

Consonant Systems of the North-West Caucasian Languages

The consonant system of Abkhaz

| | | stops | | | affricates | | | sibilants | | | nasal s | liquid s | glide s |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|------------|------------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | | voice d | voiceless | | voice d | voiceless | | voice d | voiceless | | | | |
| | | | glott . | asp . | | glott . | asp . | | glott . | nglott t. | | | |
| labial | | b б | ḃ п | p п | | | | v в | (f) | f ф | m м | | w у |
| dental | nlab . | d д | ṭ т | t т | ʒ з | ʦ ц | ʦ ц | z з | | s с | n н | l л | y й |
| | lab. | dʔ дә | ṭʔ тә | tʔ тә | ʒʔ зә | ʦʔ цә | ʦʔ цә | | | | | | |
| alveolar | pal. | | | | ʒ̣ ц̣ | ʦ̣ ч̣ | ʦ̣ ч̣ | ʔ жь | | ʔ шь | | | |
| | npal . | | | | ʒ̣ ц̣ | ʦ̣ ч̣ | ʦ̣ ч̣ | ʔ ж | | ʔ ш | | r р | |
| | lab. | | | | | | | ʔʔ жә | | ʔʔ шә | | | |
| velar | pal. | g' гь | q̣' к̣ь | k' кь | | | | ɣ' гь | | x' хь | | | |
| | npal . | g г | q̣ к̣ | k к | | | | ɣ г | | x х | | | |
| | lab. | gʔ гь | q̣ʔ к̣ь | kʔ кь | | | | ɣʔ гь | | xʔ хь | | | |
| uvular | pal. | | q̣' к̣ь | | | | | | | | | | |
| | npal . | | q̣ к̣ | | | | | | | | | | |
| | lab. | | q̣ʔ к̣ь | | | | | | | | | | |
| pharyngeal | nlab . | | | | | | | | | ħ х | | | |
| | lab. | | | | | | | ʕʔ ә | | ħʔ хь | | | |

The consonant system of Abaza

| | | stops | | | affricates | | | sibilants | | | nasal s | liquid s | glide s |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | | voice d | voiceless | | voice d | voiceless | | voice d | voiceless | | | | |
| | | | glott . | asp . | | glott . | asp . | | glott . | nglot t. | | | |
| labial | | b б | ḅ пI | p п | | | | (v) (в) | (f) (фI) | (f) (ф) | m м | | w у |
| dental | | d д | ṭ тI | t т | ʒ дж | ʃ цI | ç ц | z з | | s с | n н | | y й |
| alveolar | pal. | | | | ʒ' джь | ʃ' чI | ç' ч | ʔ' жь | | ʔ' шь | | | |
| | npal . | | | | ʒ дж | ʃ шI | ç тш | ʔ ж | | ʔ ш | | r р | |
| | lab. | | | | ʒ? джв | ʃ? чIв | ç? чв | ʔ? жв | | ʔ? шв | | | |
| lateral | | | | | | | | (ḥ) (ль) | (ṭ) (лI) | (ṭ) (тл) | | l л | |
| velar | pal. | g' гь | ḱ' кIь | k' кь | | | | ɣ' гьь | | x' хь | | | |
| | npal . | g г | ḱ кI | k к | | | | ɣ гь | | x х | | | |
| | lab. | g? гв | ḱ? кIв | k? кв | | | | ɣ? гьв | | x? хв | | | |
| uvular | pal. | | q' кьь | | | | | | | | | | |
| | npal . | | q кь | q хь | | | | | | | | | |
| | lab. | | q? кьв | q? хь в | | | | | | | | | |
| pharyngeal | nlab . | | ʔ ь | | | | | ʕ гI | | ħ xI | | | |
| | lab. | | | | | | | ʕ? гIв | | ħ? xIв | | | |

