

NODAR ARTODELI

ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF /q /; /x / OPPOSITIONS IN IBERO-CAUCASIAN LANGUAGES

Neutralisation of /q /; /x / phonological oppositions is different in different Caucasian languages. In some languages it is relatively intact, others have changed it noticeably. Besides, languages give common pictures between languages and dialects in respect to the degree of changes.

Originally q - should possess allo-phones one of which must have tendency to become a spirant. As long as the pharyngeal spirants have spirant nature /q / should have gradually bent into /x /. Complete neutralisation of /q /; /x / phonemes should take place when, in the perception of speech, allophone of /q / transformed into allophone of /x /.