

Sociolinguistics and Dialectology

The interests of sociolinguistics and dialectology coincide in many ways. This coincidence implies both the empirical material (and not only social dialects), but also frequently the way of interpreting this material.

This is proved by the analysis of the principles of a sociolinguistic definition, proposed by W. Labov.

In the years, when the linguistic theory was primarily concerned with 'the ideal speaker-listener in an absolutely homogeneous speech community' (N. Chomsky), dialectologists were only linguists who investigated language in its dynamic aspect.

The effectiveness of the interrelation of sociolinguistics and dialectology is highlighted by the fact that in Italy the development of sociolinguistics was mainly promoted by the strong dialectologic traditions.

From the standpoint of the interrelation of sociolinguistics and dialectology concerning the Kartvelian languages, the following aspects may be considered to be prospective:

a) the use of the already elaborated sociolinguistic methods in the study of the dialects of the Kartvelian languages;

b) To reveal such empirical material in the Kartvelian dialects which would contribute to not only the sociolinguistic, but, generally, the Linguistic theory.