Crimean Tatar

Darya Kavitskaya, *Yale University*

Crimean Tatar is a Turkic language of the West Kipchak subgroup, spoken mainly in Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and in Uzbekistan, as well as in small communities in Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey. Crimean Tatar consists of three major dialects: the Central dialect is currently used as the standard variety while the Northern and Southern dialects are endangered.

The vowel system of standard Crimean Tatar distinguishes eight vowel phonemes. Crimean Tatar has backness and rounding harmony, as is the case in many Turkic languages (most notably, Turkish). However, rounding harmony is quite different from other Turkic languages, being licensed only by the first two syllables of the word.

The inflectional morphology of Crimean Tatar is exclusively suffixing, and derivational morphology makes use of both suffixation and compounding. Syntactically, Crimean Tatar uses the usual Turkic patterns; however, the word order is not strictly SOV, possibly reflecting Russian influence. Complex sentences are formed through the coordination of clauses with or without conjunctions. Fully embedded clauses are formed with non-finite verb forms such as participles and converbs. This book contains the first full description of Crimean Tatar to appear in English or in any other language. It covers all major aspects of the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the Central dialect of Crimean Tatar, and it also mentions the unique features of the Northern and Southern dialects where possible. Three texts in Central, Northern, and Southern Crimean Tatar with interlinear glosses and English translation are included.

ISBN 9783895866906. **Languages of the World/Materials 477**. 140pp. USD 78.90. 2010.

Abkhaz - A Comprehensive Self-Tutor

George Hewitt, *SOAS, University of London*

Abkhaz belongs to the small North West Caucasian language-family, whose other members are the various Circassian dialects and Ubykh, extinct since 1992. It is spoken by (a) upto 100,000 Abkhazians either in the historical homeland of the Republic of Abkhazia, located in north-west Transcaucasia, or in Russia, and (b) an indeterminate number of members of the diaspora-communities, which have been centred on Turkey since the great exodus from Abkhazia following Russia's conquest of the North Caucasus in 1864; ethnic Abkhazians in Turkey number between 300,000 and half a million, and smaller communities are found elsewhere in the Near East (plus Europe and America). Each member of the language-family is characterised by (i) large consonantal phoneme-inventories coupled with minimal vowel-systems, (ii) morphs often consisting of just a consonant(-complex) ± vowel, and (iii) extreme polysynthetic verbal complexes, all of which combine to present the learner/speaker with considerable challenges.

Serious attempts to provide Abkhaz with scripts only began in Tsarist Russia in the late 19th century, by which date all speakers of Ubykh had migrated to the Ottoman Empire. Since that time, a number of orthographies have been used for Abkhaz. The current, Cyrillic-based standard in Abkhazia was devised (by a committee!) after Stalin died (1953), though a slight spelling reform was introduced in the late 1990s to regularise the marking of the feature of labialisation. The most divergent Abkhaz dialect, Abaza, is spoken in the actual North West Caucasus (Russia), where it has its own alphabet. Whilst grammatical sketches and grammars of Abkhaz designed for linguists exist in a variety of languages (including my own grammar 'Lingua Descriptive Studies 2: Abkhaz', originally published in 1979, though it was most recently reprinted), this is the first attempt to produce a comprehensive, graded self-tutor. It is based on the literary dialect, Abzhywa, which is one of only two dialects remaining in the ancestral territory (the other being Bzyp). The work consists of: Introduction, 19 explanatory chapters with exercises plus one chapter of texts, an Appendix dealing with mathematical terms, Key to the exercises, and a grammatical Summary.

ISBN 9783895866708. **LINCOM Student Grammars 03**. 332pp. USD 90.30. 2010. Students' discounts available! Please ask.

An Introduction to Vlach Grammar

John Marangozis (em.), *National Technical University of Athens*

This work presents a summary of the Vlach Grammar in English and Greek. The Vlach language is defined as the language of the Latinophone nomads inhabiting the Pindos Mountains in HEPEIROS. This language has been spoken since the 2nd century B.C. and it has been sporadically written since the 16th century AD. The Latinophones were spread into small groups of people appointed by the Romans to guard the mountain passages of the Roman Empire. They turned into nomadic life out of necessity. Typical among those people were "the Hepeirotes", or the inhabitants of Hepeiros, the mainland in the northwest corner of Greece, the descendants of the ancient Mollossoi and Haones.

Vlach Grammar has the fundamental structure and the basic rules of Latin and it shows that it has had some contact with Romanian, as well as it bears extensive signs of contact with Greek to a sizeable fraction of its vocabulary. So, Vlach in a first approach, was compared with Latin and Romanian and similarities and differences observed were pointed out. Grammar rules observed were collected laboriously and were listed in the paragraphs in a logical manner. The result that came out is an "amateur's Grammar" of an "amateur's Language".

ISBN 9783895868979. **Languages of the World 39**. 158 pp. USD 96.20. 2010.



