



glottothèque
languages of Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia



Georgian

letters and segments

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



targets and contents

Goals

- introduction of the segmental inventory
- introduction of the Georgian alphabet

Contents

- Georgian alphabet
- inventory of segments
- Illustrative examples: *Deciphering a living (!) writing system.*

The Georgian scripts

- Three scripts: *mrg(v)lovani* “rounded” 5th-9th; *k’utxovani* “angular” 9th-11th; *mxedruli* “military; secular” 11th century onwards

The Georgian Alphabets

Letter Name	an	ban	gan	don	en	vin	zen	e- merve	tan	in	k'an	las	man	nar
Asomtavruli	Ⴀ	Ⴁ	Ⴂ	Ⴃ	Ⴄ	Ⴅ	Ⴆ	Ⴇ	Ⴈ	Ⴉ	Ⴊ	Ⴋ	Ⴌ	Ⴍ
Nuskhuri	Ⴎ	Ⴏ	Ⴐ	Ⴑ	Ⴒ	Ⴓ	Ⴔ	Ⴕ	Ⴖ	Ⴗ	Ⴘ	Ⴙ	Ⴚ	Ⴛ
Mkhedruli	Ⴜ	Ⴝ	Ⴞ	Ⴟ	ⴁ	ⴂ	ⴃ	ⴄ	ⴅ	ⴆ	ⴇ	ⴈ	ⴉ	ⴊ
Numerical Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	30	40	50
Letter Name	ie	on	p'ar	zhan	rae	san	t'ar	vie	un	par	kan	ghan	q'ar	shin
Asomtavruli	Ⴇ	Ⴈ	Ⴉ	Ⴊ	Ⴋ	Ⴌ	Ⴍ	Ⴎ	Ⴏ	Ⴐ	Ⴑ	Ⴒ	Ⴓ	Ⴔ
Nuskhuri	Ⴕ	Ⴖ	Ⴗ	Ⴘ	Ⴙ	Ⴚ	Ⴛ	Ⴜ	Ⴝ	Ⴞ	Ⴟ	ⴁ	ⴂ	ⴃ
Mkhedruli	ⴄ	ⴅ	ⴆ	ⴇ	ⴈ	ⴉ	ⴊ	ⴋ	ⴌ	ⴍ	ⴎ	ⴏ	ⴐ	ⴑ
Numerical Value	60	70	80	90	100	200	300	400	(400)	500	600	700	800	900
Letter Name	chin	tsan	dzil	ts'il	ch'ar	xan	qar	jan	hae	hoe		fi	shva	elifi
Asomtavruli	Ⴇ	Ⴈ	Ⴉ	Ⴊ	Ⴋ	Ⴌ	Ⴍ	Ⴎ	Ⴏ	Ⴐ				
Nuskhuri	Ⴑ	Ⴒ	Ⴓ	Ⴔ	Ⴕ	Ⴖ	Ⴗ	Ⴘ	Ⴙ	Ⴚ				
Mkhedruli	ⴁ	ⴂ	ⴃ	ⴄ	ⴅ	ⴆ	ⴇ	ⴈ	ⴉ	ⴊ		ⴋ	ⴌ	ⴍ
Numerical Value	1,000	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000	9,000	10,000				

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Anban-historical.png>

Georgian alphabet

- The modern script has 33 characters and is fully phonemic: 28 consonants and 5 vowels. Old Georgian used 5 additional characters.
 - There is no distinction between upper and lower case letters
-

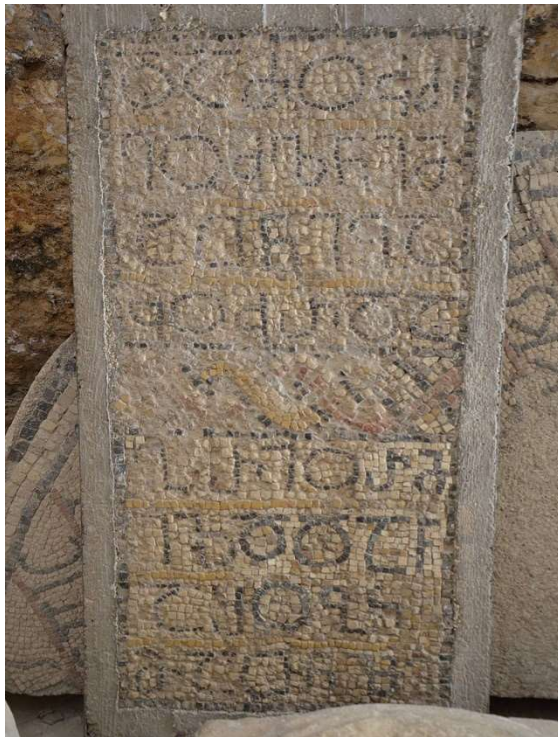
Origin of Georgian alphabet

two legends:

