

Ethnologue: Languages of Kyrgyzstan

Twenty-sixth edition data

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
DBS	Deaf Bible Society
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
DOOR	Deaf Opportunity Outreach
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Kyrgyzstan that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 24 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Kyrgyzstan. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

Primary language name [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. *Map*: Map page. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

The “Language Map” (page 18) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 19) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 22) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by

Region” (page 25) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Kyrgyzstan and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 26) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 27) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 28) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 27 unique names are associated with the 24 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 29). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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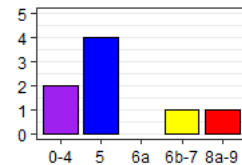
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Country Overview

Name of country	Kyrgyzstan
Other names	Kyrgyz Republic
Population	6,700,000 (2021 census)
Principal languages	Kyrgyz, Russian
Literacy rate	100% (2018 UNESCO)
International conventions	CDE (1995), CSICH (2006), ICCPR (1994), UNCRPD (2019)
General references	Sebeok 1963

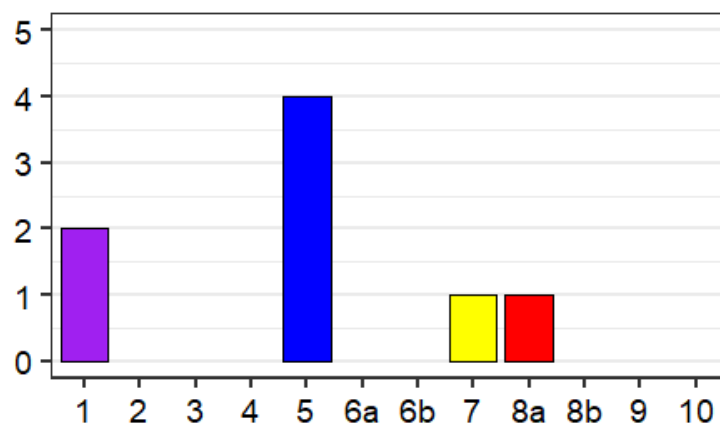
Language counts The number of established languages listed for Kyrgyzstan is 8. All are living languages. Of these, 2 are indigenous and 6 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional, 4 are developing, 1 is in trouble, and 1 is dying. Also listed are 16 unestablished languages.



See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Kyrgyzstan with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 22) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Kyrgyzstan. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Kyrgyzstan and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Kyrgyzstan by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 19) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

Table 1: Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	1	12.5	12.5%	4,510,000	73.67355	73.67355%
100,000 to 999,999	2	25.0	37.5%	1,478,000	24.14401	97.81756%
10,000 to 99,999	3	37.5	75.0%	130,600	2.13343	99.95099%
1,000 to 9,999	1	12.5	87.5%	2,700	0.04411	99.99510%
100 to 999	1	12.5	100.0%	300	0.00490	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	8	100.0		6,121,600	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Kyrgyzstan by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 22) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Kyrgyzstan. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	2	25.0	25.0%	5,078,000	82.9522	82.9522%	2,539,000	2,539,000
5	4	50.0	75.0%	987,000	16.1232	99.0754%	246,750	37,150
7	1	12.5	87.5%	56,300	0.9197	99.9951%	56,300	56,300
8a	1	12.5	100.0%	300	0.0049	100.0000%	300	300
<i>Totals</i>	8	100.0		6,121,600	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 5 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Indo-European	3	37.5	613,000	10.0	204,333	42,300
Mongolic	1	12.5	300	0.0	300	300
Sign language	1	12.5	32,000	0.5	32,000	32,000

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Sino-Tibetan	1	12.5	56,300	0.9	56,300	56,300
Turkic	2	25.0	5,420,000	88.5	2,710,000	2,710,000
<i>Totals</i>	8	100.0	6,121,600	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Azerbaijani, North [azj]. Autonym: Azərbaycan dili, Azərbaycanca. *Users*: 11,500 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 17,300 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 24 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1891–2009. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1920s. Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Dagestan. Latin script, official usage in Azerbaijan since 1992. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,110,020. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia. Also established in: Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Estonia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Chechen [che]. *Users*: 1,500 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 1,900 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Nakh, Chechen-Ingush. *Type*: Ergative case system; many consonants and vowels; extensive inflectional morphology, many nominal cases, several gender classes; complex sentences by chaining participial clauses; verbs have gender agreement with the direct object or intransitive subject, but no person agreement (Nichols 1995). *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2012. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used between 1925–1938. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,687,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Georgia, Jordan. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Egypt, Germany, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Crimean Tatar [crh]. *Users*: 38,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2013 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Southern. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2016. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1928. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script, official usage since 1997. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 581,340. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Ukraine. Also established in: Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan.

