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### ON GENERAL QUESTIONS OF KARTVELIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE AND SULKHAN-SABA'S "SITQUIS KONA" (DICTIONARY)

The history of the Georgian people and the development of the Kartvelian language system have always been flowing through the same river bed. In spite of the multitude of ethnographic peculiarities and variety of language systems (i.e. dialects), Georgian reality did not give birth to new nations and new languages, - a language is created by people, and in the same way the language is responsible for the formation of the particular people. "A different language does not only refer to an object with a different word but also the different point of view about the object of reference" (V. Humboldt). It is noteworthy that Kartvelian languages had not worked out different points of view hence, they did not yield the development of language systems different from the literary language.

"The development of the literary Georgian language did not have secession periods; new language system, i.e. "new language" did not develop in the opposition of the old one". In its development Kartvelian language system, apart from the literary language, gave rise to the number of dialectal variations. The results of the dialectal "capacities" have been accumulated in the literary language through centuries. This process can easily be traced in "The Knight in the Panther's Skin" and more vividly than that in "Sitquis Kona," an explanatory dictionary of the Georgian language compiled by Sulkhan-Saba.

Sulkhan-Saba had a clear-cut position about the relationship between the literary language and dialects, chief is the literary language, principal variant of the Kartvelian system, and as for the dialectal forms their word forms are of laymen (=literary of "peasants", they are bad and vain, examples of the "evil tongue", however, they are necessary for the literary language and for the common system and present the property of the national word-stock.