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**The Phenomenon of Ertoba (Social Unity) in the Traditional Life  
of the Mountainous People of Georgia**

Summary

Unity (*ertoba*=being one) was the main feature of existence in the traditional life of Georgia's mountainous regions (Pshavi, Khevsureti, Tusheti, Svaneti). before the 20th century this phenomenon was evidenced in many social and religious rules and rituals.

*Ertoba* as the essence and foundation of the society has been studied through analysing interrelations between a person and community (individual vs. society). The analysis has revealed the dynamic nature of a social unity and the mechanism of the inner structure of the mountainous community. *Ertoba* was categorised as the superior morality in the traditional mountainous society hence its contribution into all-Georgian culture was invaluable.