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Институт языка, литературы и искусства им. Г. Цадасы**

**HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS OF THE CAUCASUS**

*Book of abstracts*

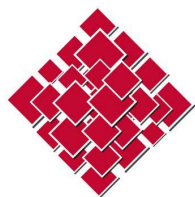
Paris, 12–14 April, 2017

**ИСТОРИЧЕСКОЕ ИЗУЧЕНИЕ ЯЗЫКОВ КАВКАЗА**

*Тезисы докладов Международной научной конференции*

Париж, 12–14 апреля 2017 г.

Махачкала 2017



École Pratique  
des Hautes Études



Редакционная коллегия:  
*Отье Ж., Жерарден Э.,  
Магомедов М. И., Майсак Т. А.*

Составитель: *Майсак Т. А.*

**Historical Linguistics of the Caucasus: Book of abstracts.** Paris, 12–14 April, 2017 / **Историческое изучение языков Кавказа: Тезисы докладов Международной научной конференции.** Париж, 12–14 апреля 2017 г. – Махачкала: ИЯЛИ ДНЦ РАН, 2017. – 210 с.

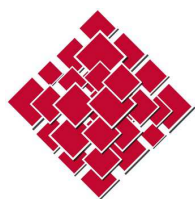
В сборник включены тезисы докладов участников международной научной конференции «Historical Linguistics of the Caucasus» («Историческое изучение языков Кавказа»), состоявшейся в Париже на базе Практической школы высших исследований в апреле 2017 г.

Доклады посвящены главным образом историческим аспектам изучения кавказских языков (нахско-дагестанских, абхазо-адыгских, картвельских, а также индо-европейских языков Кавказа). Отдельная тематическая сессия в рамках международного проекта IMMOCAL – *Imperfective Modalities in Caucasian Languages* (рук. Ж. Отье) была посвящена имперфективности и ее связям с модальностью.

Для лингвистов, студентов филологических факультетов вузов и широкого круга читателей.

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*Gilles Authier, Hélène Gérardin,  
Magomed I. Magomedov, Timur A. Maisak*

Compiled by *Timur A. Maisak*

**Historical Linguistics of the Caucasus:** Book of abstracts. Paris, 12–14 April, 2017 / **Историческое изучение языков Кавказа:** Тезисы докладов Международной научной конференции. Париж, 12–14 апреля 2017 г. – Makhachkala: IYaLI DNC RAN, 2017. – 210 p.

This book brings together the abstracts for the oral and poster presentations delivered at the international conference “Historical Linguistics of the Caucasus”, which took place at École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris, April 12-14, 2017.

The presentations deal mainly with historical aspects of the Caucasian language families – Nakh-Daghestanian, Abkhaz-Adyghe, and Kartvelian – as well as the Indo-European languages of the region. A special thematic workshop within the conference was devoted to imperfectivity and its relation to modality, as part of the international project IMMOCAL – *Imperfective Modalities in Caucasian Languages* (project coordinator Gilles Authier).

For linguists, students of linguistics and philology and all those interested in the languages of the Caucasus.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS OF THE CAUCASUS

The Conference was dedicated to the historical linguistics of Caucasian languages and languages spoken in the Caucasus.

A special one-day workshop was held on imperfective modalities in the languages of the area, as part of the ANR Project *IMMOCAL*, 2017–2020.

Apart from oral presentations, posters were also presented.

#### DATES:

April 12–14, 2017

#### VENUE:

École Pratique des Hautes Études  
4–14 rue Ferrus, 75014 Paris

#### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Gilles Authier  
Hélène Gérardin  
Timur Maisak

#### OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://immocal.ifeaistanbul.net/paris2017conf/>

#### INVITED SPEAKERS:

Peter Arkadiev. When perfective and imperfective mean the same: pluperfect and “retrospective shift” in Circassian languages

Nina Dobrushina. Multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Daghestan: a retrospective field research

Dmitry Ganenkov. From telicity to perfectivity: Aspectual stems in Chirag Dargwa

**A. Martynova**

*(School of Linguistics, National Research University  
Higher School of Economics, Moscow)*

**G. Moroz**

*(Center for the Languages of the Caucasus,  
Higher School of Economics, Moscow)*

## **UVULAR CONSONANTS IN LANGUAGES OF THE CAUCASUS**

Uvular consonants are not a widespread phenomenon: only 17% of languages from the 567 language sample in Maddieson [2013] have one or more uvular consonants.<sup>17</sup> In his work on uvulars Ian Maddieson proposes the following typological classification. Languages can have:

- no uvulars
- uvular stops only
- uvular continuants only
- uvular stops and continuants

The typological labels that are relevant for the worldwide survey do not seem to be detailed enough, so they can not be used for the investigation of languages that have got a lot of uvulars.

