



glottothèque
languages of Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia



Turkic in the LACIM area

Minor Turkic languages and varieties of Turkic
spoken across the target area

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Turkic as a newcomer to the LACIM areal

Turkic is a newcomer to the LACIM area, where it came into contact with numerous genetically unrelated languages.

- For centuries, Turkic functioned as a **means of communication** between different peoples of Central and West Asia, and between the various ethnic components of the large tribal confederations (predominantly nomadic populations) and, consequently, the army.
 - This function may partly explain the simple and regular structure and the high proportion of loaned or ‘copied’ elements.
 - Turkic traditionally enjoyed quite low prestige in Western Asia. Written languages developed relatively late.
 - At present, many speakers of minority languages in the LACIM area still use varieties of Turkic as a lingua franca.
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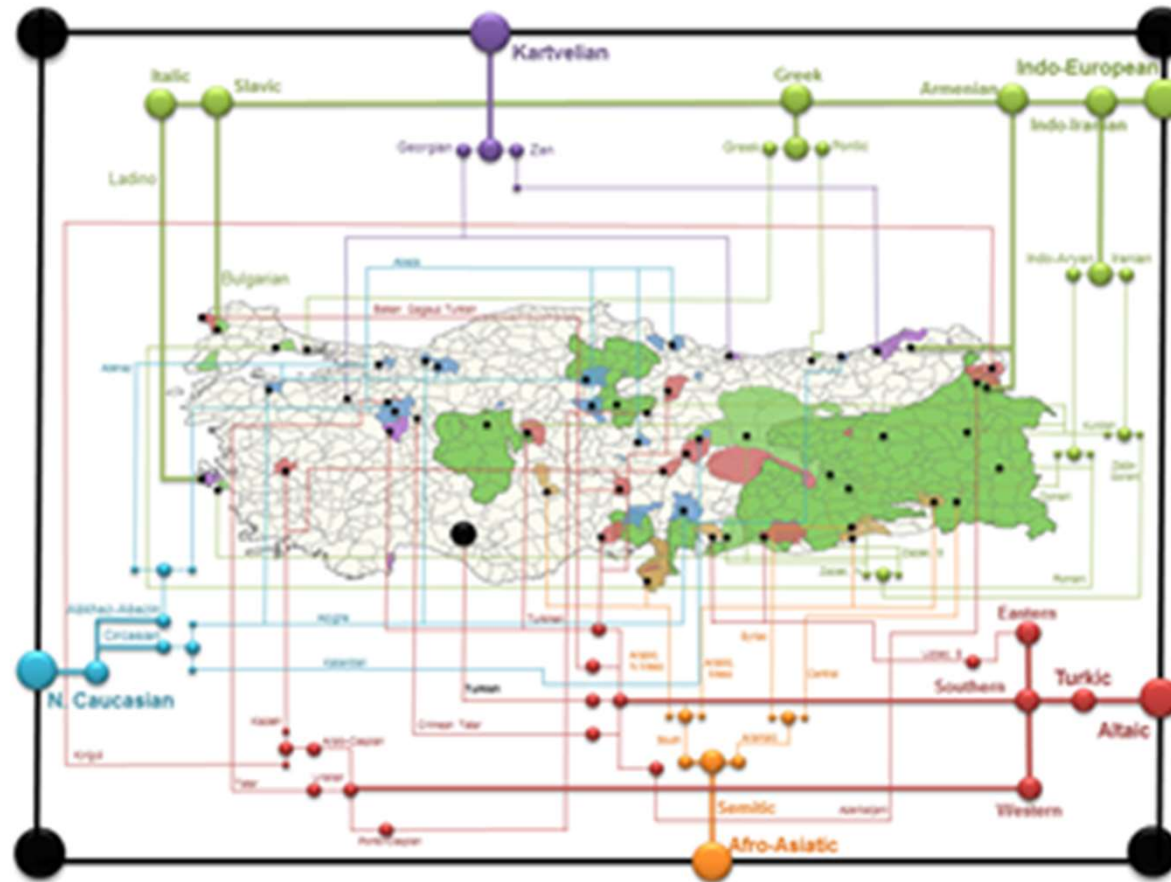
Anatolia

