

## ZHUZHUNA PEIKRISHVILI

### THE TRADITION OF DIALECTOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE KUTAISI PEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE AND KETEVAN DZOTSENIDZE

Akaki Shanidze is *rightly considered as a founder* of scholarly research of the Georgian dialects who still in his student years began to learn the mountain dialects practically, later introducing the Georgian Dialectology as an individual study discipline at the Tbilisi State University. From 1933 the tradition of dialect research naturally continued at the Kutaisi Pedagogical Institute.

From the very beginning the Kutaisi Pedagogical Institute has become an important center of the research on Western dialects owing to Ak. Shanidze, G. Akhvlediani, Arn. Chikobava and V. Topuria. Dialectological or folk materials were recorded in various regions of Western Georgia being later discussed through talks and presentations at conferences and meetings.

*In subsequent years as well* the process of collecting and studying dialect materials remained active at the Kutaisi Pedagogical Institute (*S. Zhghenti, Sh. Dzidziguri, G. Rogava, etc.*).

From this *perspective* the work of the Georgian Language Department has been especially fruitful since 1960s (head of the Department – K. Dzotsenidze). *Monographs on Western dialects have been prepared by* K. Dzotsenidze, P. Jajanidze and K. Kublashvili.

Since 1990s the *Scientific-Research Institute of Kartvelian Dialectology* affiliated to the Akaki Tsereteli State University (Director – T. Putkaradze) has become an immediate successor of this tradition. The institute has celebrated its *20th anniversary having considerable success in its diverse professional activities.*