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ON SOME OF THE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF TURKISH SPEECH OF TAOAN GEORGIANS

The paper deals with some of the specific phonetic features of the Turkish speech of Taoan Georgians, namely, pronunciation of **ö**, **ü** and **i** vowels which are not typical of the Georgian language but are rather specific to the modern Turkish literary language. The research is based on the materials we recorded during the 2011 expedition in Tao. It has been revealed that **ö** and **ü** vowels which are not typical of the Georgian articulatory basis always lose their palatality in words (all positions) of Turkish and other oriental origin:

Guzel bir gol gezintisi yaptux (cf.: literary Turkish **göl**) “we have visited a beautiful lake”.

Kopridan geçti gelin (cf.: **köprüden**) “a bride walked over the bridge”.

Bugun gunlardan bazartesi (cf.: **bugün günlerden**) “today is Monday”.

Duneygun palux tuttum (cf.: **dün**) “I caught a fish yesterday”.

Close back **ı** vowel of the literary Turkish is expressed by back **u** vowel in the Turkish speech of the Taoans. This sound change occurs both in a word stem and affixes:

Çamaşurları yexiyem da yela konuşax “I am doing the laundry and let us have a talk at the same time”.

Gokta yilduzlar yox “there are no stars in the sky”.

I think in the given case we are dealing with the depiction of dialectal phonetic reality because parallels to such forms are attested in many Turkish dialects. Turkish speech of the Taoan Georgians mostly coincides with the Northeastern dialects of the Turkish language.