

DAVID SHAVIANIDZE, RUSUDAN KASHIA

TERMS: TRIBE, COMMUNITY, ETHNONYM, THEMONYM AND THE QUESTION OF THE SO-CALLED KARTIZATION

The improper use of ethno-linguistic terms (tribe, ethnic unit, ethnic-territorial groups, ethnic group, sub-ethnos, language, ethno-nym,..) presents the reality inadequately. The use of *tribe* instead of *community* and vice-versa in the specialists' literature sometimes serves a reason to declare a part of Georgians as non-Georgians.

The question of ethnos/sub-ethnos and a language are intertwined. The acceptable theory according to which the historic written language of Georgians was created by the end of the old era is based on the common Georgian language of B.C. II-I. During the reign of kings Farnavaz and Kuji on the basis of the common Georgian language the literacy (T.Putkaradze, R. Topchishvili) was created. The Georgian language is created by all Georgians, that is, it is formed in participation of all Georgian dialects as a language of one ethnos. Since then it has only been state-religious-literacy (fiction and non-fiction) language that determined the Georgian national culture and identity. Megrelian, and Svan dialects nourished the literary Georgian as any other Georgian dialects. Correspondingly, Megrelian and Svan dialects are not the languages of separate ethnos', the more-so they cannot be regarded as ethnic minorities as Megrelian and Svan are the variants, the dialects of the literary Georgian language.

The declaration of different Georgian community dialects as different languages is directly related to the anti-Georgian theory of Kartization, (the theory first being criticized by Metropolitan Anania Japaridze). The theory of more than one Georgian language and the theory of Kartization were created simultaneously – in the period of the Russian occupation. They imply one another and originate from the same source. We think that the terms: "Kartvelian languages" and "Kartization " are politicized terms created for Russian Empire purposes that can now be only referred in the negative context.