In our talk, we will present a database of uvular consonant subsystems of indigenous languages of the Caucasus from all branches (Northwest Caucasian, East Caucasian and Kartvelian). Data for the database were collected from existing language descriptions and field work. All in all, 39 languages were analyzed. This database allows us to systematically compare the inventories of uvular consonants in the Caucasian languages and create a predictive model for the co-occurrence of particular uvular consonants.

Uvular consonants differ in frequencies. Table 1. shows the uvulars from our database with the exact number of languages of the Caucasus that contain it. It is not so strange that the most frequent uvulars have less additional features, and the least frequent uvulars have more complex structure with additional articulation features such

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<sup>17</sup> The 19.1% reported in Maddieson [2013] is actually incorrect.

as labialization, pharyngealization and so on. There is an interesting fact about the Table 1: we can expect some monotonic decrease of the frequency, but there is a detectable group of frequent sounds  $\mathfrak{K}$ ,  $q'$ ,  $q$ ,  $\chi$ , a group with the frequency 13, 12 and 11 and the rest.

On Figure 1 the tendency of languages to have uvulars is presented. Most of the languages have 4-7 uvulars, so we decided to provide some additional types for languages of the Caucasus (see the map on Fig. 2):

- small uvular inventories (<4): Laz, Mingrelian, Georgian, Ingush, Udi;
- average uvular inventories (4--7): Adyghe, Svan, Bats, Chechen, Khinalugh, Dargwa, Avar, Akhvakh, Karata, Chamalal, Godoberi, Bagvalal, Andi, Bezhta, Hunzib, Tsez, Tindi, Botlikh, Aghul, Budukh, Tabasaran;
- large uvular inventories (7>): Abaza, Kabardian, Abkhaz, Ubykh, Lak, Kajtak, Khwarshi, Hinuq, Rutul, Archi, Kryz, Lezgian, Tsakhur.

This division partly correlates with the genealogical characteristics of the languages. Svan is the only language of the Kartvelian branch with an average rather than a small inventory. Northwest Caucasian languages tend to have large uvular inventories. There is no correlation between type and branch in East Caucasian languages: all types are represented in that language family.

Table 1. Distribution of uvular consonants within our database

$\mathfrak{K}$	$q'$	$q$	$\chi$	$\chi^w$	$\chi:$	$\mathfrak{K}^w$	$q^{w'}$	$q^w$
36	33	31	30	13	13	12	12	11
$\mathfrak{K}^f$	$\mathfrak{K}^{wf}$	$q^f$	$q^{f'}$	$q^{w:}$	$q^{wf'}$	$q\chi'$	$q^j$	$q^h$
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1

$q:$	$g$	$\chi^j$	$q':$	$\mathfrak{K}^j$	$g^w$	$q^{j'}$	$q\chi$	$\chi^{w:}$
11	8	5	4	3	3	3	3	3
$q:'$	$q^{wf}$	$q^{hw}$	$q\chi^w$	$\chi^f$	$\chi^{wf}$			
1	1	1	1	1	1			

