

Αρβανίτικα Arvanitic

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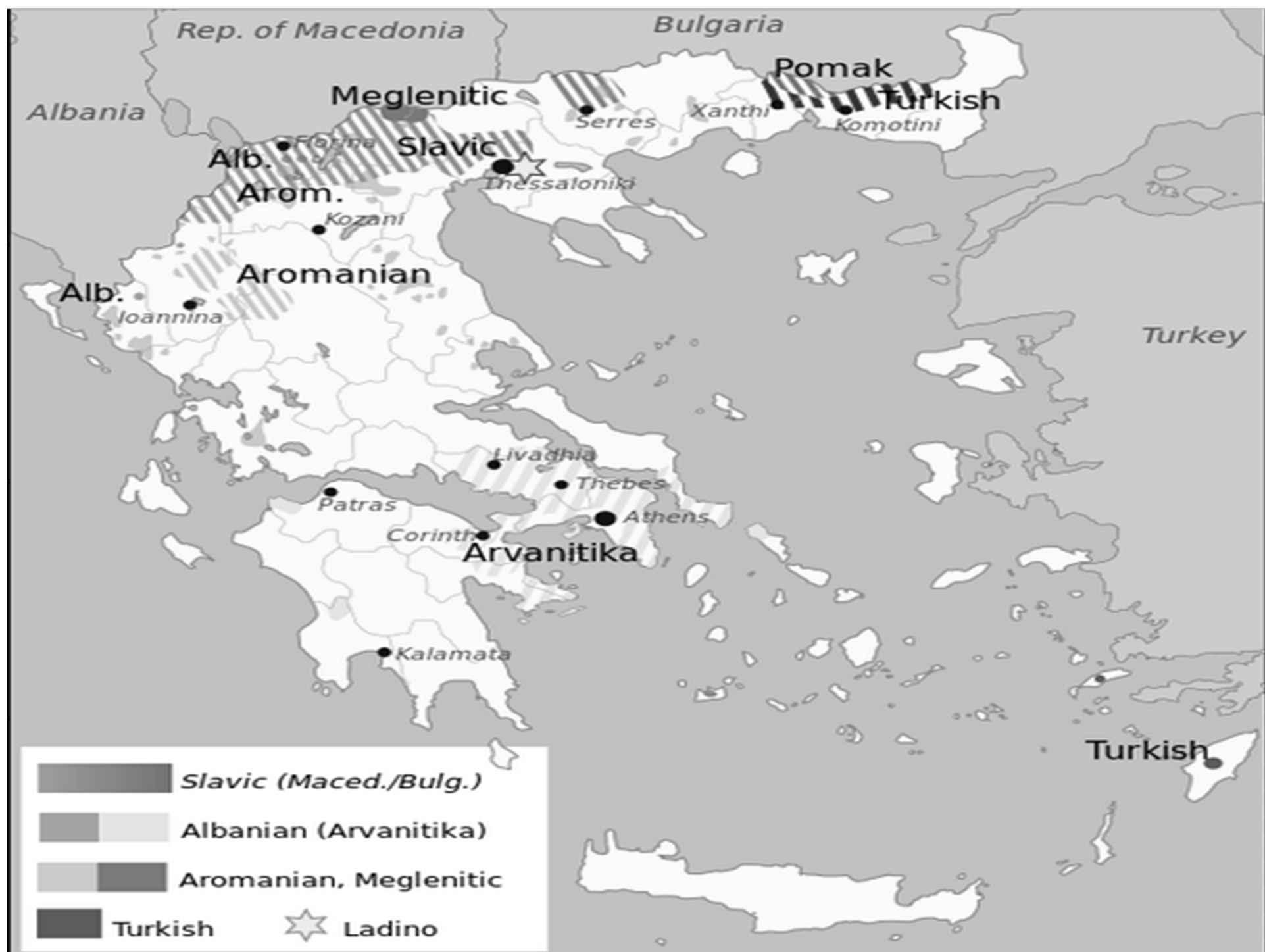
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Basic information:

- Based on Albanian Tosk
- Indo-European language
- Mainly a spoken language
- Has been written in both the Greek and the Latin alphabet (rarely written)
- Non-official minority language
- Number of speakers: 50.000
(Unesco/Ethnologue 2007)

Other languages used in the speech community:

- Cappadocian Greek
- Megleno-Romanian
- Aromanian
- Gagauz
- Corfiot Italkian
- Tsakonian
- GREEK



Variation and standardization

- Arvanitika is a language
- There is no standard variety
- There are many different dialects

Most important:

