

gave their timbre over to the adjoining consonants (Bz *a-k'arp'əžə* 'water-melon' < Tu *karpuz*) or were stripped of their timbre altogether (cf. *á-dəš'man* 'enemy' < Tu *düşman*). In new loans, which are coming predominantly from or via Russian, the vowels tend to be kept unchanged (*a-k'inə* 'cinema', *a-t'ələfən* 'telephone', etc.).

The glottalized and aspirated consonants in words borrowed from the surrounding Caucasian languages were, naturally, left unchanged if they had exact matches in Abkhaz. In borrowings from Circassian the latter's obstruent laterals are rendered in Abkhaz as clusters *tl*, *kl* (< Circ *ʔ*), *dl* (< Circ *ʃ*), the velar fricatives as palatalized (*g'* < *ǰ*, *k'* < *χ*) and labialized (*k'ʷ* < *χʷ*) velar stops. In words borrowed from Turkish, the phonetic aspiration of Turkish voiceless consonants in many cases was also preserved (cf. *a-t'hat'ən* < Tu *t'üt'ün* 'tobacco'). The Turkish velar voiceless stops are rendered in Abkhaz as *k^h*, *k^{h'}*, *k'*, *k'ʷ* or *q'*, depending on their (older) pronunciation in Turkish (cf. Dzhonua 2002: 97-99). In older Russian loans there is a tendency to render the Russian voiceless (unaspirated) stops as voiceless aspirated, cf. *a-minút* 'minute', *a-ftíl* 'wick; slow-match' (< Rus *fítíl*), *a-káš'* 'pap' (< Rus *kaša*; cf. also Geo *kaša*, Svan *kaš*), *a-fúnt* 'pound' (< Rus *funt*; cf. Geo *punt* 'f'). But in other instances they are rendered by glottalized stops, cf. *a-k'anwéj* 'escort' < Rus *konvoj* (cf. Geo *k'onvoi*). Such cases include, in particular, words borrowed orally via Georgian/Megrelian as intermediary, cf. the 19th century Abkhaz loanword *a-k'art'óy(a)* 'penal servitude', from Russian *katorga* via Megrelian *k'art'oya* (cf. Georgian *k'at'oya*; the Kartvelian forms reflect the South Russian pronunciation of this word, with voiced velar spirant *ǰ* instead of the Standard Russian stop *g*). In later Russian loans the same consonants are consistently rendered by the glottalized ones, most likely in conformity with the Literary Georgian borrowing practice (cf. *a-p'árt'ia*, Geo *p'art'ia* 'party' vs. Abaza *pártija*, Circassian *partie* 'party'), or simply in order to match the Russian orthography, as suggested by Hewitt (p.c.).

In most recent loans of foreign words containing the sound 'h' there is a tendency to render it by its close Abkhaz counterpart 'h', in breach of the tradition (which followed the Literary Russian practice) to replace it with the voiced stop 'g', cf. the new forms *a-harmónia* 'harmony', *a-hip'ót'əza* 'hypothesis', *a-hip'nóz* 'hypnosis' (cf. Labakhua 2000: 24-5), as contrasted with earlier *a-garmónia*, *a-gip'ót'əza*, *a-gip'nóz* (cf. Bgazhba 1964a: 146, 149), borrowed via Russian.

8.2. Neologisms.

The natural process of creating new words was accelerated during work on the first translations of Christian literature into Abkhaz in the last decades of the 19th c. During Soviet times, a mass of neologisms were created (cf. Khetsija 1988), often coined according to their Russian (and in early Soviet times, probably sometimes also according to Georgian) models, cf. *á-k'əgəlara* 'speech', lit. 'standing on top', resembling Russian *vystuplenie*. In other cases the derivation was original, cf. *a-fémca* 'electricity', made up of *a-fé* 'lightning' and *á-mca* 'fire', *a-nap'lak'ə* 'enterprise', made up of *a-nap'ə* 'hand', the instrumental *-la* and the root of the verb *a-k'ə-zaa-ra* 'to be held in hands'.

