

**MEDIA (PLAY) BY AKAKI TSERETELI**  
**(AUTHOR'S CONCEPT / RECEPTION**  
**OF ANCIENT LITERATURE)**

**ABSTRACT**

Akaki Tsereteli started publishing his play 'Media' in the magazine "Kvali" (trace) in 1895, and in 1897 published the whole play in his 'Collected Stories'. In the latter publication, the author attached extended remarks to his work, which contained the author's opinions of certain issues conveyed in the drama. We learn from the various memories of the author that he had carried out a serious research and creative work in the process of writing 'Media'. In his play, the author has processed and changed not only the plot of the myth, but also the names of the characters. He assumed that the name 'Medeia' was taken from Georgian into the Greek and, in Georgian, it should be 'Media' instead.

The drama tells the stories of Colchis', their headman, the Chalybes, Amiran, Media and her aunt. The play conveys the fictional projection of the author's concept of the fact that the myth on Prometheus was not originated in Greece, but rather it is a Georgian story of Amiran. Akaki Tsereteli, irrespective of which historical topic he was processing in his work, has never gone beyond the problematic that was topical to his epoch. I think, this is the very reason why the characters from 'Media' are sometimes 'the contemporaries of the author' and their thinking is not mythical.

If, in the reception of 'Medea' by Euripides, the issue of living outside homeland became topical for the world literature only in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Akaki Tsereteli put an emphasis on Medea, as a protagonist without homeland suffering in foreignness, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was, of course, determined by the historical and political situation in Georgia at that time.

Akaki Tsereteli's play "Media" is interesting in the writer's attempt to combine two stories: legends about the Argonauts and Amiran-Prometheus; Through these stories, he showed his concept of Georgian-Greek prehistoric relations and the socio-political issues of XIX century Georgia. From a comparative literary point of view, important research issues are the receptions of Euripides' Medea and Apollonius Rhodius Argonautica by Akaki Tsereteli.

**Keywords:** Georgian literature, Akaki Tsereteli, Medea, Argonauts, Amirani, Prometheus, Euripides.