



LACIM

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



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glottothèque
languages of Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia

DARGWA
Phonetics

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General

- There is very few modern research of phonetics and phonology of Dargwa
 - This presentation contains only the most basic facts
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Vowels

- ✓ four basic vowels:
a, u, e, i
- ✓ pharyngealized vowels
a^ʕ
a^ʕ, u^ʕ
a^ʕ, u^ʕ, e^ʕ
a^ʕ, u^ʕ, i^ʕ
- ✓ some dialects also have long vowels (Kubachi, Itsari)

Consonants

- ✓ The stops form groups of four consonants: plain (voiceless aspirated) – geminated (voiceless non-aspirated) – ejective – voiced

p pː p' b

t tː t' d

- ✓ Fricatives cannot be ejective:

s sː z

- ✓ Affricates cannot be voiced:

č čː č'

- ✓ The dialects of the Northern group have no geminated consonants:

p p' b

s z

č č'

Consonants

- ✓ Many consonants in the velar and post-velar part of the vocal tract:

Velar: k k: k' g x x: (ɣ)







Uvular: q q: q' (ɢ) ɣ ɣ: ʁ

Pharyngeal/epiglottal: ʕ ʕ' (ʕ)

Laryngeal: h ʔ

Words (Tanti Dargwa)

- ✓ geminated and ejective consonants

apricot	kurekꞌa	
tree	kꞌalkꞌa	
leaf	k'ap'i	
head	bek'	
filled bread	čutꞌu	
fire	c'a	

Syllable structure

- ✓ No complex onsets
 - ✓ Possible syllable structures:
V, VC, VCC, CV, CVC, CVCC
 - ✓ **Sanzhi Dargwa** (Forker 2020: 26), loan words (from Russian)
klass 'class' > kɫalas
kniga 'book' > kiniga
spirt 'alcohol' > ispirit
brigadir 'brigadier' > birgadir
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Stress and prosody

- ✓ There is very little understanding of the nature and position of stress
- ✓ In many cases, the position of stress is not clear
- ✓ At the same time, in some dialects, the position of stress can be used to express grammatical oppositions

Tsudakhar (Abdullaev 1954: 62–63)

wáč'ib '(he) came' (aorist) – **wač'íb adam** 'the person who came'

ʔá'jk:u '(I) don't love' (present) – **ʔa'jk:ú dušman** 'unloved, enemy'

Stress

In the dialect of Tsugni, a shift of stress marks the causative derivation.

Tsugni (Sulajbanov, Sumbatova 2021)

- a. hin d-érč̣:-ib-ce admi
 water NPL-drink.PFV-PRET-ATR person
 ‘the person who drank the water’
- b. amɣa-c̣:e hin d-erč̣:-íb-ce admi
 donkey-INTER water NPL-drink.PFV-PRET-ATR person
 ‘the person who made the donkey drink water’
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this lecture

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