Dargwa [dar]. *Users*: 2,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 2,400 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Dargi. *Type*: SOV; short and full adjectives; no articles; 3 genders; case-marking (6 grammatical cases, locative cases); 40 consonants and 4 vowels. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2002–2013. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 372,510. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Dungan [dng] (Dzhunyan, Huizu, Kwuizwu, Tungan, Zwn'jan). *Users*: 56,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). *Ethnic population*: 58,100 (2009 census). *Location*: Bishkek city; Chuy region: 2 small nearby border areas; Osh region; Ysyk-Kol region: Karakol area. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Dialects*: Ganzu (Gansu), Shaanxi (Shensi), Yage. Shaanxi and Ganzu varieties have difficult mutual inherent intelligibility. Debate over whether Dungan has 3 tones (a merging of 2 standard Mandarin tones) or 4 tones (with only a partial merging of the 2 standard Mandarin tones). Different from Mandarin [cmn] in phonology and lexicon. *Lg Use*: Those under 50–55 speak Russian [rus] as L1. Shifting to Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 2006–2011. *DLS*: Ascending (0.18). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Other*: Came from China over 100 years ago. Muslim. *Map*: 18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 145,100. Also indigenous in: Kazakhstan. Unestablished in: Mongolia, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan.

Erzya [myv]. *Users*: 5,390 in Kyrgyzstan (2013 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Uralic, Mordvin. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1827–2006. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 245,780. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Armenia. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

German, Standard [deu] (Deutsch, Nemetskiy). Autonym: Deutsch. *Users*: 2,700 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). *Ethnic population*: 9,500 (2009 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 22 consonants, 22 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable of the root. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1466–2016. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy. Also established in 39 other countries and unestablished in 23 more.

Kalmyk-Oirat [xal]. *Users*: 300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). *Ethnic population*: 4,200 (2009 census). *Location*: Ysyk-Kol region. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Mongolic, Eastern, Oirat-Khalkha, Oirat-Kalmyk-Darkhat. *Dialect*: Oirat (Sart Qalmaq). *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Kyrgyz [kir]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1827–2009. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, adopted in 1924, used in Russia and Mongolia. Mongolian script, Todo style, used in China. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 495,300. Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: China, Mongolia (Oirat).

Karachay-Balkar [krc]. *Users*: 2,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). *Ethnic population*: 3,000 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Western, Ponto-Caspian. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1994. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*:

Total users in all countries: 280,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan.

Karakalpak [kaa]. *Users*: 1,200 in Kyrgyzstan (2019 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2019. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 871,970. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan.

Kazakh [kaz]. *Users*: 22,400 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 33,200 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 18 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1820–2011. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China and Iran. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,517,990 (as L1: 16,382,990; as L2: 135,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan. Also established in: Iran, Turkey. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United States.

Korean [kor]. *Users*: 8,500 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 17,300 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Koreanic. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1911–1993. *Writing*: Braille script. Hangul and Han scripts, primary usage. Latin script, used for maps and signs. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,740,540 (as L1: 81,721,540; as L2: 19,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: North Korea, South Korea. Also established in: China, Japan, Russian Federation, United States, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China–Taiwan, Denmark, France, Germany, Guam, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Vietnam.

