

Semi-Vowels

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

Consonants

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

CONSONANTS	Stop						Fricative		Nasal	Liquid
	Plain			Affricate			Voiceless	Voiced		
	Voiceless	Voiced	Glottalized	Voiceless	Voiced	Glottalized				
Bilabial	п	б	пъ				ф	в	м	
Dental	т	д	тъ	ц	дз	цъ			н	
Prepalatal							с	з		л р
Mediopalatal				ч	дж	чъ				
Postpalatal	к	г	къ							
Velar			хъ				х	гъ		

§ 11. The voiceless stops *п т к* 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 х ф* and when geminate, the voiceless stops lose their aspiration in Ossetic: *хæстæг* 'near', *кастæн* 'I looked', *хæскард*¹ 'scissors', *лæппу* 'boy', *кæттаг* '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 *б д г* are close to the corresponding Russian hard consonants: *баз* 'pillow', *дон* 'river', *цад* 'lake', *гал* 'bull', *хъуг* 'cow'.

Future Tense

2d кал-иу
3d калынд-иу

2d калут-иу
3d калынт-иу

Participles

Present	калæг	'pouring'
Past	калд	'poured'
Future	калынаг	'intending to pour' or 'what is to be poured'

Gerund

калгæ, калгæйæ '(while) pouring'

Conjugation of the Intransitive Verb
in the Past Tenses

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

Indicative
Past Tense

Singular	Plural
калдтæн	калдыстæм
калдтæ	калдыстут
калд (ис)	калдысты

Subjunctive
Past Tense
(Optative)

калдаин	калдаиккам [калдайккам]
калдаис	калдаиккат [калдайккат]
калдаид	калдаиккой [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, калдтæн, калдтæ, etc. As 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 (н м р л й у). It does not occur after the fricatives с х ф з гъ в, being "absorbed" by them. Thus, from сæфын 'to lose', the past indicative will be сæфтон, not *сæфдтон; and from сæфын 'to get lost': сæфтын, 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:

сæфтæин (not *сæфдтæин) 'I would have lost'
 сифтæин 'I would have gotten lost'

In the 3d sing. past and future indicative, along with the full forms калдæис, кæлдзæнис, калдзæнис, truncated forms are also used: калди, кæлдзæни, калдзæни, or калд, кæлдзæн, калдзæн.

§124. Conjugation of the Verb уин 'to be'

Indicative

Singular

Plural

Present Tense (Momentaneous Aspect)

дæн	'I am'	стæм
дæ		стут
у, ис, и		сты

Present Tense (Iterative Aspect)

вæййын	'I often am'	вæййæм
вæййис		вæййут
вæййи		вæййиц

Past Tense

уыдтæн	'I was'	уыдыстæм
уыдтæ		уыдыстут
уыд (ис)		уыдысты

Future Tense

уыдзынæн	'I shall be'	уыдзыстæм
уыдзынæ		уыдзыстут
уыдзæн (ис)		уыдзысты

Subjunctive

Singular

Plural

Present-Future Tense (Strong Aspect)

уаин		уаиккам
уаис		уаиккат
уаид		уаиккой

Present-Future Tense (Weak Aspect)

уин		уиккам
уис		уиккат
уид		уиккой

Past Tense

уыдаин	уыдайксам	[уыдайксам]
уыдаис	уыдайккат	[уыдайккат]
уыдаид	уыдайккой	[уыдайккой]

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Future Tense

уон	уым
уай	уат
уа	уой

Imperative

2d	у	2d	ут
3d	уад	3d	уонт

Participles

Present	уэвээг
Past	—
Future	уинаг

Gerund

уэвгэ, уэвгэе

§125. The weak form of the present subjunctive (уин, уис, etc.) in the literary language is used only with preverbs: фæ-уин, (æ)с-уин, etc. Preverbal formations with уин have the meaning of 'becoming', while фæ-уин also means 'to end, to finish'.

Other peculiarities of preverbal formations with уин are:

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

фæ-вæйин	'I happen to be'
(æ)с-вæйин	'I become'
ба-вæйин	'I have an occasion to be', etc.

.2 The combination of the preverb with the present tense of the momentaneous aspect дæн, дæ, etc., takes on the meaning of past tense:

фæ-дæн	'I proved to be, I finished'
(æ)с-дæн	'I became', etc.

.3 With the past indicative, the preverbs are not combined; therefore the formation of such combinations as *фæ-уыдтæн, *(æ)с-уыдтæн is impossible.

.4 In the past indicative, 3d singular, the consonant -ц is inserted between the preverb and the verb: фæ-ц-ис, (æ)с-с-ис (from ис-ц-ис), ба-ц-ис, æрба-ц-ис.

.5 The strong aspect of the present subjunctive has two forms: a) the normal, and b) with insertion of -ц: