



LACIM

European research network on linguistics and
languages of the Anatolia-Caucasus-Iran-
Mesopotamia area

Ἰνάλκο รัตบัณฑิต |in| সভ্যতা 𐎠𐎡𐎣
i n a l c o

Institut national
des langues
et civilisations orientales

glotthèque
languages of Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia

Armenian Introduction

Anaïd Donabédian-Demopoulos

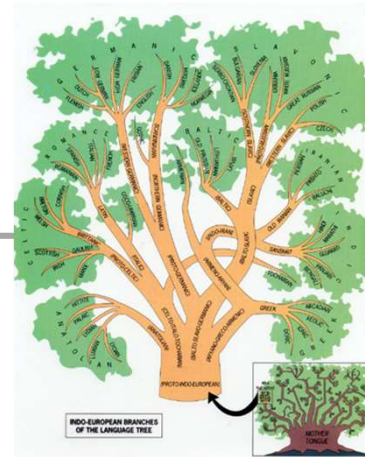
Inalco – SeDyL (Paris, France)

Paris, Jan 24, 2022

visit glotthèque at: <https://spw.uni-goettingen.de/projects/lacim/>

Origin

- Indo-European isolate branch
- Pre-historical language contact:
 - Urartian (substrate)
 - Iranian (adstrate)
- Documented early 5th century, mainly in Armenian alphabet since then



Ա	Բ	Գ	Դ	Ե	Զ	Է	Ը	Թ	Ճ	Ի	Լ	Ն	Մ	Կ	Ղ	Ջ	Ղ	Ճ	Մ
ա	բ	գ	դ	ե	զ	է	ը	թ	ճ	ի	լ	ն	մ	կ	ղ	ճ	դ	ճ	մ
a	b	g	d	e	z	ē	ə	t'	ž	i	l	x	c	k	h	j	ł	č	m
Ծ	Ն	Շ	Ո	Չ	Պ	Ջ	Ռ	Ս	Վ	Տ	Ր	Ց	Ի	Փ	Ք	Օ	Յ		
յ	և	չ	ո	չ	պ	ղ	ն	ս	վ	տ	ր	ց	ի	փ	ք	օ	ֆ		
y	n	š	o	č	p	j	ř	s	v	t	r	c'	w	p'	k'	aw	f		

Periodization of written/standard Armenian

- **5th-11th c. : Classical Armenian** (5th c. : Golden Age)

Literacy and education transmitted through monasteries;

Language of administration is not Armenian (Aramaic, Greek...)

- **12-15th c. : Middle Armenian**

Kingdom of Cilicia : Armenian becomes an official administrative language for the first time in history

- **16-19th c. : from “Civil Armenian” to Modern Armenian**

Rise of a merchant bourgeoisie and printing industry

Secularization of knowledge, European Enlightenment ideas

Standardization of Modern Armenian as a literary language

Modern Armenian: standardization and variation

Standardization of Modern Armenian happened during the 19th c.:

