

GIA KHOPERIA
EFFORTS IN CONSTRUCTING LITERARY
AND DOCUMENTARY PORTRAITS
OF IAKOB GOGEBASHVILI
IN CONTEMPORARY GEORGIAN LITERATURE

Depicting of extraordinary legacy of Iakob Gogebashvili has been attempted by numerous scholars over the course of time. Apart from many of the written and oral representations as well as conferences dedicated to the author of *Mother Language*, his exemplary path in pedagogy and reformatory endeavors was also manifested in literature. It seems that nothing in I. Gogebashvili's public or personal life has remained unexamined.

However, Rostom Chkheidze, a famous contemporary writer-documentalist believes that merely referring to the facts and scientific analysis is hardly ever sufficient for a comprehensive portrait of a great thinker. Therefore, in his novel entitled *A Pillar of the Nation* he attempted to identify and reconsider certain biographical details by means of intuition and imagination as well as psychological temperament present throughout Iakob Gogebashvili's literary works, letters, memoirs, and records that have come down to us. The very step has to be regarded as a legitimate method in providing a fresh interpretation of Iakob Gogebashvili's life, because when reading the above novel we clearly recognize the life whose pulsating energy served as a driving force not only for his personality, but also for the entire country during that period. The novel *A Pillar of the Nation* has been written by a scholar. The same is true of the play *Violets Smell in Snowfall* written by Rostom Chkheidze.

The novel *Snow in July* by Elguja Tavberidze describes an interesting character of Iakob Gogebashvili, the man who fought a selfless fight against Tada Ashordia and his followers, as well as against the entire Russian Empire, and was fiercely protective of the dignity and purity of the Georgian language.

These novels had an adequate reception. So far, no discussion has been offered concerning similarities and differences in portraying Iakob Gogebashvili by contemporary writers.