

## SOPHIKO CHAAVA

### 1918-1920 *LEGISLATION AS REGARDS LANGUAGE USE* IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

In 1918-1920 The National Council of the Democratic Republic of Georgia elaborated and adopted the following legislative documents: the Law on the Rules of the *Language* Use in the Parliament, the Law on the *Language* Use by Self-Governance Authorities, the Ordinance on Publishing of Laws in Minority Languages in Addition to the State Language, the Law on Commissioners. Besides, the government of Georgia carried out extensive language reforms in educational system. As the obtained materials reveal, in 1918-1920 the *intelligentsia* of different nationalities mostly knew the Russian language while Georgian was spoken by the majority of the population, both Georgians and the representatives of ethnic minorities and diasporas. Adoption of the above-mentioned laws basically strengthened the status of the state language and expanded its functioning. Though, at the same time, national interests of various ethnic groups that lived in Georgia were taken into account, these groups were given an opportunity to apply their mother language or the language they understood. Ethnic as well as language rights of the country's general population as well as the representatives of various ethnicities were secured as much as possible in the Democratic Republic of Georgia.