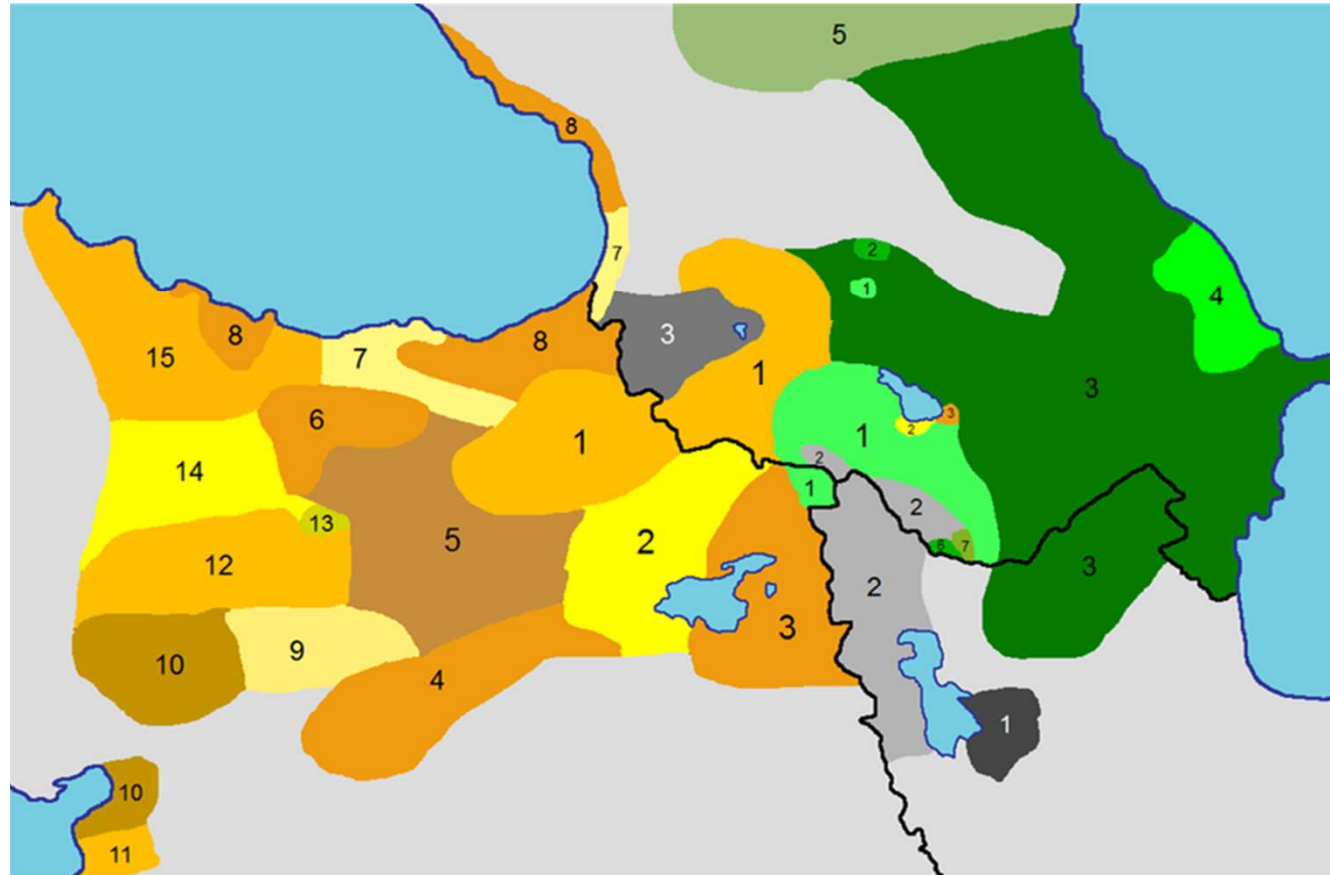
- In the Ottoman Empire (on the basis of Constantinople koine, based on Western dialects)
- In the Russian Empire (in 1828 Russia takes Caucasus from Persia) based on Eastern dialects (Ararat Valley or an urban koine - several theories ongoing)

Late 19th c.: the branching of Standard Modern Armenian into two dialects is rooted. Dialects diverge more with the political turns of 20th c. (sovietization of Caucasus, diasporization of Western Armenians)

Standardization relies on :

- Intensive translation activity of western literature
 - Work of grammarians, educators, journalists, and publicists
-

Armenian vernacular early 20th c.



**Classification of Armenian dialects
by Hrachia Adjarian (1909)**


-gë dialects

1. Erzurum
2. Mush
3. Van
4. Darbekir
5. Kharberd-Yerznka
6. Shabin-Karahisar
7. Trebizond
8. Hamshen
9. Malatia
10. Cilicia
11. Syria
12. Arabkir
13. Akn
14. Sivas
15. Tokat
16. Smyrna
17. Izmit
18. Constantinople
19. Rodosto
20. Nakhichevan-on-Don
21. Austria-Hungary


-owm dialects

1. Erivan
2. Tiflis
3. Karabakh
4. Shamakha
5. Astrakhan
6. Julfa
7. Agulis


-el dialects

1. Maragha
2. Khoy
3. Artvin

Modern Armenian: sociolinguistic trends

Main contact languages:

