

Tsezic narratives

Zaira Khalilova & Madzhid Khalilov

(Institute of Linguistics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow; Institute of Language, Literature and Arts of DSC RAS, Makhachkala)

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The Tsezic languages (Nakh-Daghestanian) are languages with almost no written tradition but with rich oral traditions that have been partly documented [Abdulaev 2010, Karimova 2014, Khalilov 2020]. Since there is no written tradition (except few Bible translations in one Tsezic language [Khalilov 2018]), it is hard to compare and make conclusions on oral vs. written contexts. Nevertheless, it is possible to find basic features that distinguish narrative or oral texts, which are produced spontaneously, and naturalistic data (like dialogues, elicitations, translations). The narrative texts, including folktale, biography (people's life events), counting rhymes, lamentations, songs and alike, in the Tsezic have several characteristic grammatical features. The most distinct features are the use of special narrative marker and the presence of bridging constructions [Anker&Forker2019]. In addition, narrative contexts are enriched by various stylistic and expressive means (e.g. metaphors, repetitions) as well as by grammatical means, e.g. the use of present tense and past witnessed forms for unwitnessed events in narration is compatible with historic present, which is one of the devices for adding vividness to the narration [Comrie&Polinsky2007]. Another device, which adds expressiveness, is to use original language in songs, praying, and similar texts within narratives. The work will cover main grammatical features distinguished in narratives, which are narrative markers and tense shifts as well as repetitions and bridging constructions, the use of various discourse markers, onomatopoeia and dummy words.

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