

Contents

Abbreviations	5
0. Socio- and Geolinguistic Situation	6
0.1. Location	6
0.2. Political and sociolinguistic status	7
0.3. Number of speakers	7
0.4. History	8
0.5. Early glosses and recordings of Abkhaz	9
0.6. Genetic background	10
0.7. Dialects	11
0.8. Historical stages of Abkhaz	13
0.9. Contact situation	14
0.10. Writing system	14
0.11. Abkhaz literature	16
0.12. A short history of Abkhaz studies	17
1. Phonology	18
1.1. Consonants	18
1.2. Vowels	20
1.3. The structure of the root morpheme	21
1.4. Stress	21
1.5. Morphophonemics	22
2. Morphology	22
2.1. Nouns	22
2.2. Adjectives	29
2.3. Pronouns	32
2.4. Numerals	34
2.5. Postpositions	35
2.6. Particles	36
2.7. Interjections	36
2.8. Descriptives	36
2.9. Verbs	37
3. Verbals	55
4. Adverbs	55
5. Quantifiers	56
6. Syntax	57
6.1. Structure of the NP	57
6.2. Structure of the AdP	59
6.3. Clause structure	59
6.4. Word order	60
6.5. Major sentence types	61
6.6. Negation	67
6.7. Verb serialization	68
6.8. Imperatives	68
6.9. Direct, Indirect and Reported Speech	69

	Abkhaz
6.10. Interrogation	70
6.11. Coreference	71
7. Discourse related phenomena	72
7.1. Focus markers	72
7.2. Topic	73
8. Lexicon	73
8.1. Loan words	73
8.2. Neologisms	74
9. Text	75
References and bibliography	78
Dictionaries	83
Early Abkhaz textbooks (in chronological order)	84
Early literature in Abkhaz (in chronological order)	84
Folklore texts	85
The table of correspondences between the current Abkhaz alphabet, Caucasological and IPA transcriptions	86
Illustrations	87
Map of Abkhazia	92