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The Georgian Dactyl alphabet

ABSTRACT

The all sign languages were highly influenced by the Russian language in the Soviet period. Like the other Soviet sign languages the old Georgian dactyl alphabet was totally based on the Russian one, with only a few additional specific letters.

The idea of creating a new original Georgian dactyl alphabet came from the local community of deaf and hard of hearing people and I was happy to work together with these people on this project. The creation of a new original dactyl alphabet based on Georgian letters was a natural step for Georgia and consistent with the sign language nationalization developments in the post-Soviet linguistic space.

This paper presents the results of our work: the new Georgian dactyl alphabet. This alphabet is one-handed with the dactyls which are easy to create and to move between. The method of processing is a mixed type and it is a letter-dactyl (non-syllabic) alphabet by the principle of marking.



Keywords: Alphabet, Georgian alphabet, Georgian dactyl alphabet, sign language, Georgian sign languages, gesture, dactyls

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