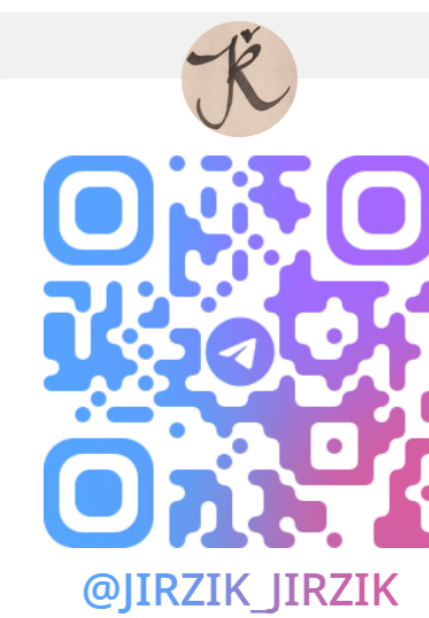


Classification of Cautatic languages based on the lexical distances

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Caucasian linguistics:
recent advances
and emerging topics
11-13 Jun 2025 Lyon (France)

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An attempt to build a **subgrouping** of Caucasian Tat (Cautatic) group based on the **lexical distances** between the lects spoken by

- Muslim Tats
- Armeno-Tats
- Mountain Jews

TERMINOLOGY:

- Tatic are NW Iranian languages of Northern Iran
- Tatoid are languages close to NW Tatic
- **Cautatic** (< Caucasian Tat) = Judeo-Tat + Muslim Tat
- Judeo-Tat = Juhuri; language of Mountain Jews
- Muslim Tat = Tat; Tati

AREA: Up to early 20th century the speakers were concentrated in Azerbaijan and Southern Dagestan but by 2025:

- all Armeno-Tats → Armenia and Russia
- most Mountain Jews → Israel, Russia, etc.

EXTERNAL AFFILIATION:

< Farsic-Cautatic < SW Iranian < Iranian < Indo-European

TRADITIONAL SUBGROUPING:

- one language - USSR
- two languages - Judeo-Tat + Muslim Tat

METHOD:

comparing **basic vocabularies** using 100-item Swadesh lists with semantic specifications (Kassian et al 2010).

DATA: Ten wordlists were compiled:

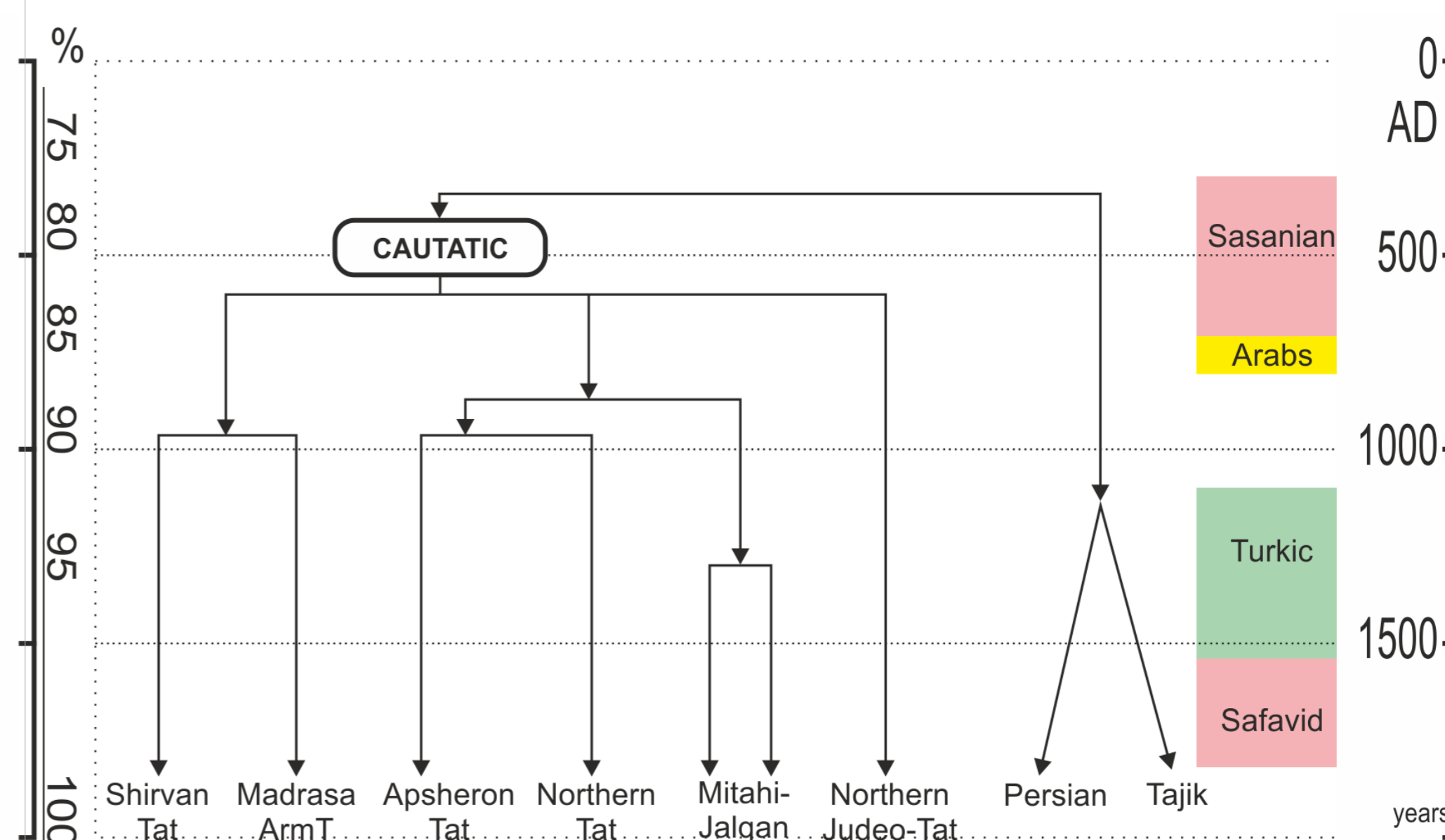
- field data from Dagestan: Jalqan/Jaqlu, Mitahi/Mudei, Nyugdi Juhuri
- field data from Armenia: Madrasa/Dprevank
- data from published dictionaries: Derbent & Quba Juhuri, Central Tat
- data from grammars: Northern Tat, Apsheron Tat, Shirvan Tat
- two wordlists (Standard Persian and Tajik) used for external comparison.

RESULTS

Based on the calculations obtained, it is possible to postulate the existence of **four to five** clusters, with shares of cognates between them 84 to 89%. They can be considered separate languages (Koryakov 2017):

- (Northern) **Judeo-Tat**
- **Mitahi-Jalqan**
- **Proper** (or Eastern) **Tat** – including Apsheron
- **Shirvan Tat**
- possibly **Madrasa Armeno-Tat**

The cognate shares with modern Persian significantly lower - circa 79% for all Cautatic lects.



EXTRA RESULTS

The Muslim Tat dialects of Derbent area in Daghestan (**Jalqan and Mitahi**), the data of which were not previously used in scientific consideration, turn out to be a separate language with the distinct identity.

The last two elderly speakers of **Madrasa Armeno-Tat** were found in Armenian village Dprevank in 2024 and it appeared to be a separate variety more closer to Shirvan Tat and less so to Central Tat.

We still lack the data for Southern Judeo-Tat varieties still (previously) spoken in several locations (Oguz, Ismayilli, Shpaz pšiqsij - Üys j p{r south of Shirvan Tat area; it can possibly turn out to be a separate language too.

It is interesting to note that Northern Juhuri has the lowest cognate share with modern Farsi. Neighboring Mitahi and Jalqan have a higher cognate share. This apparently refutes the theory that Mountain Jews arrived later from Iran and switched to the local Cautatic variety.

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