Kurdish, Northern [kmr]. Autonym: Kurdî-Kurmancî, Kurmancî. *Users*: 12,700 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 13,200 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in 1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey. Also

established in: Georgia, Lebanon, Turkmenistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Kyrgyz [kir] (Kara-Kirgiz, Kirghiz, Kirgiz). *Users*: 4,510,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2018). Ethnic population: 3,800,000 (2009 census). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Art 5 (1)). *Class*: Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian. *Dialects*: Northern Kyrgyz, Southern Kyrgyz. Lexical similarity: 53% with Chuvash [chv]; 55% with Yakut [sah]; 59% with Turkish [tur] and Tuvan [tyv]; 62% with Northern Azerbaijani [azj]; 69% with Khakas [kjh] and Turkmen [tuk]; 73% with Southern Altai [alt]; 74% with Karachay-Balkar [krc]; 76% with North Uzbek [uzn]; 78% with Bashkort [bak] and Uyghur [uig]; 80% with Tatar [tat]; 91% with Kazakh [kaz]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 19 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony. *Lg Use*: L1 for 98% of Kyrgyz. The Ichkilik are a Kyrgyz-speaking people of non-Kyrgyz origin. Also use Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in many primary and secondary schools. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1995–2004. *DLS*: Vital (0.77). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China. Cyrillic script, not used in Afghanistan. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Other*: The names Eastern Kyrgyz and Western Kyrgyz have been erroneously applied to Kazakh. Increasing education. Muslim, Buddhist. *Map*: 18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,154,500. Also indigenous in: China, Tajikistan. Also established in: Afghanistan, Turkey. Unestablished in: Germany, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

Lezgi [lez]. *Users*: 2,400 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 2,600 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Lezgiic, Nuclear Lezgiic, East Lezgiic. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2018. *Writing*: Caucasian Albanian script, no longer in use. Cyrillic script, used since 1938 to present. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 516,010. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Azerbaijan, Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Russian [rus]. *Users*: 2,868,000 in Kyrgyzstan, all users. L1 users: 568,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2018). L2 users: 2,300,000 (Arefyev 2012). Ethnic population: 420,000 (2009 census). *Location*: Ysyk-Kol region: Lake Ysyk Kol area; widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Article 10(2)). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; 1 prefix on a word; recursive addition of suffixes allowed; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonants, 5 vowels, 4 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Taught in many primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1876–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *Map*: 18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as

L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine. Also established in 16 other countries and unestablished in 30 more.

Russian Sign Language [rsl]. *Users*: 32,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 19,000–39,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% of total population. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Very high lexical similarity with Russian SL in Russia, especially in Bishkek, with somewhat greater variation in the south (2020 N. Andrianova). *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling (Cyrillic script). *Lg Dev*: TV. Videos. Dictionary. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 909,000. Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Armenia, Belarus, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Israel.

Tajik [tgk] (Tajiki). *Users*: 42,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 46,100 (2009 census). *Location*: Scattered, mostly south. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). Recognized language (2010, Constitution, Article 10(3)). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Type*: SOV; verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; causatives; 27 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Bible: 1992–1999. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1928. Cyrillic script, used since 1940, primary usage. Hebrew script, used by Bukharan Jews in Uzbekistan. Latin script, used between 1928–1940. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,287,420. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. Also established in: China, Kazakhstan. Unestablished in: Germany, Iran, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Ukraine.

Tatar [tat]. *Users*: 20,900 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 31,400 (2009 census). *Location*: Scattered, mostly northeast. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Western, Uralian. *Type*: SOV; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; 21 consonant and 12 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentiality. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2016. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used prior to 1928. Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,127,970 (as L1: 4,317,970; as L2: 810,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: China, Kazakhstan, Turkey. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United States, Uzbekistan.

Turkish [tur]. Autonym: Türkçe. *Users*: 16,200 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 39,400 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; indefinite articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; comparatives; 19 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentiality. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1827–2006. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille

script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National).