During the post-Soviet period the process of direct borrowing slowed, and many late (mostly Russian) loanwords, including the names for the months, are being replaced. Preference in creating new words is given either to archaic or dialectal words (like the re-introduced old names of the months, e.g. *a-mšapəmza* 'April' (lit. 'Easter month'), *nánh'a* 'August', etc.), or to older borrowings, well assimilated and regarded as native (cf. *a-d'k'án* 'shop' < Tu *dükkan*, replacing the Russian *a-magazín*). Some existing words receive an additional meaning, e.g. *a-tac'óra* 'vacuum' < 'emptiness'. There are, finally, entirely new creations, such as *a-pəza-minist'* 'Prime Minister' (*a-pəza* 'chief, leader'), *apsnə ž'lar rájzara* 'Abkhazia's National Assembly' (*ž'lar* 'people', *r-áj+za+ra* 'their-assembly'), *a-t'ólajawjə* 'citizen' (*a-t'ólaj* 'country', *a-waj'ə* 'man'), *a-tc'áradərra* 'science' (*a-tc'ára* 'investigation', *a-dərra* 'knowledge'), which replaced the Russian loan *a-naúka*, *a-mzár* 'calendar' (*á-mza* 'month', plus the productive nominal suffix *-ar*), which replaced the Russian *a-k'aléndár*.

9. TEXT

The following short story was written by the classical Abkhaz writer Dmitry Gulia (*dərməjt'* *g'ələja*) (1874-1968).

jə-j-z-áj'ə-w	ø-h-h ^ə -wá-jt'	ø-r-h ^ə -á-n,
which-him-BENF-better-PRES:STAT:NFIN	it-we-say-PRES:DYN-FIN	it-they-say-PIDF

jə-j-z-ajc ^ə -á-z	ø-r-wə-ø-jt'.
which-him-BENF-worse-PAST:STAT:NFIN	it-they-do-AOR-DYN:FIN

'We shall do what is better for him', they said, but they did what was worse for him.

1. bát'a	a-láw	raš'ót	jə-phá	d-aa-j-gá-ø-jt'.
Bata	ART-Law	Rashit	his-daughter	her-hither-he-bring-AOR-DYN:FIN

Bata Alaw married Rashit's daughter.

2. raš'ót	nxéc'ł'ə-n.
Rashit	North-Caucasus-PAST

Rashit was from the North Caucasus.

3. zeg'	ájčərdərwa	waj ^ə	dəw-k'	j-ák'ə-n.
all	well-known	man	big-IDF	he-be-PAST

He was a great man known to everybody.

4. šək'ə-sə-k'	ø-áq'ara	ø-c'-x'a-nə	ájps-aa-nə	raš'ót
year-IDF	it-about	it-pass-PPERF-PCONV	like-time-ADV	Rashit

jə-mah ^ə -j	jə-phá-j	r-ba-rá	h ^ə a	apsnə-q'a
his-son-in-law-and	his-daughter-and	their-see-MASD	QUOT	Abkhazia-DIR

d-aa-r+cə	ø-jə-3bə-ø-jt'.
he-come-PURP	it-he-decide-AOR-DYN:FIN

After having waited for about a year, Rashit decided to go to Abkhazia to visit his daughter and his son-in-law.

5. a-j'əz-c ^ə a	ø-aá-š'tə+x-nə	á-mj ^ə a	d-nə-k ^ə ə+l-ø-t'.
ART-friend-PL:H	them-hither-lift-PCONV	ART-road	he-PREV-depart-AOR-FIN: DYN

He took his friends and departed.

6. jará	wəbrəj	álamtala	bát'a	jə-š'amxə	c'əsxə-k'
that	very	time	Bata	his-knee	swelling-IDF

ø-á-l-na-x-zaap',	d-a-r-g ^ə áq'-wa	də-š'tá-n.
it-it-PREV-it-ROOT-INFER1	him-it-CAUS-disturb-PRES:CONV	he-lie prostrate-PAST

At this very time it turned out that Bata's knee developed a swelling, and he was in bed, being troubled by it.

7. a-hak'əm-c ^ə a	ø-á-də-j-ga+l-ø-t'	j-a3 ^ə -m-k ^ə ə,
ART-doctor-PL:H	them-it-PREV-he-fetch-AOR-DYN:FIN	they-one:H-not-CONV

jə-j°ó+ǰ'a-m-k°a, axá ak'+g'ó ø-jə-mó-x°a-ø-jt'.
 they-two:H-not-CONV but anything it-him-not-help-AOR-DYN:FIN
 He fetched the doctors, not a one or two, but nothing was helping him.

8. wəs bāt'a j-ábxa raš'ót jə-j°ó-z-c°a ø-ajcrəx°x°-wá
 thus Bata his-father-in-law Rashit his-friend-PL:H they-one after another-
 PRES:DYN:NFIN

r-č'áarxa-n, jə-š-áa+j-wa+z x°əlpazó-k' áxəwh°a
 they-heading-PIDF they-how-come-IMPRF:NFIN evening-IDF in a sudden mass

bāt'a j-ášta j-aa-tá+l-ø-t'.
 Bata his-yard they-hither-enter-AOR-DYN:FIN
 Thus Bata's father-in-law Rashit's friends, one after another, entered one evening
 unexpectedly Bata's yard.

