

ATTITUDE TOWARDS NATURE IN GODERDZI CHOKHELI'S LITERARY WORKS

ABSTRACT

By the end of the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s, a prominent writer, Goderdzi Chokheli became a dominant presence in the Georgian literary scene. Despite his short life, he left a lasting impact on the Georgian culture and beyond.

There is a saying that you have to write about universal themes to gain worldwide significance. As another saying goes, those in isolated environments cannot claim their own greatness. He rarely left his region, Gudamakari mountains. So, why do we emphasize the vivid imprint and the way he transcends the limitations of the national culture? Because of his own expression: "the universe is reflected in a dewdrop". It really is, if one can see it. In his famous publicist letter entitled *Cosmopolitanism and Patriotism*, Vazha-Pshavela stated: "I can't imagine a person of sane intelligence, the owner of common sense, who does not love one nation or one corner of the world, more than others. Why? Because: one and the same person is not born in a thousand places, but he has to be born in one place, in one family, and have one mother!" (Vazha-Pshavela, *Cosmopolitanism and Patriotism*).

By the way, as everyone remembers there was the time when Vazha Pshavela had been regarded as a provincial author. But today his universal importance is acknowledged by everyone. Vakhushti Kotetishvili claimed that Vazha kept everyone amazed, gazing at Pshavi mountains, and sparked their fascination" (M. Tsiklauri, *Goderdzi Chokheli – Artwork Without Limits*, Gioreli Publishing, Tbilisi, 2010). The same is true for Goderdzi Chokheli. He made us look at Gudamakari with the same awe and reverence. The proposed article is dealing with the writer's attitude towards nature. Parallels between author's works and the literary heritage by Vazha Pshavela as well as Vasil Barnov have been identified. The discussion is structured around the following novels by Chokheli: "Human Sadness", "Fish's Letters", "A Letter to Spruce Trees", "Performer in a Leading Role", "Forget-me-not on Borbalo Mountain", "Flying with an Eagle", "Wildflower Bouquet", and "Red Wolf". As observed in the above short stories and novels, the dividing line between humans and nature has become obsolete. Here, they illustrate not just a mere relationship between human beings and nature; rather, the former openly transform into nature at times. The personification is not just an ordinary artistic method for the author as he considers everything around him to be alive.

In conclusion, to a certain extent, Goderdzi Chokheli's attitudes towards nature indeed show some resemblance to those of Vazha Pshavela and Vasil Barnov. However, he has an utterly distinct vision creating a new stage in Georgian literature.

Keywords: Georgian literature, man and nature, Goderdzi Chokheli, Vazha-Pshavela, Vasil Barnov.