

# Contents

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Abbreviations</b> .....                     | <b>V</b>   |
| 1. Common terms .....                          | V          |
| 2. Grammatical terms .....                     | V          |
| 3. Languages.....                              | VI         |
| <b>Editor's preface</b> .....                  | <b>VII</b> |
| <b>Author's Preface</b> .....                  | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>Chapter 1</b> .....                         | <b>3</b>   |
| 1. Introduction.....                           | 3          |
| <b>Chapter 2</b> .....                         | <b>5</b>   |
| 2. Dialects .....                              | 5          |
| 2.1. Two distinct dialects.....                | 5          |
| 2.2. Inflection of "to be".....                | 5          |
| 2.3. Vocabulary and phraseology .....          | 6          |
| 2.4. Lexical doublets.....                     | 8          |
| 2.5. Anomalous phonetic developments.....      | 11         |
| 2.6. Phonetic innovations .....                | 14         |
| 2.7. Homogeneous proto-language.....           | 16         |
| 2.8. Relations between Iron and Digor.....     | 17         |
| <b>Chapter 3</b> .....                         | <b>21</b>  |
| 3. Language Contacts.....                      | 21         |
| 3.1. The proto-dialect .....                   | 21         |
| 3.2. Lexical interferences .....               | 22         |
| 3.2.1. Ossetic, Nakh and Svan.....             | 22         |
| 3.2.2. Ossetic and Nakh.....                   | 23         |
| 3.2.3. Ossetic and Turkic.....                 | 28         |
| 3.2.4. Ossetic and Northwest Caucasian .....   | 37         |
| 3.2.5. Ossetic and South Caucasian.....        | 45         |
| 3.3. Calques .....                             | 64         |
| 3.4. Grammatical features.....                 | 66         |
| 3.4.1. Glottalic consonants and uvulars.....   | 66         |
| 3.4.2. Vigesimal counting system.....          | 67         |
| 3.4.3. Preverb system.....                     | 67         |
| 3.4.4. Gerund .....                            | 70         |
| 3.5. Verbal composition .....                  | 77         |
| 3.6. Conservative vs. innovative features..... | 82         |
| <b>Chapter 4</b> .....                         | <b>86</b>  |
| 4. The Ossetic Noun Phrase.....                | 86         |
| 4.1. The simple clause .....                   | 86         |
| 4.2. Nominal word-classes .....                | 86         |
| 4.3. Complex noun phrases .....                | 88         |
| 4.4. Inversion of modifier and head.....       | 90         |
| 4.5. Nominal Compounds.....                    | 92         |
| 4.5.1. Tatpuruṣas vs. bahuvrīhis .....         | 92         |
| 4.5.2. Semantic changes .....                  | 93         |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| 4.5.3. Internal order .....                        | 93         |
| 4.5.4. Inverted bahuvrīhis .....                   | 94         |
| 4.6. Vowel alternations in nominal compounds ..... | 104        |
| 4.7. Postmodification .....                        | 109        |
| 4.8. Definiteness .....                            | 110        |
| 4.9. Possessive Dative .....                       | 111        |
| 4.10. Group inflection .....                       | 112        |
| 4.11. Premodification .....                        | 113        |
| 4.12. Declension classes .....                     | 114        |
| 4.13. Noun inflection .....                        | 116        |
| 4.13.1. Agglutinativity .....                      | 116        |
| 4.13.2. Order of elements .....                    | 117        |
| 4.13.3. Number .....                               | 117        |
| 4.13.4. Case .....                                 | 125        |
| 4.13.4.1. The case system .....                    | 125        |
| 4.13.4.2. Nominative .....                         | 127        |
| 4.13.4.3. Genitive .....                           | 132        |
| 4.13.4.4. Dative .....                             | 140        |
| 4.13.4.5. Locative cases .....                     | 147        |
| 4.13.4.5.1. Inessive .....                         | 147        |
| 4.13.4.5.2. Allative .....                         | 149        |
| 4.13.4.5.3. Adessive .....                         | 153        |
| 4.13.4.6. Ablative(-instrumental) .....            | 156        |
| 4.13.4.7. Comitative .....                         | 165        |
| 4.13.4.8. Equative .....                           | 167        |
| 4.13.4.9. Conclusions .....                        | 169        |
| 4.14. Postpositions and prepositions .....         | 171        |
| 4.15. Conclusions .....                            | 175        |
| <b>Chapter 5 .....</b>                             | <b>177</b> |
| 5. The Pronouns .....                              | 177        |
| 5.1. Personal pronouns .....                       | 177        |
| 5.1.1. Accented personal pronouns .....            | 177        |
| 5.1.2. Enclitic personal pronouns .....            | 177        |
| 5.2. Reflexive-emphatic pronouns .....             | 179        |
| 5.3. Possessive pronouns .....                     | 179        |
| 5.4. Reciprocal pronoun .....                      | 179        |
| 5.5. Demonstrative pronouns .....                  | 180        |
| 5.6. Interrogative pronouns .....                  | 183        |
| 5.7. Indefinite pronouns and adverbs .....         | 184        |
| 5.8. Conclusions .....                             | 186        |
| <b>Chapter 6 .....</b>                             | <b>188</b> |
| 6. Alanic Evidence .....                           | 188        |
| 6.1. Medieval Documents .....                      | 188        |
| 6.2. Case forms .....                              | 188        |
| <b>Chapter 7 .....</b>                             | <b>189</b> |
| 7. Epilogue .....                                  | 189        |
| 7.1. Bilingualism .....                            | 189        |
| 7.2. Social factors .....                          | 189        |
| 7.3. Inter-marriage .....                          | 190        |
| 7.4. Atalyk institution .....                      | 190        |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| 7.5. Blood vengeance .....                                  | 191        |
| 7.6. Multilingualism .....                                  | 191        |
| 7.7. Conclusive remarks .....                               | 192        |
| <b>Bibliography</b> .....                                   | <b>193</b> |
| <b>Indexes</b> .....  | <b>204</b> |
| <b>Appendix</b> .....                                       | <b>254</b> |
| Zur ossetisch-tscherkessischen Wörterliste bei Witsen ..... | 254        |

## Abbreviations

### 1. Common terms

|       |                           |       |                    |       |              |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------|
| A.D.  | Anno Domini               | e.g.  | for example        | p(p). | page(s)      |
| B.C.  | before Christ             | f(f). | following page(s)  | PN    | proper name  |
| cf.   | confer                    | fn.   | footnote           | repr. | reprint      |
| cent. | century                   | FN    | family (clan) name | resp. | respectively |
| ch.   | chapter                   | id.   | idem               | rev.  | revised      |
| comm. | common                    | i.e.  | id est             | s.v.  | sub voce     |
| cp.   | compare                   | lit.  | literally          | unid. | unidentified |
| e.a.  | et alii                   | ms.   | manuscript         | viz.  | namely       |
| ed.   | editor / edited / edition | mss.  | manuscripts        | vol.  | volume       |

### 2. Grammatical terms

|        |               |         |              |          |                 |
|--------|---------------|---------|--------------|----------|-----------------|
| abl.   | ablative      | fut.    | future       | obl.     | oblique case    |
| abs.   | absolute      | gen.    | genitive     | part.    | participle      |
| acc.   | accusative    | ger.    | gerund       | pass.    | passive         |
| adess. | adessive      | inanim. | inanimate    | pl.      | plural          |
| adj.   | adjective     | indef.  | indefinite   | poss.    | possessive      |
| adv.   | adverb        | iness.  | inessive     | postpos. | postposition    |
| all.   | allative      | inf.    | infinitive   | pres.    | present (tense) |
| anim.  | animate       | instr.  | instrumental | prevb.   | preverb         |
| com.   | comitative    | interj. | interjection | pron.    | pronoun         |
| cop.   | copula        | intr.   | intransitive | sg.      | singular        |
| dat.   | dative        | loc.    | locative     | s(ub)j.  | subjunctive     |
| def.   | definite      | masc.   | masculine    | subst.   | substantive     |
| dem.   | demonstrative | nom.    | nominative   | suff.    | suffix          |
| equ.   | equative      | ntr.    | neuter       | tr.      | transitive      |
| fem.   | feminine      | obj.    | object(ive)  | voc.     | vocative        |