

LANGUAGE DIVERSITY IN RUSSIA

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As we all know Russia is a multinational country, which means it is a multilingual one. Linguists have identified about 150 different languages here.



Some languages are very similar: representatives of different peoples can speak their own language, yet also understand each other perfectly well. For example, a Russian can talk to a Belorussian, a Tatar, a Kalmyk, a Buryat.

Majority
of languages
in Russia
derive from

Indo-European

Iranic

Altaic

Caucasian

Each language family has its own common
language.

source:
National Geographic



A Fortress of Languages

- Altaic (Turkic)**
- North West Caucasian**
Abkhaz, Circassian
- North East Caucasian**
Dagestani
- Nahk, Vaynakh**
Chechen, Ingush, Dagestani
kartvelian
- South Caucasian**
- Indo European**
Armenian, Greek, Iranian
Slavic (+ Krasnodar, Stavropol)

38 Batsbi (Tsova Tush) 3,000
39 Chechen (792,000)
40 Igush (197,000)

About 87 per cent of the population of Russia speak languages of the Indo-European group



Iranian languages are:
Ossetian, Kurdish,
Tadjik.



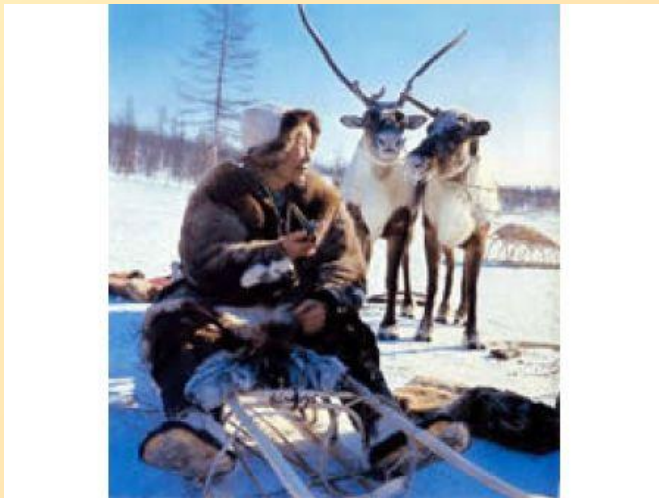
The Altaic group of languages is represented by three groups: Turkish (Balkarian), Mongolian and Tungus-Manchurian (Nanian).



Igor Vereshagin/picturehouse.wir / Igor Vereshagin (c) 2007 Picture



There are some languages which do not belong to any of the four groups above. These are the languages of the people of Siberia and the Far East. They are represented by only small tribal communities of speakers (e.g. Chukchi, Koryaks, Eskimos, and Aleutians).



In Russia the lingua franca is the Russian language, because Russians represent the majority of the population in the country.





Languages of the North Caucasus

- The Caucasus is often referred to as “Babylon”, as there were about 40 different languages mixed with each other. The North Caucasus is home to some 4,7 million people, and is divided into 7 republics: Kabardino-Balkaria, Northern Ossetia- Alania, Ingushetia, Chechnya, Adygeya, Dagestan and Karachay-Cherkessian Republic.



- Multilingualism is virtually universal among Caucasians. Nearly everyone speaks Russian, in addition to their own language, and many have some command of several neighbouring languages.



- Besides, students study several foreign languages at schools, colleges and universities. We study English. We know, that many our living abroad speak English too.

It's a strange world of language in
which skating on thin ice can get you
into hot water

Franklin P. Jones

Language is not only the vehicle of
thought, it is a great and efficient
instrument in thinking.

Humphery Davy, English chemist

Language links

Work in groups. Match the words with their origins.

French Italian Jewish Arabic Turkish Spanish

Russian Scandinavian German Indian African

• Group 1

cabinet -
bastion -
elephant -
Koran -
cobra -
coffee -
kiosk -

• Group 2

rucksack -
habit -
piano -
algebra -
balsam -
pepper -
cabriolet -

Group 3

bedlam -
umbrella -
domino -
sister -
altar -
alphabet -
dress -

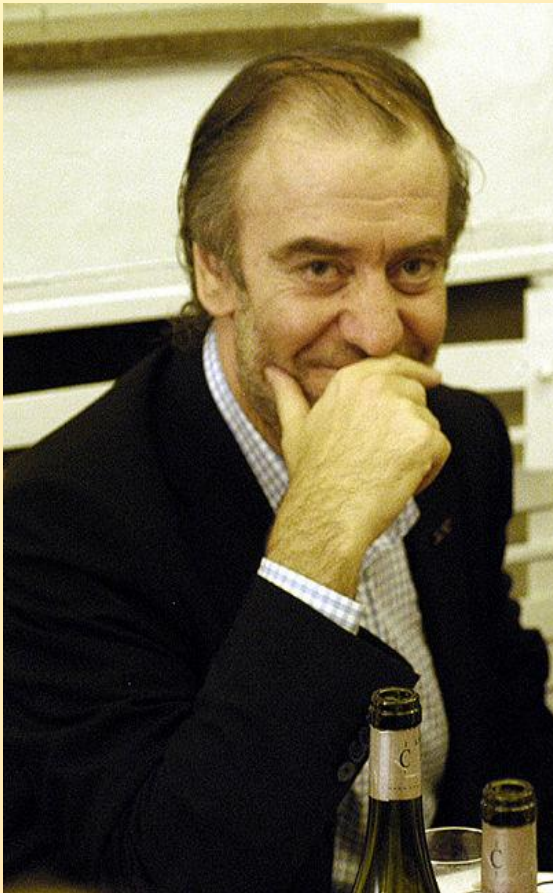
Group 4

flamingo -
baobab -
bandana -
samovar -
root -
money -
intelligent -

**Skim the texts and guess what they are about.
What helped you to make your guesses**

National Identity

- Look at the portraits. Do you know them? What are they famous for? Try to give the nationality of each person.





Name	Valeri Gergiev	Garry Kasparov (real: Garri Weistein)	Zurab Tseriteli	Mihail Shemiakin
Parents	Ossetians	Father: Jew Mother: Armenian	Georgians	Grandparents: Kabardians Kardanovs Stepgrandfather: Russian Mother: Yulia Predtechenskaya
Birth place	Moscow, 1953	Azerbaijan, 1963	Georgia, 1934	Moscow, 1943
Grew up in	Vladikavkaz	Azerbaijan	Georgia	German Democratic Republic
Educated in	Leningrad (conservatory)	Moscow	Tbilisi Academy of Arts	Leningrad, High School for the Fine Arts
Lives/ lived in	St.Petersburg	Moscow citizen: Russia	USA 1978 Moscow citizen: Russia	Paris 1971-1980 New York, citizen: USA (1989) Since 2007 lives in France
Nationality				

Making culture real

- ***Blood is thicker than water***

Different countries – different traditions

In the USA, Christmas Eve is usually a family dinner, when New Year's Eve is generally shared with friends: both meals typically with turkey or goose or roastbeef, salad and cheese and chocolate cake or ice-cream.etc...

In the Caucasus, the first birthday is considered to be a special one. The one-year-old child is dressed in colourful clothing and surrounded by cakes, biscuits and fruits. The child receives many gifts from friends and relatives. An assortment of items, such as yarn, stationery, brushes, books and money are also placed in front of the child. Adults make predictions about the child's future based on the item that the child first touches. For example, if the child selects money, then the adults may predict a future of business for the child. This event is usually a family dinner with lamb or turkey, sweet national dishes.

“Cultural shock”

Thank you very much!