

KETEVAN MARGIANI

ANTHROPONYMS OF ORIENTAL ORIGIN IN SVAN

The Svan anthroponymy is characterized by a large number of proper nouns with – -ბან, (-'an), -ყან (-qan), -ბი (-bi) formants; borrowings of anthroponyms and their adaptation is an ordinary phenomenon for any nation or language. The use of ranks and titles such as Mirza, Khan, Beg as proper nouns or their components is one of the features of the anthroponymy of Near and Middle East (M. Jikia).

In Svan the wide spreading of anthroponyms of oriental origin, and generally, of proper nouns with markers -ბან (-'an), -ყან (-qan), -ბი (-bi) lexemes, was a result of the neighboring location, social-economic, cultural and other contacts with the North Caucasian languages (Adyghe-Kabardian, Karachay and Balkar).

The material analyzed in the article is selected from the Svan prosaic texts, literary monuments of Svaneti, the Chrestomathy of the Svan Language, etc. Based on the observation of literary monuments it can be noted that in Svan the nouns of Turkish origin formed with -ბან (-'an), -ყან (-qan), -ბი (-bi) anthropoformants are not attested in the books of remembrance and Synodal Records of an earlier period, and in the literary monuments written prior to the 16th century. As it turned out these kinds of nouns are especially typical to the Genealogies of the house of Dadeshkeliani – the rulers of Balskvemo Svaneti. While a tendency of rapid decrease in (or even withdrawal of) the anthroponyms of oriental origin (compared to the data of earlier centuries) is already highlighted in modern Svan Onomasticon.