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ON THE ISSUE OF QUALIFICATION OF ALLOMORPHS IN DATIVE CASE IN MEGRELIAN-LAZ

The article deals with the thorough study of the view-points on the Megrelian-Laz dative case marker (-s) and its allomorphs in Kartvelology. The analysis has shown that the dative -s morpheme in all the Kartvelian language subsystems is the main and the only suffix and is characteristic of the entire Kartvelian group. The rest of the allomorphs are derived through phonetic changes. As regards the -z(c), it is the result of the phonetic modifications and is found only in the Zugdidi-Samurzaqano local dialect of Megrelian in a definite, particular position. Consequently, the generally concurrent view according to which the -s morpheme is the oldest predifferentiating marker is quite adequate and acceptable, whereas the Megrelian -z(c) is an innovation.

It should also be taken into consideration that in the Zugdidi Samurzaqano texts published recently the -z(c) sound a substitute of -s (s) is of less frequent occurrence which should be explained by the tendency towards the speech unification.