

Languages of smaller Caucasian peoples

Groups of languages according to affinity:

Kartvelian family: Laz, Megrelian, Svan.

Abkhazian-Adyghian family: Ubykh.

Nakh-Dagestani family:

Nakh languages: Batsbi;

Andian languages: Akhvakh, Andian, Bagvalal, Botlikh, Chamalal, Ghodoberi, Karata, Tindi;

Tsez languages: Bezhta, Hinukh, Hunzib, Khvarshi, Tsez;

Lezgian languages: Aghul, Archi, Budukh, Kryz, Rutul, Tsakhur, Udi.

Groups of languages according to their main location:

Georgia (and Turkey): Batsbi, Laz, Megrelian, Svan, Ubykh.

Dagestan, Agul (and Khunzakh) district: Aghul. Gunib district: Archi. Rutul district: Rutul, Tsakhur.

Tsumada district: Andian languages. Tsunta district: Tsez languages.

Azerbaijan: Budukh, Khinalug, Kryz, Udi.

Aghul / Арһул чӀал Аӡул ӡал

alphabet based on the romanization of Lezgian

a, b, c, ɕ, ɕ̣, d, dʒ, e, f, g, ɣ, ɣ̣, h, ɬ, i, j, k, ɤ, l, m, n, p, p̣, q, q̣, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, ü, w, x, ɣ̣̣, ɣ̣̣̣, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa (but these occur rarely).

Non-aspirated consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, ɕɕ, kk, pp, qq, tt.

Pharyngealized consonants are marked by ' : ɣ', q', qq', q̣', x'.

Pronunciation: see Lezgian.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Lezgian, incl. pharyngeal xɕ' > q', etc.

Note. Since 1992 has the Aghul language an official orthography but the details are not known.

Akhvakh / АшвалӀ миӡи

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, c, ɕ, ɕ̣, d, dʒ, e, g, ɣ, ɣ̣, h, ɬ, i, j, k, ɤ, l, ḷ, ḷ', ḷ̣, m, n, (n̄), o, p, (p̣), q, q', q̣, q̣', r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, w, x, ɣ̣̣, ɣ̣̣̣, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: añ, aañ, eñ, (eeñ), iñ, iiñ, oñ, ooñ, uñ, uuñ.

Intensive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, ɕɕ, ɕ̣ɕ̣, ɤɤ, ɬɬ, ss, šš, xx.

Exceptional non-intensive consonants as compared to Avar are marked by ' : l', q', q̣'.

Pronunciation: ɤɤ [ḳx':], ḷ' [ḷ'], q' [q], q̣' [q̣'], x [ɕ], for others see Avar (incl. q and q̣).

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar, the macron denotes intensity (ñ > cc, etc.); к̣ɕ > q̣', л̣I > ḷ', x̣ɕ > q'.

Andi / Ӧwannab micci

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, (c), ɕ, ɕ̣, d, dʒ, e, g, ɣ, ɣ̣, h, i, j, k, ɤ, l, ḷ, ḷ̣, m, n, o, p, q, q̣, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, w, x, ɣ̣̣, ɣ̣̣̣, z, ž.

Intensive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, ɕɕ, ɕ̣ɕ̣, kk, ɤɤ, ɬɬ, q̣q̣, ss, šš, xx.

Pronunciation: q̣ [q̣'], for others see Avar.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar, the macron denotes intensity; к̣ɕ ~ к̣ɕ > q̣, к̣̣ɕ > q̣q̣, ш > šš. (Alternatively: к̣ɕ > q̣q̣, к̣̣I > q̣.)

Archi / (Aršištib)

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, e, ě, g, ğ, h, ħ, i, k, ḳ, l, lh, ł, ʟ, ʓ, m, n, o, p, p̣, q, q̣, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, w, x, ẏ, ẑ, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu.

Strong consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: çç, čč, kk, ħħ, pp, ss, šš, tt, xx.

Labialized consonants are marked by w: cw, çw, čw, ċw, dw, gw, ğw, kw, kkw, ḳw, łw, ħw, ʟw, ʓw, qw, q̣w, q̣̣w, sw, ssw, šw, ššw, tw, xw, xxw, zw, žw.

