

## MAIA MIKAUTADZE

### ON THE TRACE OF EXTRA *kh* PREFIX IN THE KARTVELIAN SPEECHES

As is known in the modern literary language the trace of extra *kh* is attested in the words *khav* and *mokhval*.

In the specialist literature scholars have expressed the idea that just in the same manner as of the 5th-7th century written language norms, *hk* prefix is preserved in verbs with initial vowels with the second person subject and the third person object in the Svan dialect. The same *kh* prefix is regarded as the original phoneme for the Tush and Khevsurian *gh/kh* allo-morphemes (T.Putkaradze). As for the other traditional opinion *h* – formant is characteristic to east Georgia mountain speeches, whose phonetic variants are as follows:

*h*-> *s*->*sh*->*zh*-;

*h*-> *kh*->*gh*-;

*h*-> *s*->*sh*-;

*h*-> 0- (A.Chincharauli, B.Jorbenadze, G.Gogolashvili).

At this stage of the research I present Khevsurian speech materials for the analysis with regard to *kh* allophone.

Da-**kh**-faravs, mo-**kh**-paravs, **kh**-qvian, da-**kh**-kazmavs, da-**kh**-kheltavs, da-**kh**-qabulda,... **gh**-bav, („bghavis”), , ma-**gh**-gvris, **gh**-vedris, tsa-**gh**-alavs, da-**gh**-malavs, **gh**-naxavs, **gh**-ridebs..sha-**gh**-omebian, ga-**gh**-oflianebivq, **gh**-okromtchedlob, **gh**-avadob..

Parallel forms are also attested: ma-**gh**-mkis/ma-**kh**-mkis; ga-**gh**-frindi/ga-**kh**-frindi..

The question is: what is more reasonable? To admit that the source of these forms is the language condition of the 6<sup>th</sup> century (of so-called extra-*kh*-prefix period) or regard it as a phenomenon of later origin?

An interesting explanation of the fact can be drawn from the directional analysis of phonetic processes:

As a rule, in the Kartvelian sub-systems the person marker *kh* that transformed to *h* is lost before vowel sounds; however, in the mountainous people’s speeches *gh* is attested in the same place. If we admit that mountainous speeches preserve many archaic phenomena, then it is more logical to accept that *gh* allo-morpheme is derived from the *kh* prefix; and it is less logical to admit that the archaic *kh* resulted in *h* from which it again developed back into *kh* and then the *kh* developed into *gh* of modern mountainous *speeches*. Exactly the same is said about *gh/kh* occurring before sonorant, voiced and fricative consonants. E.g. If not the above-suggested arguments then what should result the *h>kh* process before the labial voiceless consonants in *kh-faravs*, *kh-paravs*?

Hence, I think that in the mountainous people’s speeches of the Georgian language we have the real traces of the “extra *kh*” period of the general Kartvelian phenomenon.