

TAMAR GOGOLADZE

SPOKEN LANGUAGE IN THE GEORGIAN HAGIOGRAPHIC LITERATURE

For the reason of invasions or the other hardships of the country A.D. I-IV century literary monuments have not survived to these days. Earliest hagiographic texts (*The Passion of Shushanik*, *The Passion of the Nine Brothers of Kola* and *The Life of Saint Nino*) that feature the spread (IV c.) and the struggle for the defense of Christian faith (IV – V cc.) reached to us in 9th-11th century manuscripts.

In all the three texts discussed in this paper the language of personages of various ethnicity and different confessions (of Shushanik, of a Persian man etc) in monologues and in dialogues is Georgian that makes the text understandable and accessible to the Georgian reader. Also the people of the different social strata (king, prince, priest, servant...) speak the same language - Georgian.

However, I trace the exception that flash in *The Life of Saint Nino*, where the author describing Saint Nino's dream revelation says: "...and she opened the book and it was written in Roman the name Jesus."