Pronunciation: ě [ə], lh [ɫ], for others see Avar (ʟ, ʓ, q, q̣ are not strong consonants).

Scientific transcription based on Roman, incl. abruptive sounds k' > ḳ, etc., labialized consonants t^o > tw, etc., strong consonants t̄ > tt, etc.; ə > ě, ʏ > lh, H > ħ, ł = ł, L > ʟ, L' > ʓ, R > ğ, x = x, ʔ > ẑ.

Bagvalal / Bagwalazul miççi

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, dž, e, (f), g, ğ, ħ, h, ħ, i, j, k, ḳ, l, ł, ʟ, m, n, (ñ), o, p, q, q̣, r, s, ṣ, š, ṣ̌, t, ṭ, u, w, x, ẏ, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: aň, aañ, eň, eeň, iň, iiň, oň, ooň, uň, uuň.

Intensive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: ħħ, ss, šš, xx.

Pronunciation: ṣ [s'], ṣ̌ [ʃ'], for others see Avar (ʟ, q, q̣ are not intensive).

Scientific transcription based on Roman, the apostrophe denotes abruptivity, the macron denotes intensity; H > ħ, L' > ʟ, R > ğ, X > x, ʔ > ẑ, ʔ' > ẓ̂.

Batsbi / Bacbañ mott

alphabet based on the romanization of Ingush

a, b, c, ch, č, čh, d, dz, dž, e, g, gh, h, h', ħ, i, k, kh, l, ł, m, n, (ñ), o, p, ph, q, qh, r, s, š, t, th, u, v, x, ẏ, z, ž, '.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, ii, etc.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: aň, eň, iň, oň, uň.

Intensive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: ll, qq, qqh, ss, tt, tth, xx.

Pronunciation: h' [ç]?, ł [ɫ], ' [ʔ], for others see Ingush.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Ingush, rI > gh, kI > kh, ḳb > qh, kx > q, лb > ł, пI > ph, тI > th, цI > ch, чI > čh, хb > ẏ, xI > h, ь > ', I > h, Ịb > h'.

Bezhta / (Bežlas)

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, ä, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, e, g, ğ, (ğ), h, (ħ), i, j, k, ḳ, l, ł, ʟ, ʓ, m, n, (ñ), o, ö, p, p̣, q, q̣, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, ü, w, x, ẏ, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ää, ii, oo, uu.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: aň, aañ, äň, ääň, eň, iň, iiň, öň, uň, üň.

Intensive consonants do not occur.

Pronunciation: see Avar (ʟ, ʓ, q, q̣ are not intensive).

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar, к̣b > q̣, х̣b > q.

Botlikh / Bujxali miççi

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, c, ç, č, ĉ, d, dž, e, g, ğ, h, i, j, k, k̄, l, l̄, l̄, m, n, (ñ), o, p, q, r, s, š, t, t̄, u, w, x, x̄, x̄, z, ž.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: añ, eñ, iñ, oñ, uñ.

Intensive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, çç, čč, ĉĉ, kk, k̄k̄, ħ, qq, ss, šš, xx.

Pronunciation: x̄ [ç], for others see Avar.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar, the macron denotes intensity.

Budukh / Budad mez

alphabet based on the romanization of Lezgian

a, ä, b, ç, č, ĉ, d, dž, e, f, g, ğ, ğ, h, ħ, i, j, k, k̄, l, m, n, o, ö, p, p̄, q, q̄, q̄, r, s, š, t, t̄, u, ü, w, x, x̄, x̄, y, z, ž.

Front vowels next to pharyngeal consonants tend to become pharyngealized: serġi [serʲiʲ], ġöç̣i [ʃøtʲiʲ].

Pronunciation: q̄ [ʔq] (preruptive sound), for others see Lezgian.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Lezgian, к̣ъ > q̄.

Chamalal / Çamalaldub miçç

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, c, ç, č, ĉ, d, e, g, ğ, ğ, h, ħ, i, j, k, k̄, l, l̄, l̄, m, n, (ñ), o, p, (p̄), q, r, s, š, t, t̄, u, w, x, x̄, x̄, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: añ, aañ, eñ, iñ, iiñ, uñ, uuñ.