Indigenous in: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey. Also established in: Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Syria, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Turkmen [tuk]. *Users*: 1,200 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 1,400 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkmenian. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; no articles; case-marking (5 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 23 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; vowel harmony; evidentials. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan and Iran. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan, not used in Afghanistan. Latin script, official usage in Turkmenistan since 1991. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,562,260. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Afghanistan, Iran, Turkmenistan. Also established in: Iraq, Russian Federation, Turkey. Unestablished in: Germany, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

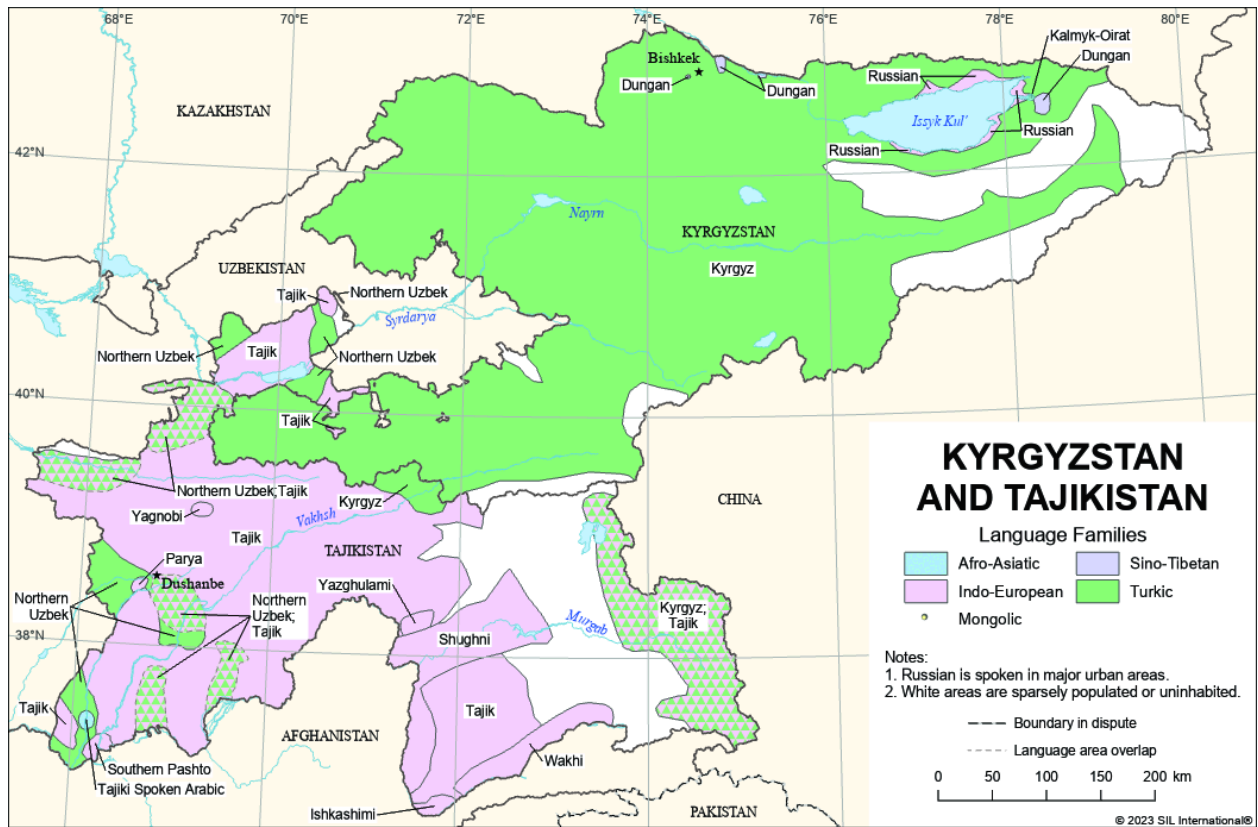
Ukrainian [ukr]. *Users*: 5,400 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 21,900 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1903–2020. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in the 19th century, limited usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine. Also established in: Brazil, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Uyghur [uig]. *Users*: 37,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 48,500 (2009 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Eastern. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives, adjectives, numerals, relatives before noun heads; question words initial; word order distinguishes subjects and indirect objects, topic and comment; 8 noun cases shown by suffixes; verb suffixes mark subject person, number, second person marks plural and 3 levels of respect; passive, reflexive, reciprocal and causative; comparatives; 25 consonant and 15

vowel phonemes; CV, CVC, CVCC syllables; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentials. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Grammar. Bible: 1950–2022. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, official and primary usage in China, also used in Afghanistan. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan, past usage in China. Latin script, used in China and Turkey. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,510,072 (as L1: 10,509,952; as L2: 120). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia. Also established in: Afghanistan, India, Turkey. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, United States, Uzbekistan.