9. wa x°lə-bzəja-k°a, - h°a.
 VOC evening-good-PL QUOT
 'Hey, good evening!', - said they.

10. wa bzəja ø-ž°-b-áa+jt', bzəjala š°-aa-bá-ø-jt', -
 VOC well it-you(PL)-see-SUBJ well you(PL)-we-see-AOR-DYN:FIN
- ø-r-h°a-n, r-č'óš'k'əl-k°a ø-k'-nə, j-aa-č'ó+ž°-r-xə-ø-jt',
 it-they-say-PIDF their-stirrup-PL them-hold-PCONV them-hither-PREV-they-take
 off-AOR-DYN:FIN
- j-á-k°+š°-a-z a-waá.
 which-(on) it-happen-PIDF:NFIN ART-people
 'Hey, hallo, welcome!', - having said, the people who were by chance at the yard, holding
 their stirrups, helped them to descend from the horses.

11. ǰ'aw+k'ó á-sas-c°a ø-ró-ma-nə, a-j°ən dów
 some-IDF ART-guest-PL:H them-they-have-PCONV ART-house big

a-bárc'a-[a-a]x' jə-j°-xá+l-ø-t', dača-ǰ'aw+k'-g'ó
 ART-verandah-its-DIR they-up-climb-AOR-DYN:FIN other-some-and

a-č-k°á a-čxarpáta-[a-]č'ə jə-ná-ga-nə
 ART-horse-PL ART-tethering rail-its-LOC them-thither-bring-PCONV

r-áy°ra-k°a ø-na-xa-dó-r+š°-ø-jt'.
 their-bridle-PL them-thither-above-they-CAUS+fall-AOR-DYN:FIN
 Some of them took the guests and went up onto the verandah, still others took the horses
 to the tethering rail and wrapped their bridle-straps around it.

12. raš'ót d-na-pš-áa-pš-nə, bāt'a d-anó-jə-m-ba-ø:
 Rashit he-thither-look-hither-look-PCONV Bata him-when-he-not-see-AOR:NFIN
 Rashit looked around, but when he didn't see Bata,

13. 'dad, sé-mah° d-abá-q'a-w?' ø-jə-h°á-n
 VOC my-son-in-law he-where-be-QU it-he-say-PIDF

d-r-á-z+c'+aa-ø-jt'.
 he-them-to-ask-AOR-DYN:FIN
 'My dear, where is my son-in-law?', - he asked them.

14. c'ésxa-k' jə-l-na-xə-n də-š'tá-wə-p' h°a
 swelling-IDF it-Prev-it-ROOT-PIDF he-lie-PRES:STAT-FIN QUOT

j-á-h-h°a-r ø-pxaš'ará-wə-p' ø-r-g°+á+x°-n:
 it-him-to-say-COND it-shame-PRES:STAT-FIN it-they-regard-PIDF
 'If we tell him that he is in bed because of his swelling, it'll be shameful', - they thought.

15. jə-š'ap'ó xó-k' ø-á-k°+š°-a-n də-š'tá-wə-p', ø-r-h°á-ø-jt'
 his-foot bullet-IDF it-it-fall-PIDF he-lie-PRES:STAT-FIN it-they-say-AOR-DYN:FIN

arój aták'-s.
 this answer-as
 'He was wounded by a bullet in his foot, that is why he is in bed', - they answered.

16. š°rá-k'=c'ésxa-k' jə-š'ap'ó j-á-l-c'ə-r wəj
 ulcer-IDF=swelling-IDF his-foot it-it-PREV-get out-COND this

dača+k'ó-n, wəs ø-ák°-m-k°a s-š'ap'ó xə-k'
 another-PAST thus it-be-not-PRES:CONV my-foot bullet-IDF

ø-á-k°+š°-a-ø-jt' h°a sará mah°ó-s d-s-át°a-m, - ø-jə-h°á-n
 it-it-fall-AOR-DYN:FIN QUOT I son-in-law-as he-me-worthy-not it-he-say-
 PIDF

də-n-č'ó+ž°+la-n, jə-j°ó-z-c°a ø-jə-ma-ø d-cá-ø-jt'.
 he-LOC-ascend horseback-PIDF his-friend-PL:H them-he-have-PCONV he-go-AOR-
 DYN:FIN

'If an ulcer or swelling had erupted on his foot, that would have been one thing, but, that
 apart, he's not worthy to be my son-in-law with his excuse of being hit in the foot by a
 bullet,' - having said, he got on his horse and together with his friends left.

Dmit'ri Gulia. Ialk'aau. Aq°a: Alašara, 1973, p. 184.

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