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HEROIC EPOS IN GEORGIAN LITERATURE  
OF THE RENAISSANCE

The Georgian-Persian literary relations have a long, rich history. However, special attention was given to the rendering of the Persian literature into Georgian during the 16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> centuries of the Renaissance period. It is well-known that the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century witnessed a slightly better political and economic situation in Georgia which led to the revival and development of cultural and literary activities.

During this period numerous literary monuments were translated into the Georgian language. The rendering of heroic literature into Georgian represents an important part of the translated materials.

First of all, we should mention the *Shahnameh of Ferdowsi* and its various versions. The *Rostomiani* is the Georgian translation of the *Shahnameh*.

The following Persian prosaic folk stories – dastanis of heroic nature were translated during the same period: *Karamaniani*, *Seilaniani*, *Varshukiani*, *Sirinoziani*, etc.