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/j/ IN MEGRELIAN (ACCORDING TO THE SPEECH OF THE VILLAGE OF PIRVELI GALI)

Megrelian speeches provide more or less different examples in terms of using the /j/ sound. The process of palatalization is particularly characteristic to Martvilian speech in which there is frequent shift of /l/ > /j/.

/j/ is not unfamiliar for the Samurzaqanoan speech. The materials collected in the village of Pirveli Gali attests quite an extensive spread of /j/ in the region. The sound occurs mainly in the same position as in the other regions of Megrelia. Namely /j/ is found in the following positions: In the final position substituting /sh/ genitive case marker, (e.g. 'skuaj mardual' child's grower); /l/ > /j/ in the final position anticipated by the loss of nominative case ending /i/, *tsiskvili* > *tsiskvij* and in adjacent to the verbal prefix or particle /i/ > /j/. The process is preceded by the loss of /g/ the second person marker: *vajgh upleba* "we have no rights;" at the preterit ending marker ei > ej (e.g. *bragadei* > *bragadej* "I spoke". ei/ej forms of preterit is characteristic to Zugligian and Samurzaqanoan speech (Compare: Senakian: "bragade").