

SOME LABOR AND IDLENESS-RELATED PROVERBS IN ARABIC AND GEORGIAN

ABSTRACT

The history of any nation is related to labor. Throughout the ages, labor has been highly appreciated. There is a sufficient number of proverbs in Arabic and Georgian languages that reflect the attitude of human beings to labor.

Arabic proverbs presented in the proposed article are selected from the database of Georgian idioms and proverbs (<http://idioms.tsu.ge>).

The idioms referring to labor are characterized by diversity and wealth of materials in both languages.

The expressions are mainly of didactic nature. It is clearly shown that without toiling and hard work prosperity cannot be gained. Work first and then rest. Contrary to laziness, hard work is foundation to achieve anything. Actions speak louder than words. Work and dynamism will prevent humans from any trouble. In addition, procrastination, idleness, laziness, and poorly timed work are negatively evaluated.

The discussed examples show that representatives of both nations highly praise labor as a foundation of life. It is a fundamental factor for human happiness and a basis for regular life. Proverbs reflect specific attitudes towards such an important sphere of life.

Over a long period of time, similar views on labor have been established among Arabs and Georgians. These views are appropriately captured by proverbs which expressly demonstrate wisdom and knowledge of life. The collection of proverbs in both nations contain expressions of order, suggestion, and recommendation. It should also be noted that similarity between Arabic and Georgian proverbs can mainly be observed in terms of semantics. Structurally, Arabic and Georgian proverbs are usually constructed as declarative sentences. Imperative sentences are also attested. Both simple and complex structures occur. Simple structures predominate. The group of sentences with complex structure show prevalence of subordination, while proverbs with a structure of compound-coordinate sentences are relatively rare.

Keywords: Arabic proverbs, Georgian proverbs, labor- and idleness- related expressions.