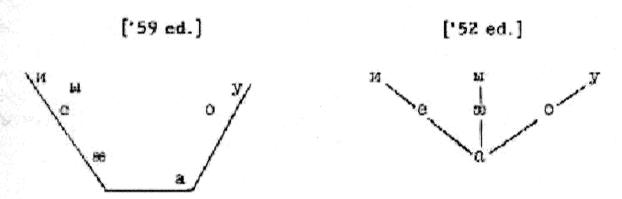
### PHONETICS

§ 1. The total number of phonemes in the Ossetic literary language is defined as 35. Of these, 7 are vowels, 2 are semi-vowels, and 26 are consonants.

#### Vowels

- § 2. The vowels are differentiated by tongue position (front, back, and central), tongue height (low, mid, and high), lip-involvement (labialized and unlabialized), width of mouth and lip opening (open and close), and by duration or quantity (short and long).
- 3. The system of vowels in Ossetic can be presented in the following diagram (based on V. S. Sokolova):



We have, then, two front vowels e u, three central a 30 M, and two back O y. The last two are characterized in addition by lip-rounding and are labialized.

The vowels are distinguished according to the amount of openness; they differ as follows: a is open. ⊕ (midway between a and e) is closer. e N O are still more close, and finally come N Y.

- § 4. The following can be said regarding individual vowels:
- a is a low central vowel; close to Russian a under stress, but somewhat more backed: apr 'fire', мад 'mother', хъама 'dagger'.
- m is a low mid central vowel. but considerably more fronted than a: it does not have an exact equivalent in Russian and only in certain cases can be likened to Russian unstressed a, remaining, however, more fronted, longer, and more qualitatively distinct: were 'without', πως 'ten'; the Ossetic m in Φεμκο 'to that side' is somewhat like the second a in the Russian word πάρα.



Verbix: Ossetian notes

### Semi-Vowels

§ 9. There are two semi-vowels: the front й and the back y. They can both precede and follow vowels: ЙЖХЖДЖГ 'he himself', МЖЙ 'month', уад 'storm', сау 'black'.

#### Consonants

§ 10. The following table represents the consonant system of Ossetic:

	Stop						Fricative			
	Plain Plain			Affricate						
CONSONANTS	Voiceless	Voiced	Glottalized	Voiceless	Voiced	Glottalized	Voiceless	Voiced	Nasal	Liquid
Bilabial	ī	6	II b				Ф			
Dental	¥	4			43	u.				
Prepalatal								3		Tarana pana
Mediopalatal				<b>4</b>		u.b				
Postpalatal	·			- - , t 20,252						
Velar								r b		

- § 11. The voiceless stops птк are distinguished from the corresponding Russian consonants by weaker articulation and aspiration: пирын 'to comb wool', тайын 'to melt', цыт 'honor', карк 'hen'.
- § 12. In the position after С X Ф and when geminate, the voiceless stops lose their aspiration in Ossetic: ХЖСТЖГ 'near', КАСТЖН 'I looked', ХЖСКАРД 'scissors', ЛЖППУ 'boy', КЖТТАГ 'linen, canvas', АККАГ 'deserving, adequate'. Consonants of this type cannot be considered independent phonemes; they are variants of the corresponding aspirated or voiced stops.
- § 13. Voiced бдг are close to the corresponding Russian hard consonants: баз 'pillow', дон'river', цад 'lake', гал 'bull', хъуг 'cow'.

Future Lenge

2d Kau-ny 38 калош-иу

2d Kallyn-wy 3d калинг-иу

Participles |

Present Past Future

'pouring' 'poured'

'intending to pour' or 'what is to be poured

Gerund

калге, калгейе '(while) pouring'

## Conjugation of the Intransitive Verb in the Past Tenses

The conjugation of intransitive verbs coincides with that of transitives, except in the past tenses. For a pattern, we give the conjugation of the verb KREMBH 'to pour, be poured'.

> Indicative Past Tense

Singular

калд (ис) Plural

калинетом калиметут калимсты

Subjunctive Past Tense

(Optative)

752

калагия каллаис KAJIJANJ

калдаиккам [калдайккам] калданккат [калдайккат]

калдаинской [калдайккой]

§123. As is evident from these paradigms, transitive and intransitive verbs in the past indicative have different inflections: on the one hand, калдтон, калдтай, etc., and on the other, калдтен, калдте, far as the past tense of the subjunctive is concerned, the difference between transitive and intransitive verbs boils down to the fact that in the former, the stem consonant д of the past tense is geminated: калдтаин 'I would have poured', but калдаин 'I would have been poured, have poured for myself' (the gemination is rendered orthographically by ДТ).

Gemination takes place only after vowels and resonants (H у). It does not occur after the fricatives с х Ф з гъ в, being "absorbed" by them. Thus, from ca使时 'to lose', the past indicative will сафтон, not \*сафдтон; and from сафын 'to get lost': сафтан, not

\*сæфдтæн. Thanks to the fricatives' property of "absorbing" the following stop, the difference between the past subjunctive forms of transitive and intransitive verbs disappears:

сэфтаин (not \*сэфдтаин) 'I would have lost' 'I would have gotten lost'

In the 3d sing. past and future indicative, along with the full forms калдис, калдзанис, калдзанис, truncated forms are also used: калди, калдзани, калдзани, калдзани, калдзан, калдзан.

## §124. Conjugation of the Verb ymm 'to be'

## Indicative

Singular Plural

Present Tense (Momentaneous Aspect)

Дзен 'I am' стаем Дзе У. ис, и сты

Present Tense (Iterative Aspect)

Ваййын 'I often am' ваййам Ваййыс ваййут ваййы

Past Tense

ундтен 'I was' ундыстем ундыстем ундыстут ундысты

Future Tense

уыдзынжн 'I shall be' уыдзыстим уыдзынж уыдзыстим уыдзысты

## Subjunctive

Plural
Present-Future Tense (Strong Aspect)
yaun

уаин уаио уаид уаиккат уаиккой

# Present-Future Tense (Weak Aspect)

уин уис уиккам уид уиккой

	Past Tense         ['52]           уыдаинскам [уыдайнскам]         уыдаинскам [уыдайнскам]           уыдаис         уыдаинскат [уыдайнскат]           уыдаид         уыдаинской [уыдайнской]
	Future Tense
	уон уай уаг уа уой
	Imperative
2d 3d	у 2d ут уед 3d уент
Present	Participles yænær
Past Future	Anhar.

Gerund

yedre, yedreje

The weak form of the present subjunctive (уин, уис, etc.) in the literary language is used only with preverbs: фж-уин, (ж)с-уин, etc.

Preverbal formations with yMH have the meaning of 'becoming', while Ф⊕-уын also means 'to end, to finish'.

Other peculiarities of preverbal formations with yar are:

.1 The present indicative can be formed only from the iterative ∠aspect:

> Ca-Deliber

'I happen to be'

'I have an occasion to be', etc.

.2 The combination of the preverb with the present tense of the momentaneous aspect дэн, дэ, etc., takes on the meaning of past tense: 1.

( A) C. T. C. Harris

'I proved to be, I finished'

'I became', etc.

- .3 With the past indicative, the preverbs are not combined; therefore the formation of such combinations as \*фе-уыдтен, \*(е)с-уылтен is impossible.
- 4 In the past indicative, 3d singular, the consonant -4 ed between the preverb and the verb: фю-ц-ис, (ж)с-с-ис (from ыс-ц-ис). ба-ц-ис. арба-ц-ис.
- .5 The strong aspect of the present subjunctive has two forms: a) the normal, and b) with insertion of -4: