

**PROBLEM OF GENDER STEREOTYPES  
IN DAVID KLDIASHVILI'S STORY  
THE MISFORTUNES OF KAMUSHADZE**

**ABSTRACT**

David Kldiashvili has a special place in the Georgian literature of the last decade of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

Even though female characters have always received a great deal of attention in literature studies, the portrayal of male and female social roles has not been the subject of special attention. David Kldiashvili's *The Misfortunes of Kamushadze* skillfully reflects the deep-rooted gender stereotypes in society and their negative impact. The story presents several problematic themes such as the issue of the remaining class-based inequality; the stereotypical norm engrained in society which implies that a woman has no right to navigate her personal life of her own free will; the problem of dowry, which the society perceives as a psychological pressure and which is portrayed as a symbol of gender inequality and the misfortune of unmarried women in David Kldiashvili's works.

In the story *The Misfortunes of Kamushadze*, David Kldiashvili describes the unhealthy attitude of the society towards a woman as a valuable member of society and as the one with full rights. The author attempts to eliminate ineradicable superstitions and stereotypes in the society. He writes about women's desires, feelings, views and intellect. David Kldiashvili portrayed the gender stereotypes and the problem of women in the society in a grotesque way which is typical to him. He made us think about the way women become members of the «second sex» in society; how innocent women, who are full of life, are sacrificed to family and social stereotypes and that it is essential for society to be more kind-hearted towards women.

**Keywords:** Georgian prose, David Kldiashvili, gender inequality, social inequality.