

MERAB NACHKEPIA

HISTORICAL AND SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF TANJ- ROOT

In Megrelian *Tanj* lexeme means *limit; sign, hallmark*. *Tanjua* derived from *Tanj* means *to confine*. Place name *saTanjo* has a semantic component of *indication*. Apart from the basic semantic meaning *Tanji* occurs with other related meanings, as: a) *a touch of happiness, help*; b) *spell-casting*; c) a nuance of *caressing*.

Along with *Tanj* its parallel forms *Tarj* is also observed. *Tarj* can be found in Sulkan-Saba and Nikoloz Chubinashvili's dictionaries with the meaning of *fence, wall, boundary*.

In Acharian dialect *Taj* is used with the meaning *sign*. Compare also *Taj/TaC* in Turkish meaning *crown, headband, headpiece; crest (tuft)...*