

# Kashubian language

## General information

The Kashubians are one of the most vibrant ethnic groups in Poland today. They actively maintain their traditions among themselves. They even have their own anthem and emblem of arms. Moreover, Kashubian is the only language in Poland that is officially considered a regional language. The Kashubians live on the Baltic, near Gdańsk. The territorial boundaries are: in the east by the Vistula River, and in the west by the mouth of the Piasnica River, in the south by the Brda River, and in the north by the Chełm and the Baltic Sea. When it comes to the number of Kashubians that live in Poland, the data differ; according to various sources, they number between 5,000 and 800,000. The capital of the Kashubians is Gdańsk and their emblem of arms is the image of a vulture on a golden background. Kashubian Unity Day is celebrated on March 19.

Kashubian language has long been a controversial language. For many years, it could not have been decided whether it was a dialect of Polish or a separate language. Nowadays, Kashubian was recognized as an independent language. Moreover, it was given the status of Poland's only regional language. Currently, it is used mainly for daily communication and is taught in schools as an additional language (around 6,000 students study it). Since 2005, it has been possible to take a graduation exam in Kashubian language.

Kashubian language belongs to the Slavic language group. It belongs to the Lechitic group and has long been developed under the influence of Pomeranian dialects. Nowadays, there are many dictionaries of Kashubian language, literature, TV and radio broadcasts. In addition, there are many dialects of the Kashubian language: their number reaches 76 dialects.

## Kashubian alphabet

A a	Ą ą	Ã ã	B b	C c	D d	E e	É é
a	ą	ã	bé	cé	dé	e	é
[a]	[ɔ/ũ]	[ã/ɛ]	[b]	[ts]	[d]	[ɛ]	[ɛ/ij/i/ĩ]
Ë ë	F f	G g	H h	I i	J j	K k	L l
szwa	éf	gé	ha	i	jot	ka	él
[ə]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	[j]	[k]	[l]
Ł ł	M m	N n	Ń ń	O o	Ò ò	Ó ó	Ô ô
ét	ém	én	éń	o	ò	ó	ô
[w]	[m]	[n]	[ɲ/ɲ]	[ɔ]	[wɛ]	[o/u]	[ɔ/ɛ/ɔ/o/u]
P p	R r	S s	T t	U u	Û ù	W w	Y y
pé	ér	és	té	u	ù	wé	igrek
[p]	[r]	[s]	[t]	[u]	[wu]	[v]	[i]
Z z	Ż ż						
zet	żet						
[z]	[ʒ]						

## Consonant combinations

Ch ch	Cz Cz	Dz dz	Dż dż	Rz rz	Sz sz
[x]	[tʃ]	[dz]	[dʒ]	[z]	[ʃ]

## Videos about Kashubian language

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZltqQTweMD0>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZFgoX05LI&feature=emb\\_imp\\_woyt](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZFgoX05LI&feature=emb_imp_woyt)

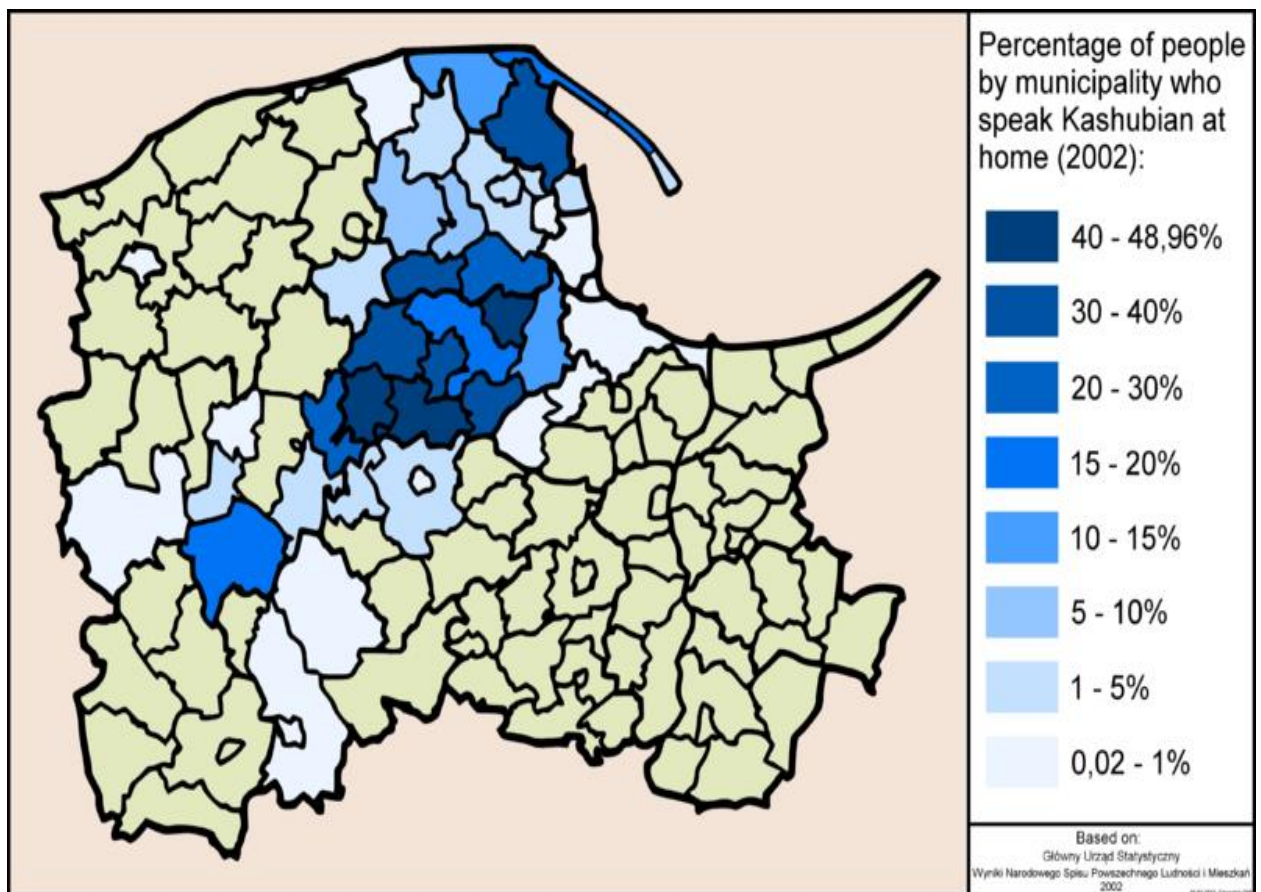
## Sample text in Kashubian

Wszëtcki lëdze rodzą sã wòlny ë równy w swòji czëstnoce ë swòjich prawach. Mają òni dostóné rozëm ë sëmienié ë nòlégò jima pòstãpòwac wobec drëdzich w dëchù bracënotë.

Translation:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

## Regions of Kashubian language usage



Photos of the regions



Aerial view of the Wdzydze lake in Wdzydze Kiszewskie, Kashubia region, Poland



Kashubian writing in a restaurant on the bay in Puck, Kashubia

## References

<https://omniglot.com/writing/kashubian.htm>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashubian\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashubian_language)

<https://feed.jeronimomartins.com/deep/the-kashubian-language-is-still-alive/>

<https://culture.pl/en/article/kaszebsko-mowa-freeing-the-kashubian-language>