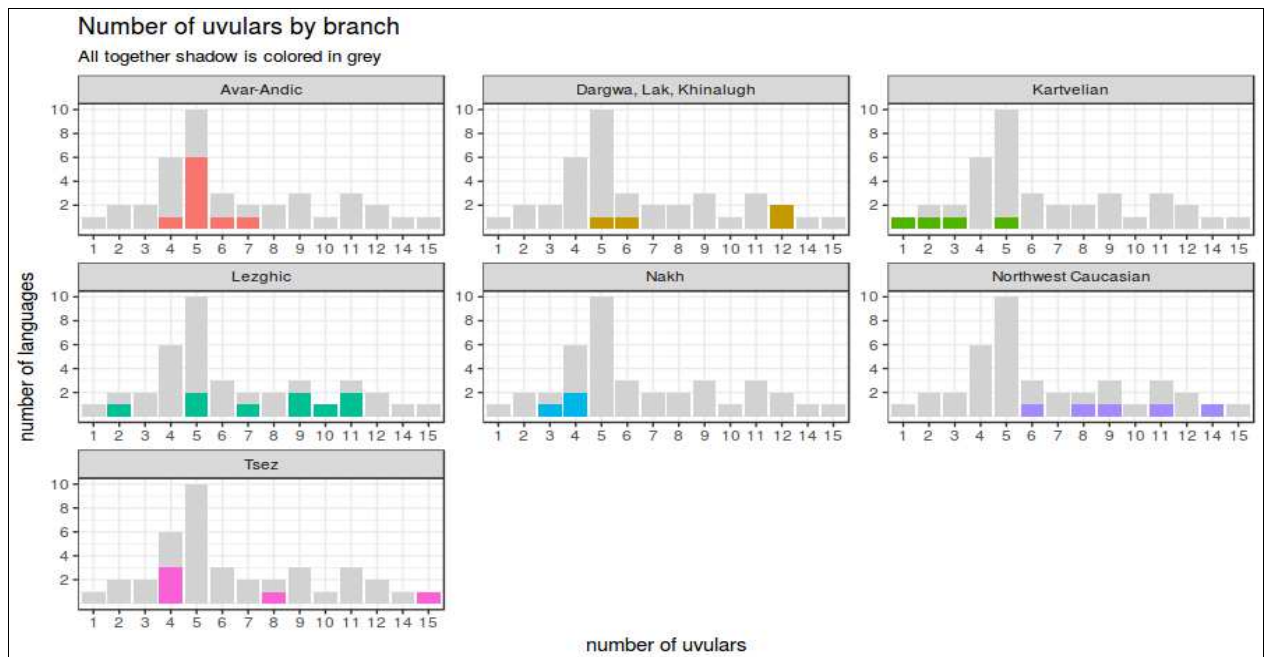


Fig. 1. Distribution of uvular consonants within language branches

We also investigated the co-occurrence of consonants. Table 2. presents the results of the investigation. There are 65536 possible combinations of all consonants. After removing the duplicates and analysis of the 561 unique possible candidates only 313 remain.

These data give us an opportunity to make a predictive model for co-occurrence based on data from languages of the Caucasus, and then use it with other data from a distinct language branch to test the model. This approach is different from the classical typological work with samples of languages from different language families. Additionally, this approach allows to look at interfamily diversity and then compare it with diversity within the whole language sample. In our talk we will show the advantages of this approach.

## References

Ian Maddieson. *Uvular Consonants*. Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, 2013.  
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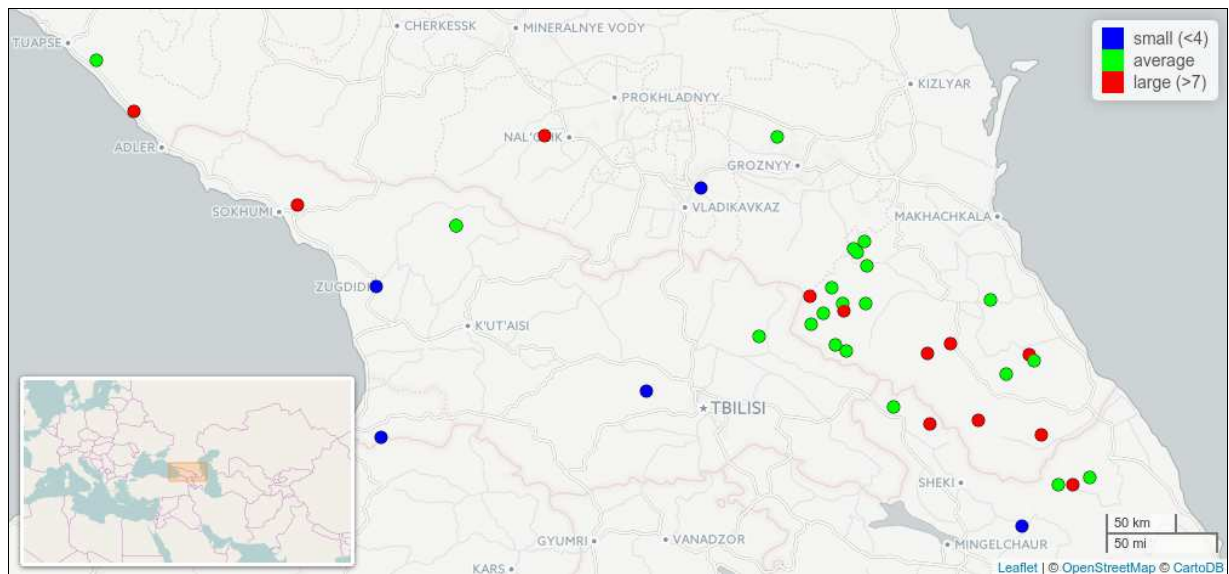


Fig. 2 Typological map of languages of the Caucasus:  
size of the uvular inventory