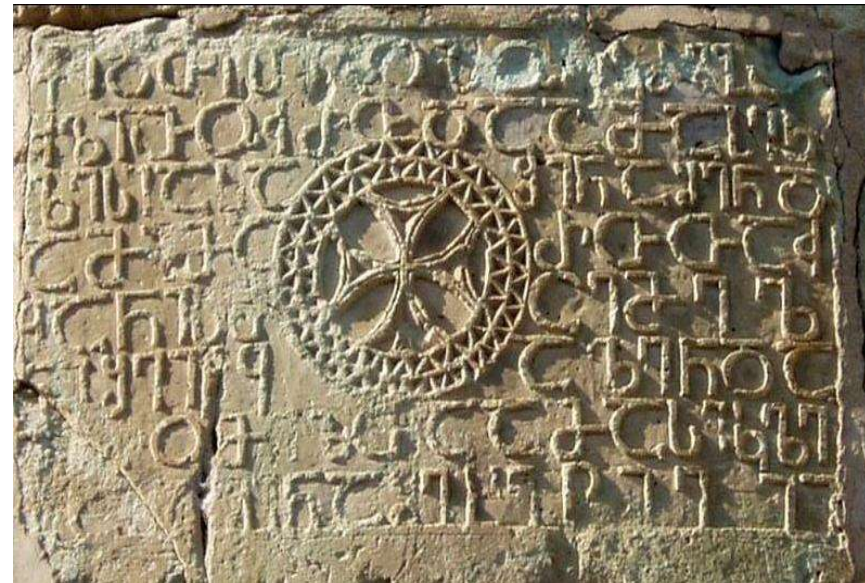
- King Parnavaz 4th/3rd B.C.;
 - Armenian Bishop Mesrop Mashtots 400 A.D.
-

The earliest inscriptions

Bethlehem 430 A.D. (Palestine)



Bolnisi 494 A.D. (Georgia)



Photos published on Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian_scripts

Georgian alphabet

- Letters

ა ბ გ დ ე ვ ზ **ვ** თ ი კ ლ

მ ნ **ო** რ ს ჯ ტ **კ** უ ფ

ქ ღ ყ შ ჩ ც ძ წ ჭ ხ **ც** ჯ ჰ **ჭ**

- At this moment, the content of the letters is a puzzle. You can get a first idea if you hear the Georgian Alphabet song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPohyqRBK9M>

- but you will certainly get a better idea by doing with us the following exercise, if you want to be among the first scholars that deciphered a living writing system...
-

example 1



published in Georgian journal, 11 Jun 2019 at

<https://georgianjournal.ge/business/35891-coca-cola-to-open-new-factory-in-georgia-will-hire-female-drivers.html>

exercise

Map the letters to the sounds: კოკა კოლა

Consonants

	bilabial	labiod	dental	alveolar	postalv.	velar	uvular	glottal	
plosive	p ^h p' b		t ^h t' d			k ^h k' g		q'	
affricate				ts ^h ts' dz	tʃ ^h tʃ' dʒ				
nasal	m				n				
tap/trill					r				
fricative		v		s	z	ʃ	ʒ	x	h
lateral					l		ɣ		

Vowels

i u
 ε ɔ
 a

example 2

ჰამბურგერი



de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamburger

solution

Map the letters to the sounds: ჰამბურგერი

Consonants

	bilabial	labiod	dental	alveolar	postalv.	velar	uvular	glottal	
plosive	p ^h p' ბ		t ^h t' დ			k ^h კ გ		q'	
affricate				ts ^h ts' ძ	tʃ ^h tʃ' ჯ				
nasal		მ		n					
tap/trill				რ					
fricative		v		s	z	ʃ	ჰ	x	ღ
lateral				ლ					

Vowels

ა
 ე
 ი
 ო
 უ
 ე
 მ
 ჯ

example 3

We have already establish the vowels. Let's proceed with more interesting native words:

