

# Languages of Caucasus

---

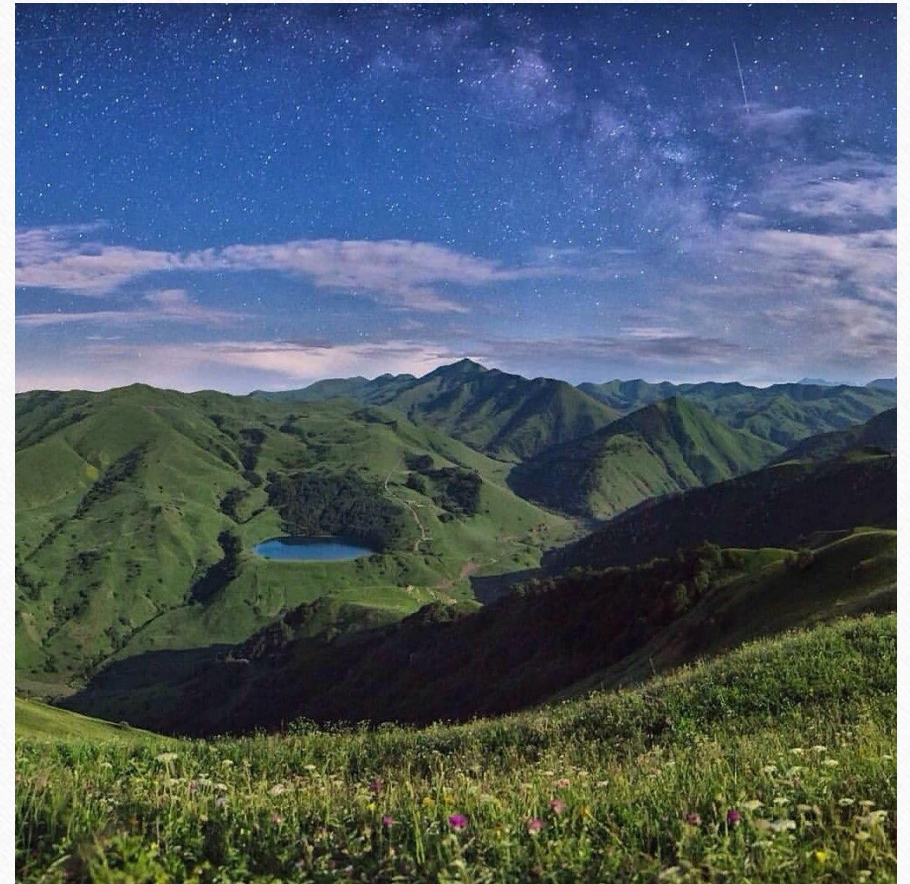
Students:

Barinova Valeria, Vetrova Kate



# Plan of presentation

1. Basic information
2. Caucasus families
3. Abkhaz-Adyghe languages:
  1. The Adyghe language;
  2. The Kabardino-Circassian language
  3. The Abkhaz language
  4. The Abazian language;
  5. The Ubykh language
4. Kartvelian languages:
  1. The Georgian language;
  2. The Mingrelian language;
  3. The Laz language;
  4. The Swan language;
5. Nakh-Dagestan languages;
6. The conclusion
7. Questions





# Basic information

The Caucasian languages are a large and extremely varied away of languages spoken more than ten million people in and around the Causasus Mountains, which lie between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.



# Caucasus families

Genetically, the languages of the Caucasus belong to three families:

- Abkhaz-Adyghe (northwestern)
- Kartvelian (southern)
- Nakh-Dagestan (northeastern).





## Abkhaz-Adyghe languages

the Adyghe branch

Adyghe and  
Kabardino-  
Circassian  
languages

Abkhaz-Abazin branch

Abkhaz and  
Abazin  
languages

Ubykh branch

Ubykh  
language

# The Adyghe language

---

In Russia, it is distributed in Adygea, as well as in the Lazarevsky and Tuapse municipal districts of the Krasnodar Territory. In addition, the language is widespread in the large Adyghe diaspora living in Turkey, Syria, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, as well as in a few diasporas in Israel and other countries of the Middle East and Europe. The number of speakers of the Adyghe language in Russia is 117,489 people (2010).