Anatolia alone hosts representatives of 5 (or more?) language families

- (1) INDO-EUROPEAN
 - Iranian (mostly NW/Kurdish: Kurmanji, Sorani, Zazaki)
 - Armenian (West Armenian)
 - Greek (Greek of Asia Minor, Pontic Greek)
 - Slavonic
 - Romani and Domani/Domari Languages
 - (2) TURKIC: mostly representatives of the Western (ST) and Central (Azeri) branch of Saljuqian Oghuz.
 - (3) SEMITIC (Arabic, Aramaic/Neo-Syriac)
 - (4) South CAUCASIAN/Kartvelian: Georgian, Laz
 - (5) NW-CAUCASIAN Circassian/ Cherkess
 - Adyghe** or West Circassian, with half a million speakers, and
 - Kabardian** or East Circassian, with one million speakers
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Anatolia

In this rather colorful language landscape, Turkic is a very recent arrival.



Turkic in the LACIM area

The first of several major waves of Turkic settlement in Iran, Iraq, and Anatolia began in the 11th century with the westward movements of the strongly Iranicized Saljuqs and their affiliated tribes. Their Turkic language is predominantly SW or Oghuz Turkic. As is characteristic of Islamic Turkic States, the language used by the ruling elites, the administration, and in literature & arts is Persian, while Arabic is the medium of theology and natural sciences.

- The first Mongol raids under Genghis Khan (1162? – 1227) bring more Mongolian and Turkic, but also Iranic elements to the West. East Anatolia and Iran are united under Genghis Khan's successors, the Ilkhans of Iran.
 - By the end of the 14th century, when the tribal confederations of the Aqqoyunlu, whose capital was Diyarbakir, and the Qaraqoyunlu of Tabriz dominated huge portions of Anatolia and West Iran, fractions of Turkic tribes began to return to the East again. This movement reached its peak in the time of the establishment of Safavid power in 1500, with several of the so-called Qızılbaş-tribes floating back into Iran.
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Which Turkic is represented in the LACIM areal?

Varieties of Turkic are spoken across the area, in the following regions

- Anatolia
- Georgia
- Iran
- Iraq

In many regions, Turkic is used as a means of communication between speakers of different minority languages.

Written or standard languages of the LACIM areal

Turkish of Turkey (western subgroup of the Oghuz/SW branch of the TL), Azeri of Azerbaijan (central subgroup of SW/Oghuz Turkic)

- **Standard Turkish**, the successor of Ottoman Turkish, is a ***strongly engineered language***, which received its present form in the 1920s and 1930. It is based on the dialect of the former capital, Istanbul
 - **Standard Azeri** of the Republic of Azerbaijan developed on the basis of NW Iran-Turkic and under the influence of the Chaghatai literary tradition; it received its present shape during the 1st half of the 20th century
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Turkic in the LACIM area

The Turkic varieties in the LACIM area mainly represent the Central and Southern subgroups of SW or Oghuz Turkic.



Subgroups of SW or Oghuz Turkic in the LACIM areal

Western Oghuz: Ottoman/Modern Turkish, Balkan Turkic, and Gagauz



Subgroups of SW or Oghuz Turkic in the LACIM areal

Central Oghuz varieties

Historically and linguistically, the central subgroup of the Oghuz branch of Turkic comprises the following varieties:

- Azeri spoken in the Republic of Azerbaijan and in Azerbaijan Province in Iran, and other varieties of NW Iran-Turkic
 - Iraq-Turkic or Iraqi Turkman spoken in the Turkman belt of Iraq
 - Southeastern Anatolian dialects spoken in Turkey
 - Northeastern Anatolian dialects are also spoken in Georgia, mainly in the region around Tsalka
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Central Oghuz varieties

AZERI: Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan Province in Iran



North Azeri or Aserbaijanian

Between c. 1900 and 1930, there were several competing approaches to the unification of the new national language in what is now the Azerbaijan Republic.

