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NOUNS FORMED BY -A AND -EB SUFFIXES IN TOPONYMY OF THE VANI DISTRICT

The toponymy of the Vani district is structurally varied. Although it fits into the general model of formation of place-names, typical of common Georgian, it reveals some specific characteristic forms.

The paper deals with the geographical names formed by -a and -eb suffixes. The suffix -a is one of the productive formants of Georgian place-names.

In the toponymy of the Vani district -a suffix is quite diverse from the viewpoint of form and semantics. It is added to: simple-stem place-names (cāblis-Ĵir-a, skvinčas-ġel-a, sibus-ġar-a), derived stems (ġanġal-et-a, cit-ur-a, šker-ian-a). Suffix -a is used to form place-names from nouns (šġer-a), adjectives (dampal-a) and participles (moġobil-a).

In the place-names under study nouns with -a suffix add the marker of the Nominative case, causing a phonetic change in the word: a>e (bospan-a-i→bospan-e-i→bospan-e). The frequency of this phenomenon in the formation of geographical names of the Vani district should be regarded as a characteristic trait.

Suffix -eb is also noteworthy for the frequency of use and various functions in the toponymy of the Vani district. It acquired a new function - denoting the size of a place, however, the toponymic function is also implied.

All this points to the fact that a new functional interpretation of -eb appears as a fairly widespread phenomenon in the toponymy of western dialects of the Georgian language.