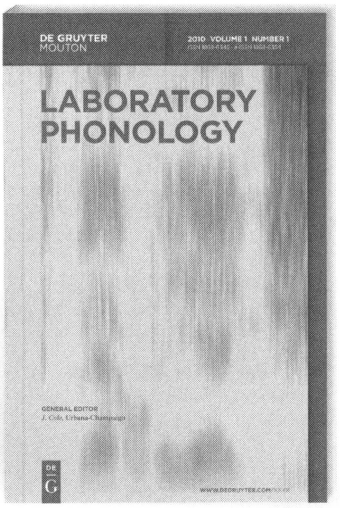
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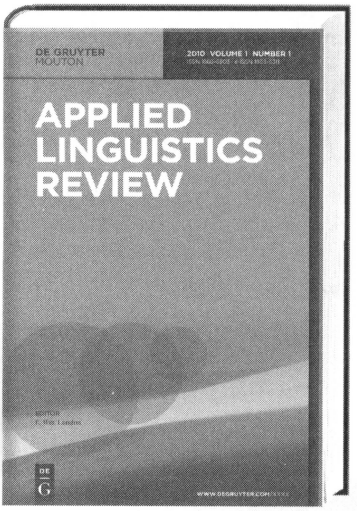
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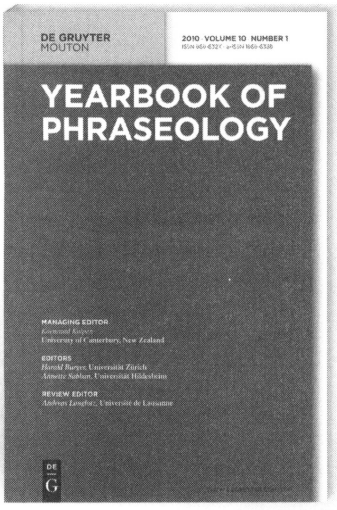
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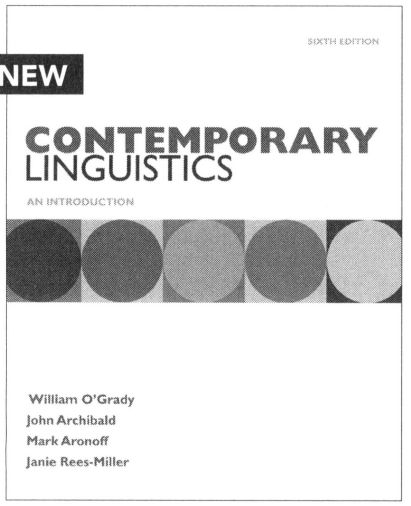
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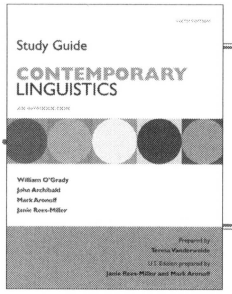
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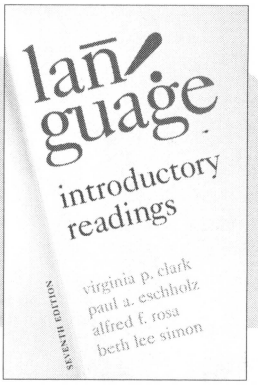
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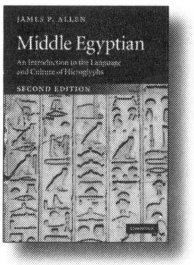
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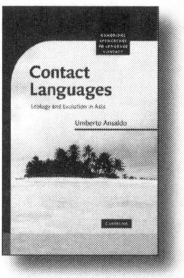
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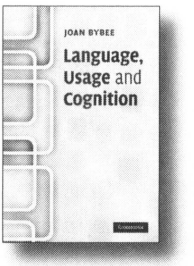
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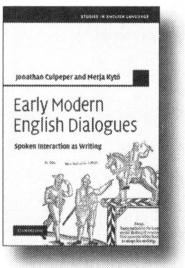
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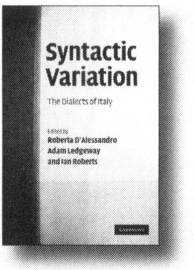
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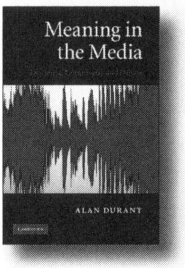
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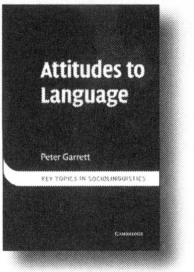
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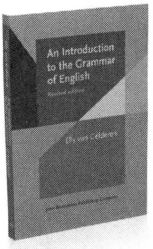
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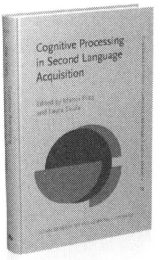
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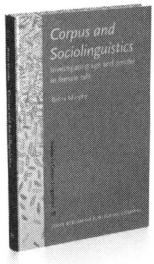
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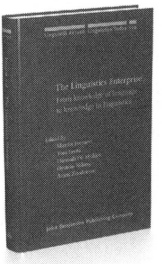
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