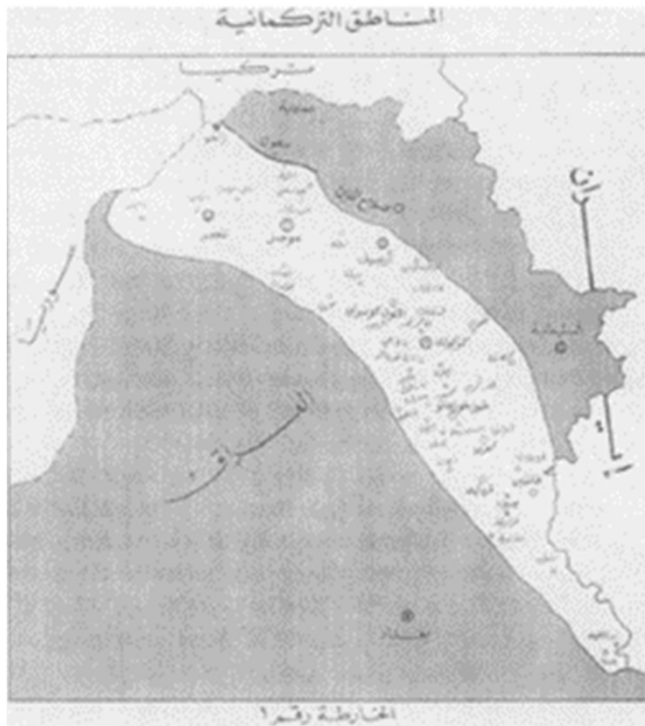
They all aimed at creating a Turkic national language purified of Persian, Arabic, and European elements.

South Azeri/Iran

These language reforms did not extend to Iranian Azeri.

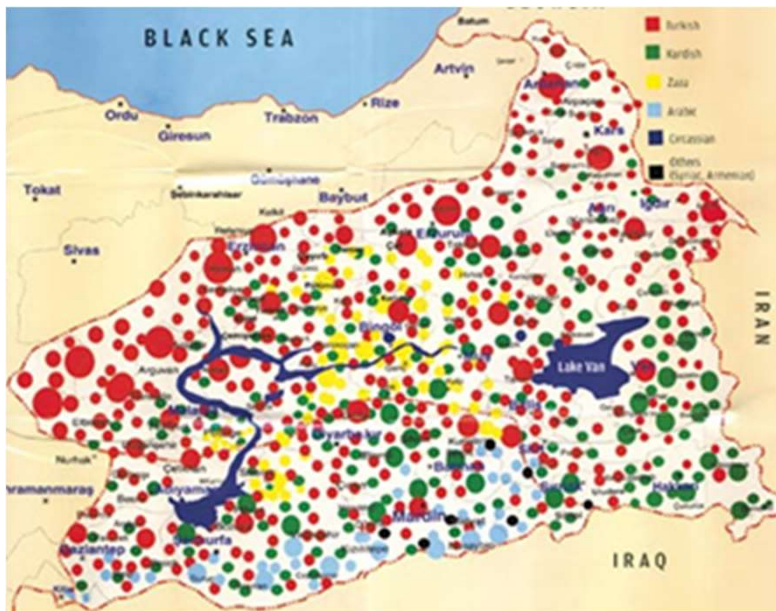
Central Oghuz varieties

Iraq-Turkic or Iraqi Turkman dialects spoken in the Turkman belt of Iraq display heavy influences of the neighboring Iranian/Kurdish and Semitic languages



Central Oghuz varieties

Southeastern Anatolian dialects



Southeastern Anatolia is a transitional area in two regards:

On an intra-Turkic level, mutual influences exist between varieties of West Oghuz (Turkish, Ottoman Turkish), and Central or South Oghuz (Azeri, Iran- and Iraq-Turkic).

On the extra-Turkic level, there are time-honored contacts between Turkic and genetically unrelated languages representing the Indo-European and Semitic language families.