Northwestern Arvanitika

South Central Arvanitika

Thracean Arvanitika

History

- Arvanites originated from Albanian
- Speakers migrated to Greece between 13th and 16th century
- The name of the language comes from the Albanian region Arbena
- Arvanites had been assimilated into Greek culture
- Today they self-identify as Greeks

Domains/Education/Documentation of the language

- It is spoken only among the older generations at home or on encounters (it is not being transmitted to children)
- There are no Arvanitic schools/The language is not used in schools
- There are no Arvanitic grammar books
- It has rarely been written
- There are some Greek-Arvanitic dictionaries

Endangerement

- Overall grade of endangerment/vitality according to the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger : **Severely endangered**
- Proportion of speakers within the overall population : **2- Severely endangered**
- Intergenerational language transmission :
2- Severely endangered
- (Shifts in) Domains of language use: **1- Highly limited domain**

- Response to new domains and media:
0- inactive
- Availability of material for language education and literacy : **1 - A practical orthography is known to the community and some material is being written**
- Governmental and institutional attitudes and policies: **1 - forced assimilation**
- Community members' attitude: **2 - Only a few members support language maintenance; others are indifferent or may even support language losses**

Why the language has become endangered

Due to:

- language shift towards Greek
- political repression
- community's negative attitude towards Arvanitic

Arvanitic alphabets and pronunciation

Latin alphabet for Arvanitic

A a	B b	C c	Ç ç	D d	Dh dh	E e	Ë ë	F f	G g
a	bë	cë	çë	dë	dhë	e	ë	fë	gë
[a~ɑ]	[b]	[t͡s]	[t͡ʃ]	[d]	[ð]	[ɛ]	[ə~ʊ]	[f]	[g]
Gj gj	H h	HJ hj	I i	J j	K k	L l	LJ lj	Ll ll	M m
gjë	hë	hjë	i	jë	kë	lë	ljë	llë	më
[gʲ]	[x]	[x]	[i]	[j]	[k]	[l]	[ʎ]	[ʎ]	[m]
N n	Nj nj	O o	P p	Q q	R r	Rr rr	S s	Sh sh	T t
në	një	o	pë	që	rë	rrë	së	shë	të
[n]	[ɲ]	[ɔ]	[p]	[c]	[r]	[r(ˈ)]	[s]	[ʃ]	[t]
Th th	U u	V v	X x	Xh xh	Y y	Z z	Zh zh		
thë	u	vë	xë	xhë	y	zë	zhë		
[θ]	[u]	[v]	[œ]	[œ̃]	[y]	[z]	[ʒ]		

Greek alphabet for Arvanitic

A α	B β	Β b	Γ γ	Γj γj	Δ δ	D d	E ε	Ε ε	Z ζ
a	vë	bë	gë	gjë	dhë	dë	e	ë	zë
[a~ɑ]	[v]	[b]	[g]	[ɟ]	[ð]	[d]	[e]	[ə~ʊ]	[z]
Ζ ζ	Θ θ	I ι	J j	K κ	K κ̇	Λ λ	ΛΛ λλ	Λ λ̃	M μ
zhë	thë	i	jë	kë	kë	lë	llë	ljë	më
[ʒ]	[θ]	[i]	[j]	[k]	[k]	[l]	[ɣ]	[ʎ]	[m]
N ν	N ν̇	O ο	Π π	P ϱ	P ϱ̇	Σ σ	Σ σ̇	T τ	Ϝ ϝ
në	një	o	pë	rë	rrë	së	shë	të	u
[n]	[ɲ]	[ɔ]	[p]	[r]	[r(ˈ)]	[s]	[ʃ]	[t]	[u]
Υ υ	Φ φ	X χ	X χ̇	ΤΣ τσ	ΤΣ̇ τσ̇	DΣ dσ	DΣ̇ dσ̇		
y	fë	hë	hjë	cë	çë	xë	xhë		
[y]	[f]	[x]	[χ]	[ts]	[tʃ]	[dz]	[dʒ]		

Sample text (Lord's Prayer)

Áti ýně që jé ndë qiéjet, ushënjtëróft' émëri ýt.
árhtë mbëretëria jóte; ubëftë dashurími ýt,
si ndë qiél, edhé mbë dhét;
búkënë tónë të përdítëshimen' ép-na néve sót;
edhé fájl-na fájetë tóna,
sikúndrë edhé néve ua fáljmë fajtórevet tánë;
edhé mos na shtiér ndë ngásie, pó shpëtó-na nga i ljígu;
sepsé jótia është mbëretëria e fuqía e ljavdía ndë jétët të jétévet.

Sources:

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