Uzbek, Northern [uzn] (o‘zbek, o‘zbek tili, o‘zbekcha). *Users*: 910,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2018). Ethnic population: 768,000 (2009 census). *Location*: Scattered, mostly south. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). Recognized language (1997, Constitution, Article 10(3)). *Class*: Turkic, Eastern. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no articles; case-marking (5 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 24 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; has lost its historical vowel harmony and its vowel system now resembles that of Tajiki. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2016. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, symbolic use in Uzbekistan, sometimes used in China. Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Uzbekistan between 1940–1992, continued widespread use in Uzbekistan and China. Latin script, official usage in Uzbekistan since 1992. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 27,937,610 (as L1: 27,936,530; as L2: 1,080). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Also established in: China, Kazakhstan. Unestablished in: Canada, Finland, Germany, Russian Federation, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Kyrgyzstan are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Kyrgyz [[kir](#)] *Users:* 4,510,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2018). Ethnic population: 3,800,000 (2009 census). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Art 5 (1)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,154,500.

100,000 to 999,999

Uzbek, Northern [[uzn](#)] *Users:* 910,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2018). Ethnic population: 768,000 (2009 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). Recognized language (1997, Constitution, Article 10(3)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 27,937,610 (as L1: 27,936,530; as L2: 1,080).

Russian [[rus](#)] *Users:* 568,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2018). 2,868,000 in Kyrgyzstan, all users. L2 users: 2,300,000 (Arefyev 2012). Ethnic population: 420,000 (2009 census). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Article 10(2)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

10,000 to 99,999

Dungan [[dng](#)] *Users:* 56,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 58,100 (2009 census). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 145,100.

Tajik [[tgk](#)] *Users:* 42,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 46,100 (2009 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). Recognized language (2010, Constitution, Article 10(3)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,287,420.

Crimean Tatar [[crh](#)] *Users:* 38,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2013 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 581,340.

Uyghur [[uig](#)] *Users:* 37,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 48,500 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,510,072 (as L1: 10,509,952; as L2: 120).

Russian Sign Language [[rsl](#)] *Users:* 32,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 19,000–39,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% of total population. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 909,000.

Kazakh [[kaz](#)] *Users:* 22,400 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 33,200 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,517,990 (as L1:

16,382,990; as L2: 135,000).

Tatar [tat] *Users:* 20,900 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 31,400 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,127,970 (as L1: 4,317,970; as L2: 810,000).

Turkish [tur] *Users:* 16,200 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 39,400 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

Kurdish, Northern [kmr] *Users:* 12,700 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 13,200 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

Azerbaijani, North [azj] *Users:* 11,500 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 17,300 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,110,020.

1,000 to 9,999

Korean [kor] *Users:* 8,500 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 17,300 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 81,740,540 (as L1: 81,721,540; as L2: 19,000).

Ukrainian [ukr] *Users:* 5,400 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 21,900 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

Erzya [myv] *Users:* 5,390 in Kyrgyzstan (2013 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 245,780.

German, Standard [deu] *Users:* 2,700 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 9,500 (2009 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Lezgi [lez] *Users:* 2,400 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 2,600 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 516,010.

Dargwa [dar] *Users:* 2,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 2,400 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 372,510.

Karachay-Balkar [krc] *Users:* 2,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 3,000 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 280,700.

Chechen [che] *Users:* 1,500 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 1,900 (2009 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,687,700.

Karakalpak [kaa] *Users:* 1,200 in Kyrgyzstan (2019 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 871,970.

Turkmen [tuk] *Users:* 1,200 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 1,400 (2009

census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,562,260.

100 to 999

Kalmyk-Oirat [[xal](#)] *Users*: 300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 4,200 (2009 census). *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 495,300.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Kyrgyzstan are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

Kyrgyz [kir] *Users:* 4,510,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2018). Ethnic population: 3,800,000 (2009 census). *Status:* Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Art 5 (1)). *Lg Use:* L1 for 98% of Kyrgyz. The Ichkilik are a Kyrgyz-speaking people of non-Kyrgyz origin. Also use Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1995–2004. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China. Cyrillic script, not used in Afghanistan. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,154,500.

