ʃ              |   |     |
| lateral               |                |                 |                 |       |        |                     |                |                |   | l ɭ |
| palatal               | j              | c'              | c <sup>h</sup>  |       |        |                     |                | ç              |   | j   |
| plain velar           | g              | k'              | k <sup>h</sup>  |       |        |                     |                |                |   |     |
| labialized velar      | g <sup>w</sup> | k' <sup>w</sup> | k <sup>hw</sup> |       |        |                     |                | x <sup>w</sup> |   |     |
| plain uvular          |                | q'              | q <sup>h</sup>  |       |        |                     | ʁ              | χ              |   |     |
| palatalized uvular    |                | q' <sup>j</sup> |                 |       |        |                     | ʁ <sup>j</sup> | χ <sup>j</sup> |   |     |
| labialized uvular     |                | q' <sup>w</sup> | q <sup>hw</sup> |       |        |                     | ʁ <sup>w</sup> | χ <sup>w</sup> |   |     |
| plain pharyngeal      |                |                 |                 |       |        |                     | ʕ              | ħ              |   |     |
| labialized pharyngeal |                |                 |                 |       |        |                     | ʕ <sup>w</sup> | ħ <sup>w</sup> |   |     |
| glottal               |                | ʔ               |                 |       |        |                     |                |                |   |     |

## References

- Allen, W. S. 1956. Structure and system in the Abaza verbal complex. In: Transactions of the Philological Society 55, p. 127–176.
- Arkadiev, S. 2019. Conspectus of Abaza Grammar.
- Bouda, K. 1940. Das Abasinische, eine unbekannte abchasische Mundart. In: Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft 94 (n.F. 19), p. 234–250.
- Chirikba, V. A. 1996. Common West Caucasian. The reconstruction of its phonological system and parts of its lexicon and morphology. Universiteit Leiden.
- Chirikba, V. A. 2012. Rasseleniye abhazov i abazin v Turcii. In: *Dzhigets'kiy sbornik: Vyp. 1. Voprosy etno-kulturnoj istorii zapadnoj abkazi ili dzhigetii*. p. 21–95.
- Colarusso, J. 1988. The Northwest Caucasian Languages: A Phonological Survey. New York, London: Garland Publishing, Inc.
- Genko, A. N. 1955. Abazinskiy yazik. Moskva: Akademiya Nauk SSSR.
- Hewitt, B. G. 1979. Abkhaz. Amsterdam: North-Holland publishing company.
- Lomtadze, K. 2006. Abazinskiy yazik (Kratkoye obozreniye). Tbilisi: Institut yazikoznaniya Arnolda Chikobava.
- Mamonova, T., Moroz, G. 2019. VOT features of consonants of Abaza.
- O'Herin, B. 1992. Metrical structure in Abaza. In: Ms., University of California, Santa Cruz.

O'Herin, B. 2021. Abaza and Abkhaz. In: Polinsky, M. (Ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Languages of the Caucasus*. Oxford University Press.

Tabulova, N. T. 1976. Grammatika abazinskogo yazika. Cherkessk: Karachayevo-Cherkesskoye otdeleniye Stavropolskogo knizhnogo izdatelstva.