

ZEINAB KIKVIDZE
OPPOSITION CONNOTATIONS OF FEBRUARY AND MAY
IN GEORGIAN POETRY

Historical facts, having occurred in the history of mankind, are frequently maintained as dates in the human memory. In effect, a certain event is shaped as a specific day or year in speech and is circulated with a novel connotation. May 26 and February 25 are the dates the connotations of which are familiar to everyone. The Democratic Republic of Georgia, declared in May, 1918, was routed by Russia's Red Army rather shortly in February, 1921.

At various periods of time, this event was portrayed with various emotions in Georgian poetry. Both in the modernist period and under the rule of Soviet ideology, also after the restoration of the country's independence, the two dates were used to refer to ambivalent positions and attitudes. Symbolic shades of the February and May were also comprehended differently.

Georgian poetry predominantly charged the connotations of the given symbols with the semantemes of spring and winter – modified as life and death. Such implications occur in poems by KolauNadiradze, Giorgi Leonidze, KoteMakashvili, AlexandreAbasheli.

A new collocation appears in poetry – 'May has turned into winter,' poetically accurately referring to the grave political situation resulted from the annexation of the independent republic of Georgia by Russia.