Why Caucasian languages?

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The documentation and preservation of any language is an important part of the overall conservation of humanity's cultural heritage. In addition, languages of the Caucasus display many unusual phenomena that are of scientific linguistic interest. This applies to each of the three Caucasian families, though the paper concentrates on relevant examples from work on the Tsezic languages of western Daghestan, taking one feature from each of phonology (pharyngealization), morphology (gender), syntax (valency), and the lexicon (the small number of indigenous underived adjectives) – the last mentioned brings us back to the interface of language and culture as it relates directly to language contact.

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