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SOME ASPECTS OF THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE COMMON-KARTVELIAN SOCIETY ACCORDING TO LINGUISTIC DATA

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According to the understanding, that “language is the only history that is impossible to falsify”, it is very difficult to describe the social structure and the economic life of the Common-Kartvelian Society.

Comparativistics is a mathematically exact method that enables us not only to define the relation of languages, but to restore the lexis of the basic language as well, and accordingly, to reconstruct the units corresponding to this lexis.

At present it is impossible to describe a comprehensive picture of the social structure and a hierarchically organized economic activity of the Common-Kartvelian society. The main reason of this is that many lexical units of the languages to be compared have been lost; it is possible to restore some of them at the chronological level of the Svanian-Zanian language units and the restoration of their sibilants will be of a purely theoretical character and it won't assert anything, which is undoubtedly reconstructible from the point of view of a historical-comparative method, neither should it be dubious for the reconstruction of the historic realities.

1.1. Family House

The system of names seem to be well-organized in the Common-Kartvelian Society: C/K.: **Saxlishvili* (Georgian: *Saxlishvili*, Zan: *Oxoraskiri*). *Saxlishviloba* as a social term signifies the relation to the family house and its origin could have been based on two reasons (one of them or both of them):

a) Acquisition of certain rights by being born in a certain family house (for instance, any child, born in the royal family house was king or, to be more exact, free-born and had the right to ascend to the throne and not only in his own home country.

b) Tabooing blood mixing or marriage between the descendants of one and the same family house.

1.2 Free-born

The Common-Kartvelian society (the existence of some of them is undoubtful, since several tribe names have been reconstructed at the Common-Kartvelian level) was headed by monarch C/K: *Mepe – the king (Georgian: Mepe, Svan: Mepe, Zan: Mapa). The grammatical structure of this lexeme: *Me-p-e proves that this it specially formed.

King is a free-born (born in the royal family house, he is the person, who is on the top of the hierarchy, because of his origin and not for his merits or usurpation (a person cannot become king, one should be free-born for this). In this aspect the Common-Kartvelian society draws a typological parallel between the hierarchical structures of the Common-Indo-European (*rek,) and Common-Semitic (*mlk,) societies.

1.3 Leader

Family house was ruled by the leader: C/K: *Mo₃yuari (Georgian: Mo₃yvari, Svan: *Mazywer* < * Mo₃guari, Zan: N₃yweri || M₃yweri). The person named by this term should have had combined civil and military powers.

2.1 Fortress, Castle

The family houses of the Common-Kartvelian society had special buildings for defence from both the alien invaders and family tribes. A Fortress or a castle were such buildings: C/K: *₃ixe (Georgian: cixe < *₃ixee, Zan – ?₃ixa). In case of fortresses the families of the constituting family houses would have an individual house with a tower (as it was in Svaneti historically) and the populated area would be number of houses, with a tower each, not enclosed by a wall. In case of a castle it would be a system of houses around a fortress enclosed by a wall. The inhabitants of such houses could seek shelter in the fortress in case of danger.

2.2 Fortress – City

The existence of the term meaning the fortress-city is confirmed on the chronological level of the Common-Kartvelian languages: C/K: Karsi (Georgian: *qarsi*; > Armenian: *qari*, Zanian: *qorši* “Fortress, Fortress-palace”). Etimologically it is connected with the stem of * kar/kr and nominates the territory encircled by a gathering of ground or stones. This territory is inhabited by permanent residents and there are all the housing, economic and other buildings, necessary for the population.

All the above mentioned attests to the fact, that by the time that directly preceded the disintegration of the Common-Kartvelian language into historically stated Kartvelian languages, the social differentiation in the Common-Kartvelian society was accomplished, the hierarchy formed, family houses or one blood aristocracy had become relevant elements of the social structure.

On the Common-Kartvelian level linguistically the reconstruction of the title- the Great king (king of kings) does not presented a problem. In cases of merging of Common-Kartvelian tribes, that had their own kings, we should suppose, that the leader of the triumphant royal family house would get this title, while the subordinated royal family house could preserve the reign in its own kingdom, as it is known from the fixed historical epochs.

The Common-Kartvelian society, as governmental organization, is characterized by the institute of governmental officials.

3.1 Tax Collector

The existence of the Common-Kartvelian term for the collectors of the excises points to the active economic and trade relations of that period as well as to the economic control on the part of government and its importance for the country treasury. C/K: *Mezuere (Georgian: Mezuere, Svan: Mazuer, Zan: Mazirali).

3.2 Writer

The reconstruction of such a term as C/K: **Mcerali* (Georgian: *Mcerali*, Zan: *Mčaru*) points to the existence of the government office.

The language facts, reconstructed by the historic-comparative method allow to make a one-sided conclusion: the Common-Kartvelian society (resp. societies) presented real states both by their hierarchical structure and the office system as well as the corresponding terminology.