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MUHAJIRS OF KOBULETI IN TURKEY

After the end of the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78 the Muslim population of Georgia was forced to leave their homes and settle in the neighboring Turkish territories for good. From the two thousand residents of Kobuleti only five hundred were left. As for the nearby villages they were made to lay waste as their population had been expelled completely. Muhajirs of Kobuleti seem to have settled on the low lands close to the sea. The descendants of these people presently live in Giresun, Patsa, Ordu, Pershembe, Unie, Samsun and Sinop.

In the strange land Mujahirs' love of the fatherland and their language had become compounded with homesickness and begun to take special care of their native language and folklore. They manage to instill their children the care to preserve the centuries-long rites and traditions of the fatherland. To guard themselves from mingling with the foreign culture they chose their native language as the fulcrum for the survival. A great part of the population has good command of Georgian even to these days.

During the field practice in Patsa and in nearby villages I managed to record folklore, historical and ethnographic materials.

The observation on the speech of the people whose ancestors were exiled from Kobuleti revealed interesting materials for the evaluation of the language situation. Their speech has undergone relatively faint influence of the Turkish language. Besides, it has preserved many traits that has been lost in Modern Georgian, particularly, some semantics of the known words and phrases.

The speech of the descendants' of the Kobuleti Muhajirs provides considerable material to class it as a separate sub-dialect of Achara dialect of the Georgian language.