Intensive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, çç, čč, ĉĉ, k̄k̄, ħ, ss, šš.

Pronunciation: x̄ [ç], for others see Avar.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar, the macron denotes intensity.

Ghodoberi / Ğibdili micci

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, c, ç, č, ĉ, d, e, g, ğ, ğ, h, ħ, i, j, k, k̄, l, l̄, l̄, m, n, (ñ), o, p, q, q̄, r, s, š, t, t̄, u, w, x, x̄, x̄, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: añ, iñ, uñ.

Strong consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, čč, kk, ħ, ss, šš, tt, xx, x̄x̄.

Pronunciation: see Avar.

Scientific transcription based on Roman, the apostrophe denotes abruptivity (c' > ç, etc.), the macron denotes length; Ĥ > ħ, L > l̄, L' > l̄, R > ğ, x > x̄, X > x, ʃ > ğ, ʔ > x̄.

Hinukh /

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, c, ç, č, ĉ, d, e, g, ğ, ğ, h, ħ, i, j, k, k̄, l, l̄, l̄, m, n, o, p, p̄, q, q̄, r, s, š, t, t̄, u, ü, w, x, x̄, z.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu, (üü).

Pharyngeal vowels are marked by ' : a', e' (but these do not constitute independent phonemes).

Pronunciation: see Avar (l̄, l̄, q, q̄ are not intensive).

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar, the macron denotes length.

Hunzib / Hunzallis myc

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, â, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, e, ě, g, ğ, ĝ, h, ħ, i, j, k, k̄, l, ł, ʟ, ʞ, m, n, (ñ), o, p, ṗ, q, q̇, r, s, š, t, ʈ, u, w, x, ẋ, ẍ, y, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, (ěě), ii, oo, uu, (yy).

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: añ, âñ, eñ, ěñ, iñ, oñ, uñ, yñ.

Pronunciation: â [ɤ], ě [ɛ], y [i], for others see Avar (ʟ, ʞ, q, q̇ are not intensive).

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar, the macron denotes vowel length, superscript н marks nasal sound (a^h > añ), â = â, ɛ > ě.

Karata / K̄k̄irli miççi

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, e, g, ğ, ĝ, h, ħ, i, j, k, k̄, l, ł, ʟ, ʞ, ʟ', m, n, (ñ), o, p, (ṗ), q, r, s, š, t, ʈ, u, w, x, ẋ, ẍ, z, ž.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: añ, (eñ), iñ, (oñ), uñ.

Intensive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, çç, čč, ċċ, k̄k̄, ħ, qq, ss, šš.

Exceptional non-intensive consonants as compared to Avar are marked by ' : ʟ'.

Initial (automatic) laryngeal plosive is not marked.

Pronunciation: k̄k̄ [k̄x'], ʟ' [ɰ], ẋ [ç], for others see Avar.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar, the macron denotes intensity (ı̄ı̄ > šš, etc.), the tilde marks nasalization; k̄x̄ > ʟ'.

Khinalug / Ketš (Kätš) miç

alphabet based on the romanization of Lezgian

a, ä, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, dz, dž, e, f, g, gg, ğ, ĝ, h, ħ, i, j, k, kx, k̄, l, m, n, (ñ), o, ö, p, ṗ, q, q̇, r, s, š, t, ʈ, u, ü, w, x, ẋ, ẍ, y, z, ž.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: añ, iñ, oñ, etc.

Intensive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, čč, pp, qq, tt.

Pronunciation: gg [ɣ], kx [k̄x] (affricate), for others see Lezgian.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Lezgian, the macron denotes intensity; the tilde denotes nasalization of vowels; kx > kx, кx̄ > qq. In the transcription of 1959 (Desheriev) kx > q, кx̄ > q̇, x̄ > ẋ, x̄ > ħ, xI > h.

