

THEMATIC FEATURES OF FOLKLORE OF GEORGIANS LIVING IN FATSA (TURKEY)

ABSTRACT

The paper explores the pieces of folklore as well as their artistic, metaphorical and thematic features authored by the Georgians living on the Black Sea coast, specifically, in Fatsa district which is a compact settlement of Georgians. The materials under consideration were recorded during August 3-12, 2015 in the course of the scientific expedition carried out on the Black Sea coast of Turkey, involving the faculty of Akaki Tsereteli State University (namely, Avtandil Nikoleishvili, Luka Dvalishvili, Sulkhan Kuprashvili, Giga Kamushadze).

In Fatsa, just as in the most part of the Republic of Turkey, the population mainly consists of the descendants of Muhajirs from the period after the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878. The majority of them, especially the old and subsequent generations know the Georgian language which is the most powerful basis for nationality and identity.

Social, romantic, religious and universal themes as well as those covering the daily life are predominant in the folklore of the Fatsa Georgians.

Here, just like in the villages of Georgia, there are incredible reciters of folk poetry. We have met Mukerem Meskhidze (in Turkish: Erdoğan Güne, a 66-year-old reciter whose interesting examples of folklore have been recorded by us. He has composed humorous rhymes, the so-called Ghashmeroba, dedicated to the surnames of Georgians exiled from Georgia who settled in Fatsa and its adjacent territories, the rhymes that are very popular among Georgians there. The above-mentioned rhymes are interesting in many ways. They feature oldest surnames of Georgians who live here and, through humor and jokes, they portray many of the substantial distinct as well as genetic features of clans and individuals. The materials are also significant in terms of language, ethnography, toponymy and so on.

The examples of folklore recorded in Fatsa reveal close proximity (with minor variations) to Adjarian and other Georgian folklore materials.

Keywords: Muhajir Georgians, Georgian folklore, Georgians living in Turkey (Fatsa).