

Towards Georgian Hereditary Names

Summary

Georgian family names have been mainly divided into four groups: eponymic, ethnonymic, geographic and professional family names. On the basis of the study of Georgian historical documents and ethnographic data it might be concluded that a certain part of the family names of the second and the third groups (ethnonymic and geographic) should be referred to as the eponymic family names.

In Georgian reality family names are not only hereditary names. Another hereditary name, having been rather stable in most of the parts of Georgia, is a kind of a division of a surname. Two terms have been used to denote secondary hereditary names: *što-gvari* ('branch-surname') and *kve-gvari* ('sub-surname'). Both terms have been derived artificially.

Various terms have been used in different historico-geographic parts of Georgia. In order to denote these secondary hereditary names both in Linguistics, and in history and ethnography, one of the Georgian dialectal forms should be chosen. From this standpoint, *mamišviloba* seems more advantageous.