Khvarshi /

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, e, g, ğ, ĝ, h, ħ, i, j, k, k̄, l, ł, ʟ, ʞ, m, n, (ñ), o, p, ṗ, q, q̇, r, s, š, t, ʈ, u, w, x, ẋ, y, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: añ, aañ, eñ, eeñ, iñ, iiñ, oñ, ooñ, uñ, uuñ.

Pronunciation: y [i], for others see Avar (ʟ, ʞ, q, q̇ are not intensive).

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar.

Kryz / Qryçä mez

alphabet based on the romanization of Lezgian

a, ä, b, (c), ç, č, ċ, d, (dz), dž, e, f, g, (gg), ğ, ĝ, h, ħ, i, j, k, k̄, l, m, n, o, ö, p, ṗ, q, q̇, ǰ, r, s, š, t, ʈ, u, ü, w, x, ẋ, (ẍ), y, z, (ž).

Pronunciation: gg [ɣ], ǰ [ɟ], for others see Lezgian.
Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Lezgian, кѣ > ǰ.

Laz / Lazuri nena

alphabet based on the romanization of Georgian

a, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, dz, dž, e, f, g, ğ, h, i, j, k, ḳ, l, m, n, o, (ö), p, p̣, q, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, (ü), v, x, z, ž.

Pronunciation: ğ [ɣ], q [qʰ], x [χ], for others see Georgian.

Megrelian / Margaluri nina

alphabet based on the romanization of Georgian

a, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, dz, dž, e, g, ğ, (h), i, j, k, ḳ, l, m, n, o, p, p̣, (q), r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, v, x, z, ž.

Pronunciation: ğ [ɣ], q [qʰ], x [χ], for others see Georgian.

Rutul / Мыхлабишды члел Мухабишды џел

alphabet based on the romanization of Lezgian

a, ä, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, dz, dž, e, f, g, gg, ğ, ğ̣, h, ħ, i, k, ḳ, l, m, n, o, p, p̣, q, qq, q̣, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, ü, w, x, x̣, x̣̣, y, z.

Pharyngealized consonants are marked by ‘: ğ‘, q‘, qq‘, q̣‘, x‘.

Labialized consonants are marked by w: cw, çw, ċw, džw, gw, ğw, ğ̣w, kw, ḳw, qw, q‘w, qqw, q̣w, q̣‘w, šw, ṭw, xw, x‘w, x̣w, zw.

Pronunciation: gg [ɣ], qq [ɟ], for others see Lezgian.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Lezgian, аѣ > ä, ř > gg, кѣ > qq, xI > ħ.

Note. Since 1992 has the Rutul language an official orthography but the details are not known.

Svan / Lušnu nin

alphabet based on the romanization of Georgian

a, ä, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, dz, dž, e, g, ğ, h, i, j, k, ḳ, l, m, n, o, ö, p, p̣, q, q̣, s, š, t, ṭ, u, ü, w, x, y, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ää, ee, etc.

Pronunciation: y [ə], for others see Georgian.

Tindi / Idarab micci

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, b, (c), ç, č, ċ, d, e, g, ğ, ğ̣, h, ħ, i, j, k, ḳ, l, ḷ, ḷ̣, m, n, (ñ), o, p, q, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, w, x, x̣, x̣̣, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu.

Nasalized vowels are marked by ñ: añ, aañ, eñ, (eeñ), iñ, iiñ, oñ, ooñ, uñ, uuñ.

Strong consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, çç, čč, ċċ, kk, ħ, ss, šš, xx.

Palatalized consonants are marked by j: gj, kj, ḳj, kkj.

Initial (automatic) laryngeal plosive is not marked: Idari [ʔidari].

Pronunciation: kk [ḳx:], x̣ [ç], for others see Avar.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar, the macron denotes strong consonants, the acute (´) denotes palatalization (r´ > gj); ы > šš.

Tsakhur / ЦӀаӀхна миз Ҷа'хна миз
alphabet based on the romanization of Lezgian

a, ä, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, dž, e, g, gg, ğ, h, i, j, k, ḳ, l, m, n, o, ö, p, p̣, q, q̣, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, ü, w, x, ẏ, ẑ, y, z.

Pharyngeal vowels are marked by ' : a', e', i', o', u'.

