

ANATOLIAN AVAR LANGUAGE

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In the second half of the XIX-th century, after the Caucasian war has been finished, in the result of mass migration of Avar from their historical homeland – Dagestan – there was formed their national Diaspora on the territory of Osman Imperia. Representatives of them are known in science as “Anatolian Avar”. In Turkey Avar language is unwritten; it is used in general in family life by the middle and old generations. In 1920–1930 in Turkey the known French historian, linguist George Dumezil studied such languages of peoples of the North Caucasus as Abkhazian, Abazin, Avar, Adyghe, Ingush, Kabardian, Ossetic, Ubykh. Particularly he wrote the Grammar of Anatolian Avar language, collected and put into scientific operation the language material, different folklore and literary texts. After Dumezil Anatolian Avar language was studied by another French scientist – Professor George Charachidze. The monograph “Avar language”¹ was the result of his scientific researches.

Till 1960 the majority of Anatolian Avar lived compactly in the rural area, in their national villages, there were more than two dozens of them on the territory of Turkey. They were situated in regions of Bursa, Kars, Kakhramanmarash, Mush, Sivas, Stambul, Tokat and oth. However from 1970, in connection with upsurge of industry and economics, the period of urbanization became and affected large levels of the rural population, including Anatolian Avar. Many of them in search of the job, getting education, improving economic conditions, began to move to towns, to leave for abroad. Today one can meet Avar almost in all towns of Turkey, especially large settlements of them are in Ankara, Bursa, Izmir, Kakhramanmarash, Mush, Sivas, Stambul, Tokat, Yalov and oth. Dispersive living on the territory of Turkey, absence of written language, strong influence of the title nation’s language, assimilated processes and other reasons continue to influence the changes in the Anatolian Avar language. Observation of modern state of Anatolian Avar language shows serious transformations in its vocabulary, grammar and phonetics.

¹ Charachidze G. Grammaire de la Langue Avare Langue du Caucase (Nord-Est). Editions Paris: Jean Favard, 1981. – 209 p.