ყაზბეგი



By Gregory Bruev

Example 4

პეპელა



<https://www.pxfuel.com/en/free-photo-jraka>

exercise

Map the letters to the sounds: ჰეჰელა

Consonants

	bilabial	labiod	dental	alveolar	postalv.	velar	uvular	glottal		
plosive	p ^h p' ბ		t ^h t' დ			k ^h კ გ	ყ			
affricate				ts ^h ts' ძ	tʃ ^h tʃ' ძ					
nasal	მ			n						
tap/trill				რ						
fricative		v		s	z	ʃ	ჰ	x	ყ	ღ
lateral				ლ						

Vowels

ა
 ე
 ი
 ო
 უ

solution

Map the letters to the sounds: ჰეპელა

Consonants

	bilabial	labiod	dental	alveolar	postalv.	velar	uvular	glottal
plosive	p ^h ჰ ბ		t ^h t' d			k ^h კ გ	ყ	
affricate				ts ^h ts' dz	tʃ ^h tʃ' dʒ			
nasal	მ			n				
tap/trill				რ				
fricative		v		s	ʃ	z	x	γ
lateral				ლ				ჰ

Vowels

ო
 ე
 მ
 ა

more examples

Please hear the following examples and try to identify the sounds/letters by using the exercise sheet with the sound inventory.

Example 5

ჯიბვი



- https://ka.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E1%83%AF%E1%83%98%E1%83%AE%E1%83%95%E1%83%98#/media/%E1%83%A4%E1%83%90%E1%83%98%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98:West_Caucasian_Tur.jpg
-

Example 6

მდინარე



- [https://ka.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%E1%83%9D%E1%83%9C%E1%83%98#/media/%E1%83%A4%E1%83%90%E1%83%98%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98:Rioni_river_-_Georgia_\(Europe\).jpg](https://ka.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%E1%83%9D%E1%83%9C%E1%83%98#/media/%E1%83%A4%E1%83%90%E1%83%98%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98:Rioni_river_-_Georgia_(Europe).jpg)
-

Example 7

ციცინათელა



- <https://www.prevention.com/life/a32879843/why-do-fireflies-glow/>
-

Example 8

კმძვი



https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q1142561#/media/File:Tusheti,_kvavlo.jpg

Example 9

ჩურჩხელა



<https://ka.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E1%83%A9%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A0%E1%83%A9%E1%83%AE%E1%83%94%E1%83%9A%E1%83%90>

Example 10

ყურძენი



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bunch_of_Green_Grapes.jpg

Example 12

დრუბელი



- <https://pixabay.com/photos/clouds-cloud-image-cumulus-heaven-5395398/>
-

references

- about Georgian segmental phonology

Shosted, R. K. & V. Chikovani (2006). Standard Georgian. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 36(2), 255-264.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/A7DCF9606BA856FCA5CC25918ADB37EF/S0025100306002659a.pdf/standard-georgian.pdf>

Butskhrikidze, M. (2002). *The consonant phonotactics of Georgian*. Utrecht: LOT Publications. Chapter 3, 75-95

https://www.lotpublications.nl/Documents/063_fulltext.pdf

- About Georgian scripts

Hewitt B.G. (1995). Georgian A structural reference grammar, 4-16

- about the alphabet

you may hear the Georgian Alphabet song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPohyqRBK9M>

references

for more exercises

see webpage GEORGIAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE on the following links

<http://geofl.ge/lego/lessonView.php?text=A1%20%E1%83%A8%E1%83%94%E1%83%9B%E1%83%A1%E1%83%AC%E1%83%90%E1%83%95%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%20%E1%83%AC%E1%83%98%E1%83%92%E1%83%9C%E1%83%98%20%E1%83%A5%E1%83%90%E1%83%A0%E1%83%97%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%20%E1%83%90%E1%83%9C%E1%83%91%E1%83%90%E1%83%9C%E1%83%98&parentID=3>

<http://geofl.ge/lego/lessonView.php?text=A1%20%E1%83%A8%E1%83%94%E1%83%9B%E1%83%A1%E1%83%AC%E1%83%90%E1%83%95%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%20%E1%83%AC%E1%83%98%E1%83%92%E1%83%9C%E1%83%98%20%E1%83%92%E1%83%90%E1%83%99%E1%83%95%E1%83%94%E1%83%97%E1%83%98%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%201&parentID=3>

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.



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