

Languages of the Caucasus

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In this talk we examine the genealogical relationship between the languages of the three commonly recognized families of Caucasian languages, viz. Nakh-Daghestanian (Northeast Caucasian), Adyghe-Abkhaz (Northwest Caucasian), and Kartvelian (South Caucasian). There are a number of competing suggestions for the classification of Caucasian languages both as concerns the highest levels and the levels of individual subbranches (cf. among many others Korjakov 2006, Nikolaev & Starostin 1994, Nichols 2003, Schulze 1998). In our talk we concentrate on the mismatches between individual classifications and compare them to the output of the ASJP World Language Tree of Lexical Similarity (Müller et al. 2010).

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