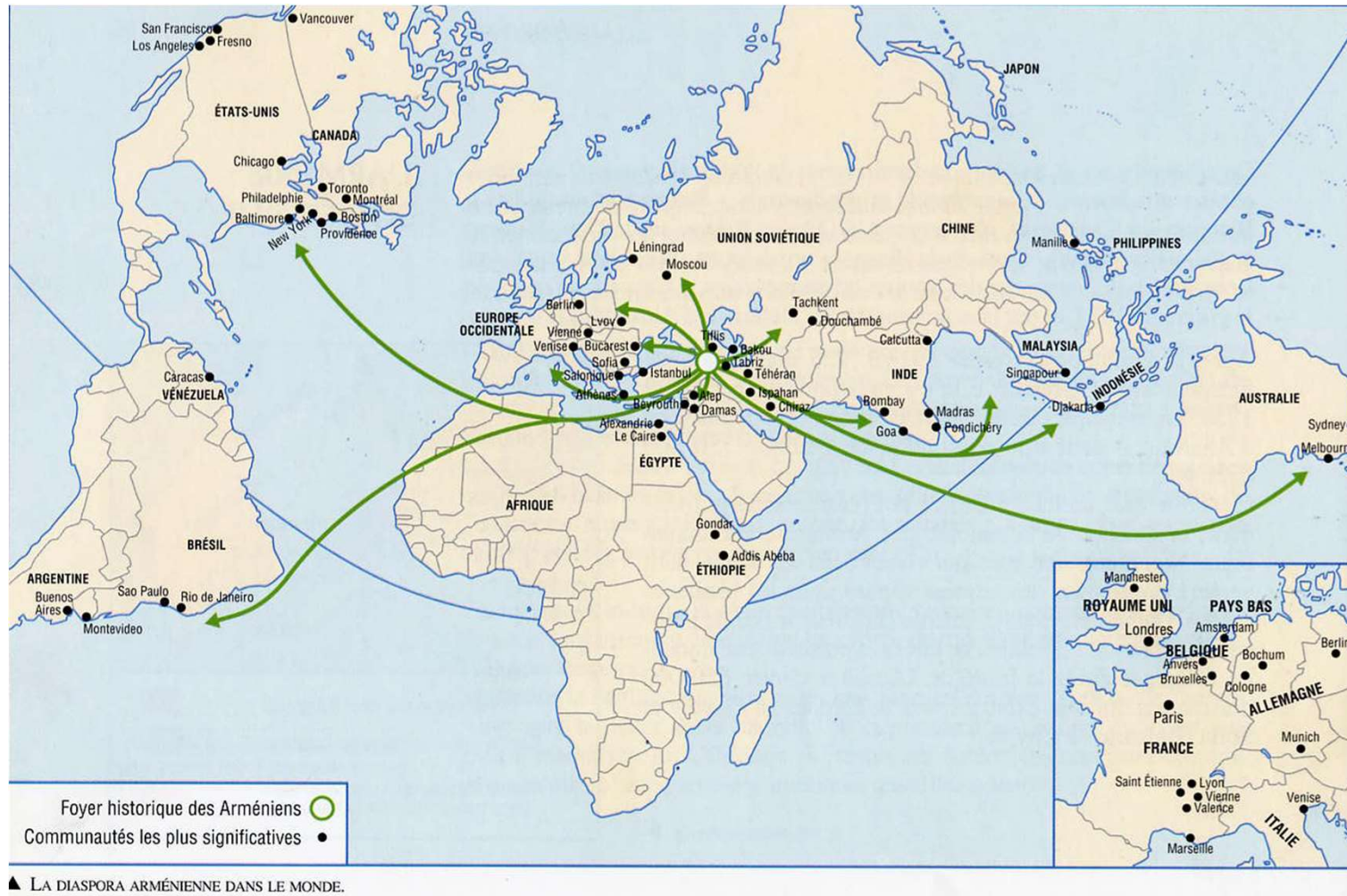
Eastern Armenian (official language of a the Republic of Armenia)