The consonant system of Adyghe (West Circassian)

| | | stops | | | affricates | | | sibilants | | | nasals | liquids | glides |
|--|--|--------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | voiced | voiceless | | voiced | voiceless | | voiced | voiceless | | | | |
| | | | gem. m. | glott. t. | | asp. p. | gem. m. | | glott. t. | asp. p. | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|--------|------------|
| labial | | b б | (p:) | p̣ пІ | p п | | | | | v у | | f ф | m м | | (w) (у) |
| | lab. | | | p̣? пІу | | | | | | | | | (m?) (му) | | |
| dental | | d д | (t:) | ṭ тІ | t т | ʒ дж | (c:) | ç цІ | ç ц | z з | | s с | n н | | у й |
| | lab. | | | ṭ? тІу | | ʒ? джу | (c:?)) | | ç? цу | | | | | | |
| dentalveolar | | | | | | | | | | ʒ̣ жъ | ʃ̣ шІ | ʃ̣ шъ | | | |
| | lab. | | | | | | | | | ʒ̣? жъу | ʃ̣? шІу | ʃ̣? шъу | | | |
| alveolar | pal. | | | | | ʒ̣' джъ | (ç':) | ç' чІ | ç' ч | ʔ' жъ | | ʔ' шъ | | | |
| | npal. | | | | | ʒ̣ дж | (ç:)) | ç шІ | ç̣ тш | ʔ ж | | ʔ ш | | ɾ р | |
| lateral | | | | | | | | | | ɭ л | ɭ̣ лІ | ɭ̣ лъ | | | |
| velar | | | | | | | | | | ɣ г | | x х | | | |
| | lab. | g? гу | (k:) | ḳ? кІу | k? ку | | | | | | | x? хв | | | |
| uvular | | | q: къ | | | | | | | ɸ гъ | | χ хъ | | | |
| | lab. | | q? къу | | | | | | | ɸ? гъу | | χ? хъу | | | |
| pharyngeal | | | | ʔ І | | | | | | | | ħ хъ | | | |
| | lab. | | | ʔ? Іу | | | | | | | | | | | |

The consonant system of Kabardian (East Circassian)

| | stops | | | affricates | | | sibilants | | | nasals | liquids | glides |
|--------|--------|-----------|------|------------|-----------|------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| | voiced | voiceless | | voiced | voiceless | | voiced | voiceless | | | | |
| | | glott. | asp. | | glott. | asp. | | glott. | nglott. | | | |
| labial | b | p̣ | p | | | | v | f | f | m | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|----------|------------|----------------|----------|----------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|--|
| | | б | пI | п | | | | в | фI | ф | м | | |
| dental | | d д | t̥ тI | t т | ʒ дз | ç цI | ç ц | z з | | s с | n н | | |
| alveola r | pal. | | | | ʒ' дж | ç' чI | ç' ч | ʔ' жь | ʔ' щI | ʔ' щ | | | |
| | npal | | | | | | | ʔ ж | ʔ ш | | ɾ р | | |
| lateral | | | | | | | | ɭ л | ɭI лI | ɭ ль | | (l) (л) | |
| velar | | | | (k) (к) | | | | ɣ г | | x х | | | |
| | lab. | g? гу | q̣? кIу | k? ку | | | | | | x? ху | | | |
| uvular | | | q̣ кь | q кхь | | | | ɣ гь | | χ хь | | | |
| | lab. | | q̣? кьу | q? кхь у | | | | ɣ? гьу | | χ? хьу | | | |
| pharyngeal | | | | | | | | | ħ хь | | | | |

Literature:

- G.A. Klimov, *Einführung in die kaukasische Sprachwissenschaft*, Hamburg 1994, 47-56
- D.M. Job, *Probleme eines typologischen Vergleichs iberokaukasischer und indogermanischer Phonemsysteme im Kaukasus*, Frankfurt a/M u. Bern 1977
- R. Smeets, *Studies in West Circassian Phonology and Morphology*, Leiden 1984
- A.H. Kuipers, *Phoneme and Morpheme in Kabardian*, 's Gravenhage 1960

Achtung: Dieser Text ist mit Unicode / UTF8 kodiert. Um die in ihm erscheinenden Sonderzeichen auf Bildschirm und Drucker sichtbar zu machen, mu?ein Font installiert sein, der Unicode abdeckt wie z.B. der TITUS-Font [Titus Cyberbit Unicode](#).

Attention: This text is encoded using Unicode / UTF8. The special characters as contained in it can only be displayed and printed by installing a font that covers Unicode such as the TITUS font [Titus Cyberbit Unicode](#).

Source: [TITUS](#) Thesaurus Indogermanischer Text- und Sprachmaterialien