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ON A COMMON KARTVELIAN LINGUAL AND CULTURAL TERM (*KOR-I*)

On the basis of ethnographic and written record materials (Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani) the paper discusses the idea that the word *kor-i* is of Common Kartvelian origin and is one of the reflections of the common Kartvelian cultural unity. The word *kor* meaning an "edifice" used both for human abode and for husbandry purposes occurs in several historical and ethnographic communities of the country (in Svaneti, Tusheti, Racha, Khevsureti...) and in Shavsheti (Imerkhevi), a historical part of Georgia, now beyond its frontiers. The definition of the word in the dictionary compiled by Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani conveys completely the ethnographic meaning of the word in Svaneti, Tusheti, Racha, Khevsureti and in Imerkhevi, the remote, in terms of historical and geographic factors, province. In addition to this *kor* in Svan incorporates the meaning of a building used for defensive purposes.

In spite of the separate use of the word it also occurs as a stem or part of the composed units in various Georgian words and ethnographic terms denoting concepts of both material (folk architecture, construction tools,...) and spiritual (songs, *perkhuli* dances...) cultures. Of particular importance is *perkhuli korbeghela*, expressing the symbolic meaning of a "tower", "castle".