Preruptive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: cc, čč, kk, pp, qq, tt.

Pronunciation: gg [ɣ], for others see Lezgian.

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Lezgian, pharyngeal vowels aI > a', etc., rI > gg, къ > qq.

Note. Since 1990 has the Tsakhur language an official orthography but the details are not known. Judging by the orthography in the Tsakhur-language newspaper Нур (www.dagpravda.ru) one can presume that it is close to the orthography of Lezgian. Pharyngeal vowels are marked by I: aI, eI, иI, etc.; these occur more frequently than the Umlaut vowels (cf. the name of the language ЦӀаӀхна миз, given in earlier sources as Ҷа'хна миз). Umlaut vowels are probably marked by я (ä), ё (ö), ю (ü). The combinations [j]+vowel are written йа, йо, йу. [je] is written е initially and after a vowel, [e] in the same position is marked by э. Long vowels аа, ий, оо occur. Additionally л' (=lj) is used that is missing in scientific description of the language.

Tsez / Cez

alphabet based on the romanization of Avar

a, ä, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, e, g, ğ, ğ̣, h, ḥ, i, j, k, ḳ, l, ḷ, ḷ̣, m, n, o, p, p̣, q, q̣, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, w, x, ẏ, ẑ, z, ž.

Long vowels are marked by doubling the vowel: aa, ää, ee.

Pharyngeal vowels are marked by ' : a', e', i', o', u'.

Pronunciation: see Avar (ḷ, ḷ̣, q, q̣ are not intensive).

Scientific transcription in Cyrillic as in Avar.

Ubykh /

alphabet based on the romanization of Adyghian

a, ä, b, c, ç, č, ć, ċ, ċ̄, ċ̄̄, d, dz, dž, dź, dż, f, g, gg, ğ, h, ḥ, j, k, ḳ, l, ḷ, ḷ̣, m, n, o, ö, p, p̣, q, q̣, r, s, š, ś, ś̄, t, ṭ, u, w, x, y, z, ž, ź, ź̄.

Pharyngealized consonants are marked by ' : b', ğ', m', p', p̣', q', q̣', v', w', x'.

Labialized consonants are marked by w: cw, çw, dw, dzw, gw, ğw, ğ'w, kw, ḳw, qw, q'w, q̣w, q'w, sw, šw, tw, ṭw, xw, x'w, zw, žw.

Palatalized consonants (excl. sibilants) are marked by j: gj, ğj, kj, ḳj, qj, q̣j, xj.

Pronunciation: ċ [tʃ̣], ċ̄ [tʃ̣'], ğ [ɣ], gg [ɣ], ḥ [χ], l [ḷ], x [x], for others see Adyghian.

Scientific transcription based on Roman, the underscore denotes pharyngealization (ḅ > b', etc.), superscript-o denotes labialization (k^o > kw, etc.), the apostrophe marks abruptivity (c' > ç, etc.), the acute expresses palatalization (k' > kj, k'' > ḳj, etc.); c' > ċ, ċ' > ć, ʒ > dz, ʒ' > dž, ž > dž, ž' > dź, ğ > gg, ʏ > ğ, ɸ' > ḷ, ś > ś̄, ś' > ś̄, x > ḥ (!), χ > x (!), ž > ž̄, ž' > ź.

Udi / Udi

alphabet based on the romanization of Lezgian

a, ä, b, c, ç, č, ċ, d, (dz), dž, e, f, g, ğ, ğ̣, h, i, j, k, ḳ, l, m, n, o, ö, p, p̣, q, q̣, r, s, š, t, ṭ, u, ü, w, x, z, ž.

Pharyngeal vowels are marked by ' : a', i', o'.

Intensive consonants are marked by doubling the consonant: çç, čč, dždž, (ḳḳ), (q̣q̣), šš, žž.

Pronunciation: ğ [ɣ], x [x], for others see Lezgian.

Scientific transcription is almost the same as in Lezgian, pharyngeal vowels aI > a', etc., intensive

consonants ч: > čč, д:ж: > dždž, etc., гъ > ğ, къ > q̇, х > x, хъ > q, I > ğ.

Sources

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