

VAZHA-PSHAVELA AND ISSUES
OF GEORGIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE

Vazha-Pshavela's poetic style is clearly distinctive not only from the 19th century literature, but also from Georgian literature as a whole. Georgian folklore is the source for Vazha-Pshavela's figurative thought. He pushed the boundaries of the Georgian poetic language and enriched the vocabulary by introducing forms specific to dialects and the old Georgian language. He perceived the mysteries of nature, depicting it as a living thing; moreover, a tree, a rock, a stream, a violet, etc. are like humans. From this perspective the following pieces of Georgian lyrical prose are unique: *The Story Told by a Fawn*, *An Old Beech*, *Kuchi*, *High Mountains*, etc.

The poet is well aware of the language of nature, mysteries and concerns of the mountains. The very phenomenon – presenting inanimate objects as living things, noun (inanimate object)–verb agreement in number is a norm, so to speak, a new norm in Vazha's works. Semantic phenomena are also specified in grammatical forms.

A point of view, proposed in the paper, suggests that it does not happen unconsciously in the creation of genius. Vazha-Pshavela has a concept, a fine feeling for language. This is evidenced by his works in journalism. His literature and especially publicistic articles are philosophical. For instance, his article "Language" could serve as a landmark for a literary language of any period.

It is Vazha-Pshavela's belief that a writer is obliged to introduce words or forms of folklore in a literary language. If a language lacks such words therefore borrowing them from another language, the lexical units characteristic of a region or district may be adopted, since the more the language develops, the more expressive it is.