Russian [rus] *Users:* 2,868,000 in Kyrgyzstan, all users. L1 users: 568,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2018). L2 users: 2,300,000 (Arefyev 2012). Ethnic population: 420,000 (2009 census). *Status:* Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Article 10(2)). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

5 (Developing)

Russian Sign Language [rsl] *Users:* 32,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 19,000–39,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% of total population. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 909,000.

5 (Dispersed)

German, Standard [deu] *Users:* 2,700 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 9,500 (2009 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Tajik [tgk] *Users:* 42,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 46,100 (2009 census). *Status:* Recognized language (2010, Constitution, Article 10(3)). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1928. Cyrillic script, used since 1940, primary usage. Hebrew script, used by Bukharan Jews in Uzbekistan. Latin script, used between 1928–1940. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,287,420.

Uzbek, Northern [uzn] *Users:* 910,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2018). Ethnic population: 768,000 (2009 census). *Status:* Recognized language (1997, Constitution, Article 10(3)). *Writing:* Arabic

script, Naskh variant, symbolic use in Uzbekistan, sometimes used in China. Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Uzbekistan between 1940–1992, continued widespread use in Uzbekistan and China. Latin script, official usage in Uzbekistan since 1992. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 27,937,610 (as L1: 27,936,530; as L2: 1,080).

7 (Shifting)

Dungan [dng] *Users*: 56,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 58,100 (2009 census). *Lg Use*: Those under 50–55 speak Russian [rus] as L1. Shifting to Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 2006–2011. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 145,100.

8a (Moribund)

Kalmyk-Oirat [xal] *Users*: 300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 4,200 (2009 census). *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Kyrgyz [kir]. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, adopted in 1924, used in Russia and Mongolia. Mongolian script, Todo style, used in China. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 495,300.

Unestablished

Azerbaijani, North [azj] *Users*: 11,500 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 17,300 (2009 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1920s. Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Dagestan. Latin script, official usage in Azerbaijan since 1992. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,110,020.

Chechen [che] *Users*: 1,500 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 1,900 (2009 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used between 1925–1938. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,687,700.

Crimean Tatar [crh] *Users*: 38,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2013 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1928. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script, official usage since 1997. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 581,340.

Dargwa [dar] *Users*: 2,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 2,400 (2009 census). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 372,510.

Erzya [myv] *Users*: 5,390 in Kyrgyzstan (2013 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 245,780.

Karachay-Balkar [krc] *Users*: 2,000 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 3,000 (2009 census). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 280,700.

Karakalpak [kaa] *Users*: 1,200 in Kyrgyzstan (2019 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 871,970.

Kazakh [kaz] *Users*: 22,400 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 33,200 (2009

census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China and Iran. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,517,990 (as L1: 16,382,990; as L2: 135,000).

Korean [kor] *Users*: 8,500 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 17,300 (2009 census). *Writing*: Braille script. Hangul and Han scripts, primary usage. Latin script, used for maps and signs. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,740,540 (as L1: 81,721,540; as L2: 19,000).

Kurdish, Northern [kmr] *Users*: 12,700 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 13,200 (2009 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in 1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

Lezgi [lez] *Users*: 2,400 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 2,600 (2009 census). *Writing*: Caucasian Albanian script, no longer in use. Cyrillic script, used since 1938 to present. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 516,010.

Tatar [tat] *Users*: 20,900 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 31,400 (2009 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used prior to 1928. Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,127,970 (as L1: 4,317,970; as L2: 810,000).

Turkish [tur] *Users*: 16,200 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 39,400 (2009 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

Turkmen [tuk] *Users*: 1,200 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 1,400 (2009 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan and Iran. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan, not used in Afghanistan. Latin script, official usage in Turkmenistan since 1991. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,562,260.

Ukrainian [ukr] *Users*: 5,400 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 21,900 (2009 census). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in the 19th century, limited usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

Uyghur [uig] *Users*: 37,300 in Kyrgyzstan (2009 census). Ethnic population: 48,500 (2009 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, official and primary usage in China, also used in Afghanistan. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan, past usage in China. Latin script, used in China and Turkey. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,510,072 (as L1: 10,509,952; as L2: 120).