- Persian (impact on vernacular and dialects, speakers often not aware)
- Russian (stronger impact on written language, press, etc., due to bilingual education for last generations)
- Caucasian languages (noticeable in some typological features)
- Azerbaijani Turkish (locally also Kurmanji or Neo-Aramaic)

Western Armenian (Diasporic language, endangered language)

- Turkish (extensive bilingualism 12th c.-1922), (locally also Kurdish, Neo-Aramaic, Pontic Greek, Arabic)
 - Since 1922 (Big Diaspora): polycentric language (Near-East, Europe, America, Australia) with different contact languages.
-

Western Armenian and the Big Diaspora



Main typological features

Common features for Eastern and Western Armenian

- No grammatical gender (only what/who contrast in Pronouns)
- Pro-drop language (subject, complements)
- Mainly agglutinative noun morphology (exceptions: sandhi, stem alternations, irregular paradigms, esp. “Swadesh” lexicon)
- Mainly flexional verb morphology (with some more or less regular infixation phenomena: perfective, passive, causative)
- Mainly head-final (AN, GN, postpositions, SOV, non-final preposed relative clauses) non-exclusive (SVO, finite postposed relative clauses, residual prepositions)

Main typological features (2)

Distinctive features for Eastern and Western Armenian

(Stilo 2015 ; Haig 2017)

- Stops and affricates system: 3 ways (EArm) / 2 ways (WArm)
- Present formation: with copula (EArm) / with particle (WWArm)
- Want + V: Subjunctive (EArm) / Infinitive (WArm)
- Light verbs constructions: much more in EArm than in WArm

(Donabedian 2001)

- Evidential/admirative : one of the meanings of the Perfect (EArm) / specific tense contrasting with the perfect (WArm)
-

references

- Donabédian, A., 2001 “Toward a Semasiological account of Evidentials : an Enunciative Approach of –er in Modern W. Armenian”, *Journal of Pragmatics*, 33/3, 421-442
- Donabedian, A., 2013, L’arménien occidental, in Kremnitz G. (dir.), *Histoire sociale des langues de France*, Rennes, PUR, 609-618
- Donabedian A., 2018, «Middle East and Beyond - Western Armenian at the crossroads : A sociolinguistic and typological sketch», in Bulut, Christiane, *Linguistic Minorities in Turkey and Turkic-speaking Minorities of the Peripheries : Turcologica* 111, Harrassowitz Verlag, 89-148.. <https://www.harrassowitz-verlag.de/title_1003.ahtml>. <hal-01911806>
- Donabedian A. and Sitaridou I., 2020, Anatolia, In Adamou, Evangelia & Matras, Yaron (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Language Contact*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge - 404-433 <halshs-03107430> ; <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351109154-26>
- Haig, G., 2017, Western Asia: East Anatolia as a transition zone. In: R. Hickey, ed., *The Cambridge Handbook of Areal Linguistics*. London: Cambridge University Press, 396–423.
- Stilo, D., 2015, An introduction to the Atlas of the Araxes-Iran Linguistic Area. In: B. Comrie and L. Golluscio, eds., *Language Contact and Documentation / Contacto lingüístico y documentación*. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter Mouton, pp. 343–356.

this lecture

is part of the series *Glottothèque: Languages of the Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia; grammatical snippets online*, ed. by C. Bulut, A. Donabédian-Demopoulos, G. Haig, G. Khan, P. Samvelian, S. Skopeteas, N. Sumbatova.

Bamberg/Cambridge/Göttingen/Moskow/Nicosia/Paris: LACIM network.

The image shows a dark blue background with a faint, stylized Earth globe. Overlaid on the globe is the text 'LACIM' in large, light blue, sans-serif capital letters. Below 'LACIM' is the word 'glottothèque' in a white, serif font. In the bottom right corner, the text 'Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia grammatical snippets online' is written in a white, monospace font.

You may find related lectures and further information at the Glottothèque website at:
<https://spw.uni-goettingen.de/projects/lacim/>

Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia
grammatical snippets online