Central Oghuz varieties

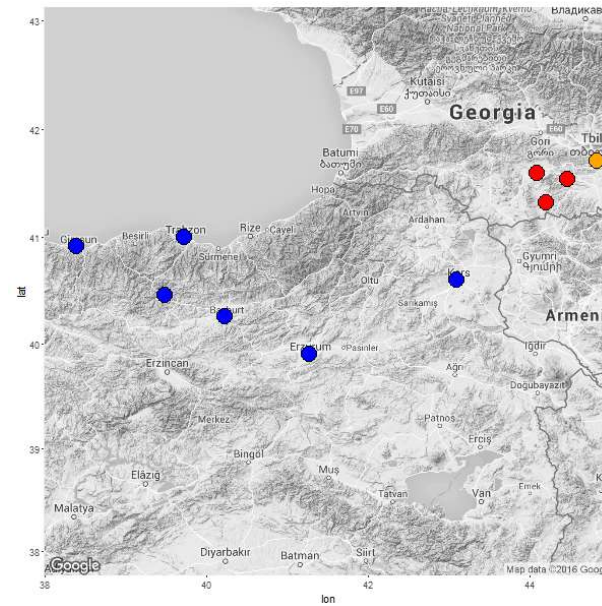
Northeastern Anatolian dialects

(Blacksea dialects are a different group with strong Pontic Greek, Armenian and Caucasian substratum)



Urum

Original settlements: Giresun, Gümüşhane, Trabzon, Bayburt, Erzurum, Kars; Migration (19th c.) K'vemo K'art'li (Georgia); Internal migration to Tbilisi.



Southern Oghuz varieties

are spoken in SW and Central Iran, south of Zanzjan, and in the tribal areas of the Qâshqâ'î confederation in Fârs Province in SW Iran



4. Eastern Oghuz is spoken in Khorasan Province, near the border of Turkmenistan in NE Iran, and in Turkmenistan proper. **Turkmen** has been separated from the rest of Oghuz since the 'Oghuz split' around 1000 AD, when tribes under the leadership of the Saljuqs started to move West into Iran and Anatolia. Varieties of Khorasan Turkic spoken in this area display features of Eastern Oghuz and of the original Central and Southern Oghuz varieties of the speakers who have been relocated to Khorasan. Eastern Oghuz is outside the LACIM areal!

Turkic as a language of communication, or as a contact language

Khalaj of Central Iran is an archaic Turkic language of unknown origin. With about 30.000 speakers, it forms an island in an ocean of surrounding Oghuz varieties.

- All varieties of Turkic spoken in the areal are heavily influenced by contacts with genetically different languages, especially of the Iranian and Semitic language families.
 - Across the target region, Turkic serves as a language of communication, between speakers with a different first language.
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Classification of the Turkic languages

combining geographical distribution & linguistic features

NORTHWESTERN- or QIPCHAQ TURKIC avag qalyan tawlı			NE^N: North-Siberian atax Yaqut Dolgan (dialect)	
NW^W: Pontokaspian Group Qara'im East-Qara'im: Crimea West-Qara'im: Lithuania Crimean Tatar (Dobruja-Tatar) Qarachay-Balqar Qumuk	CHUVASH ur (Volgabolgar) azag	NW^N: Volga-Uralian Group Tatar Bashkir Volga, West-Siberia Ural NW^S: Qazakh West Turkestan Qaraqalpaq south of Lake Aral Qirghiz Qirgh. step Noghay North Caucasus Qipchaq-Uzbek	NE^S: South-Siberian Khakas subgroup: atax (Shor, Beltir, Saghan, Qovbal) Tuva adaq Altay (Qvrot) avag (Western Yugur & Fu-yü Qirghiz in China)	
SW: SOUTHWESTERN- or OGHUZ avag qalan daylı			SE: SOUTHEASTERN- or QARLUQ	
SW^W: Ottoman/Modern Turkish Balkan Turkic Gagauz	SW^C: Azeri, Urum East Anatolian & Iraq-Turkic SW^S: Songor (trans.) Qashqā'i Aynallu Khalaj hadaq	SW^E: Turkmen (transitional) Khorasan Turkic	SE^W: avag Uzbek West-Turkestan, NE-Afghanistan Uyghur Sinkiang	SE^E: azag Sari Uyghur West-Khiva, Kansu Salar

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.

A banner for the LACIM glottothèque project. It features a dark blue background with a faint image of the Earth. The text 'LACIM' is written in large, semi-transparent blue capital letters at the top. Below it, the word 'glottothèque' is written in a white, elegant serif font. On the left side, there is white text providing information about related lectures and a website URL. On the right side, the project's title is repeated in a white, monospaced font.

LACIM

glottothèque

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

Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia
grammatical snippets online