Languages by Region

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Kyrgyzstan. Under the name of each region is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

Batken

Tajik [tgk], [15](#)

Uzbek, Northern [uzn], [17](#)

Bishkek

Dungan [dng], [12](#)

Chuy

Dungan [dng], [12](#)

Osh

Dungan [dng], [12](#)

Tajik [tgk], [15](#)

Uzbek, Northern [uzn], [17](#)

Osh City

Uzbek, Northern [uzn], [17](#)

Ysyk-Kol

Dungan [dng], [12](#)

Kalmyk-Oirat [xal], [12](#)

Mongolian, Halh [khk], [0](#)

Russian [rus], [14](#)

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Kyrgyzstan. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East

Russian [rus], [14](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German

German, Standard [deu], [12](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian

Tajik [tgk], [15](#)

Mongolic, Eastern, Oirat-Khalkha, Oirat-Kalmyk-Darkhat

Kalmyk-Oirat [xal], [12](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Russian Sign Language [rsl], [15](#)

Sino-Tibetan, Chinese

Dungan [dng], [12](#)

Turkic, Eastern

Uzbek, Northern [uzn], [17](#)

Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian

Kyrgyz [kir], [14](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 24 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

azj	Azerbaijani, North, 11	lez	Lezgi, 14
che	Chechen, 11	myv	Erzya, 12
crh	Crimean Tatar, 11	rsl	Russian Sign Language, 15
dar	Dargwa, 11	rus	Russian, 14
deu	German, Standard, 12	tat	Tatar, 15
dng	Dungan, 12	tgk	Tajik, 15
kaa	Karakalpak, 13	tuk	Turkmen, 16
kaz	Kazakh, 13	tur	Turkish, 15
kir	Kyrgyz, 14	uig	Uyghur, 16
kmr	Kurdish, Northern, 13	ukr	Ukrainian, 16
kor	Korean, 13	uzn	Uzbek, Northern, 17
krc	Karachay-Balkar, 12	xal	Kalmyk-Oirat, 12

Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

North Azerbaijani, *see* Azerbaijani, North [azj], 11

Deutsch, *alt.* German, Standard [deu], 12

Dungan [dng], 12, 18

Dzhunyan, *alt.* Dungan [dng], 12

Gansu, *alt. dial.* Dungan [dng], 12

Ganzu, *dial.* Dungan [dng], 12

German, Standard [deu], 12
see German, Standard [deu], 12

Huizu, *alt.* Dungan [dng], 12

Kalmyk-Oirat [xal], 12, 18

Kara-Kirgiz, *alt.* Kyrgyz [kir], 14

Kirghiz, *alt.* Kyrgyz [kir], 14

Kirgiz, *alt.* Kyrgyz [kir], 14

Northern Kurdish, *see* Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 13

Kwuizwu, *alt.* Dungan [dng], 12

Kyrgyz [kir], 14, 18

Nemetskiy, *alt.* German, Standard [deu], 12

Northern Kyrgyz, *dial.* Kyrgyz [kir], 14

Oirat, *dial.* Kalmyk-Oirat [xal], 12

o‘zbek, *alt.* Uzbek, Northern [uzn], 17

o‘zbek tili, *alt.* Uzbek, Northern [uzn], 17

o‘zbekcha, *alt.* Uzbek, Northern [uzn], 17

Russian [rus], 14, 18

Russian Sign Language [rsl], 15, 0

Sart Qalmaq, *alt. dial.* Kalmyk-Oirat [xal], 12

Shaanxi, *dial.* Dungan [dng], 12

Shensi, *alt. dial.* Dungan [dng], 12

Southern Kyrgyz, *dial.* Kyrgyz [kir], 14

Tajik [tgk], 15

Tajiki, *alt.* Tajik [tgk], 15

Tungan, *alt.* Dungan [dng], 12

Uzbek, Northern [uzn], 17
see Uzbek, Northern [uzn], 17

Yage, *dial.* Dungan [dng], 12

Zwn’jan, *alt.* Dungan [dng], 12

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