# The Kabardino-Circassian language

---

Kabardino-Circassian language - the language of Kabardinians and Circassians, is one of the official languages of the Kabardino-Balkarian and Karachay-Cherkess republics.

Some linguists tend to consider all their dialects of the common Adyghe language.



# The Abkhaz language

---

The Abkhaz language is the language of the Abkhazians, spoken in Abkhazia and Turkey, also in other countries of the Middle East (Jordan, Syria, Iraq), in Russia and in the West. The total number of speakers can be estimated at around 120 thousand people.



# The Abazian language

---

The Abazin language is currently preserved mainly in Karachay-Cherkessia, where it is one of the 5 official languages of the republic.

# The Ubykh language

---

Ubykh language is an extinct language It was spoken by the Ubykhs until the early 1990s. The last known native speaker, Tevfik Esench, died in 1992 in Turkey in the village of Hajiosman.



## Kartvelian languages

South Kartvel branch

Georgian  
language

Zanskaya branch

Mingrelian  
and Laz  
languages

North branch

Svan  
language

# The Georgian language

---

Georgian, used as the language of literature and instruction, is the state language of the Republic of Georgia. It is common to all speakers of the Kartvelian languages within Georgia. Beyond the borders of Georgia, Georgian is spoken in the adjacent regions of Azerbaijan and northeastern Turkey. The designation Georgian that is used in the European languages was coined during the Crusades; it is based on Persian gorji (Georgian), from which the Russian gruzin was also derived.



# The Mingrelian [mɪŋ'gri:lɪən] language

---

The Mingrelian language is spoken in the territory north of the Rioni River and west of the Tskhenis-Tskali River and along the Black Sea coast from the mouth of the Rioni up to the city of Ochamchire. The language is unwritten; Georgian is used as a literary language.

# The Laz language

---

The Laz language is spoken along the Black Sea coast from the Chorokh River (Georgia) to south of Pazar (Atina) in Turkish territory. The language is unwritten, Georgian being used as the literary language in Georgia and Turkish in Turkey. In view of the structural closeness between Mingrelian and Laz, they are sometimes considered as dialects of a single language.



# The Swan language

---

The Svan language, also unwritten, is located south of Mount Elbrus, in the high valleys of the upper Tskhenis-Tskali and its tributary Kheledula and in the valleys of the upper Inguri River. There are four fairly distinct dialects: Upper and Lower Bal in the Inguri region, and Lashkh and Lentekh in the Tskhenis-Tskali region.

# Nakh-Dagestan languages

---

The next language family **Nakh-Dagestan** is the largest one. Distributed mainly in the North Caucasus (Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia) and partly in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Jordan and some other countries of the Middle East.

It has a rather complicated classification. It is divided into **Nakh, Tsez, Lak, Avar-Ando-Tse, Dargin and Lezghin branches**. Each branch is divided into groups and languages.

**The most common of them:**

Chechen, Dargin, Avar, Tabasaran, Lezgin, Ingush, Lak, Rutul, Udi.



# The conclusion

---

- The Caucasus is indeed extremely rich in languages, dialects and dialects. It is a zone where you can meet species that are not found anywhere else, and where there is a unique flora and fauna. Since ancient times, the Caucasus has also been known for its linguistic diversity. It can be called a "linguistic refuge zone" in the sense that there are as many as three separate language families that are native Caucasian, with no related languages anywhere else.

# Questions

---

- 1. Name three Caucasian families.
- 2. What is the official languages of the Kabardino-Balkarian and Karachay-Cherkess republics?
- 3. What group does the Swan language belong to?
- 4. Which family is the largest?