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ON MEGRELIAN-SVAN MATERIALS PRESENTED IN SILOVAN KHUNDADZE'S "GEORGIAN GRAMMAR"

Silovan Khundadze was one of the remarkable researchers of the Georgian language. It is evidenced through his rich linguistic legacy. The present article discusses "The Georgian Grammar" which for many years served as a textbook of the Georgian Language for students. Due to its popularity, seven editions of the Georgian Grammar have been published, with the first and seventh editions in 1904 and 1920, respectively. The editions differ in a way, namely, the author included the Megrelian-Laz forms as an annex to the second edition (1907) – "Grammatical Forms of Megrelian and Svan, the Georgian Idioms". The later editions do not display any changes in relation to the Megrelian-Svan forms.

S. Khundadze considered the Megrelian-Laz-Svan idioms as branches, dialects of the Georgian language. The scholar generally applies the term "language" in order to refer to the idiom used in the regional context. Thus, no distinction is made between the Megrelian-Laz-Svan idioms and those of the rest of the regions.

The aim of the above-mentioned textbook's author is evident: to highlight the similarities between the Georgian literary language and the Georgian dialects in terms of phonetics, morphology and derivation on the basis of analysis of the Megrelian-Svan materials.

The Annex is divided into five parts (subsections) and each of them deals with different issues.

Through his research S. Khundadze greatly contributed to the development of the Georgian grammar. He is well-known for advocating the preservation of *purity* of the Georgian *language*.