

## NIKOLOZ OTINASHVILI

### TOPONYMS OF THE *PRONEGORGE* COMPOSED OF HYDRO-APPELLATIVES

The *ProneGorge* is a gorge located in the upper Kartli. According to Vakhushti Bagrationi, the gorge occupies a large territory consisting of six river ravines. Having a strategically significant location in the historical past, these ravines had a crucial importance for Kartli and Imereti.

The *ProneGorge* features a diverse terrain, which generally includes mountainous area, the foot-hill and the plain, where agricultural land, forests, hayfields and ridges are situated. Every place has its own name, being the first component of the composite nouns with hydro-appellatives as a second component.

The *ProneGorge* is rich in toponyms and anthroponyms composed of hydro-appellatives. Such geographical names are the focus of the present article. The following appellatives are widely used in village names and the surnames: *tsqali*, *tsqaro*, *ghele*, *khevi*, *chala*. For instance, *romanozistsqaro*, *nebieridzisghele*, *kodistsqali*, etc.

Identifying as well as publishing toponymic materials of the *ProneGorge* is important both for linguistic and political purposes.