

MAIA MIKAUTADZE, LIA AKHALADZE

ON THE LOCATION OF CERTAIN PLACE-NAMES IN IMERKHEULI DIALECT

At various times Georgian Scholars N. Marr, P. Ingorokva, V. Jorbenadze, T. Putkaradze studied the question of identifying the place mentioned as "Khandzta" in the Georgian historical sources.

In August 2007 during the field work of the Dialectology Institute the place name *Khandzta* was mentioned during the interview with the local inhabitants. We identified the place name *Khandzta* in the village of Ube (beyond the village pastures), and the place-names *Opizarai*, *Didi Mere*, *Shua-Didmere*, *Didi Mereta*, *Mere* and *Parekhti* in the villages of Surevani, Daviteti, and Imnieti, respectively. In the place-names mentioned by the local population we discovered two *Opizarai(s)* two *Parekhi(s)*, and two *Mere(s)*... As for the *Khandzta* it is attested only at one place in the vicinity of the Imerkhevi River.

In the 16th century after the annexation of the region to the Turkey the inhabitants of the Southern parts of Klarjeti and Shavsheti provinces, presumably left their homes to settle down in the safer northern strap of the region and later took their sacred memory and belongings with them, that was then reflected in the place-names of those people who came to live in Imerkhevi.

If our conjecture is correct then the present Kvemo Porti is *Khandzta*; however, we cannot exclude the existence of the second *Khandzta* of Later period that is close to the head of the river and the nearby territories.

The questions of identification and localization of such great cloisters as *Khandzta*, *Opiza*, *Parekhi*, *Shatberdi* and the like need further investigation.