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ON THE HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF ENDEARMENT-DIMINUTIVE NAMES

The history of the study of endearment-diminutive names originates from the grammar of Catholicos Anton. It includes 5 affixes, having the sole function of indicating the small size of a thing (hence the term). Since then similar names were studied in Georgian linguistics more or less fully. The formation and functioning of the diminutive names in old and modern Georgian are studied in the papers of A. Shanidze, Z. Sarjveladze, A. Ghlonti, B. Pochkhua, B. Jorbenadze and others, where the formal and functional diversity of the analyzed affixes is indicated. The modern literary Georgian language and speech offer even more interesting evidence in this regard.

On the basis of the obtained materials, 80 derivatives impart various semantics to the noun, including caress, endearment, mocking, etc.

In the Georgian language the traditional term *kninobiti* (diminutive) is used to refer to the names under study. However, taking into account the modern linguistic situation, the term *alersobit-kninobiti* (endearment-diminutive) would be more correct. The first component stresses the main function and the second one takes into account both the history and reality.