

Vocabulary Borrowed from the Western Dialects of the Georgian Language in the Toponymy of Megrelian

S u m m a r y

From the South Megrelia directly borders Imereti and Guria. That's why it's natural that we clearly see the tight contacts with Gurian and Imeretian dialects in the Megrelian speech. We can especially say it about the borrowing of the grammatical and lexical elements. The toponymical material having been analysed in the article gives us possibility to draw some conclusions about the ways and character of the borrowing of words from Georgian into Megrelian.

1. First there are some lexical changes in the western dialects of the Georgian language (namely in Imeretian and Gurian). First, the vocabulary is changed phonetically or semantically or in both ways and then it is adopted by Megrelian.

2. Georgian word which is used in Imeretian and Gurian without changing its form and meaning changed its phonetic after becoming Megrelian.

3. Words belonging to Imeretian or Gurian dialects became Megrelian without any phonetic or semantic changes (or with very little changes).

4. Some words borrowed from Georgian and its dialects have been widely used in Megrelian and the others are used only on the territory of Imereti and Guria.