

## **ON THE IDIOM SPOKEN BY THE LAZ LIVING IN SAKARYA REGION**

### **ABSTRACT**

Sakarya is one of the provinces of Turkey which is characterized by large numbers Sakarya of the Muhajir Georgians. Sakarya is located in the Marmara region. It comprises 13 regions altogether. As the locals say, 8 of these regions are Georgian. The largest number (23) of the Georgian settlements are located in Hendek among which nine and ten are settled with Gurjis and the mixed population, respectively, while four settlements belong to the Laz. Ten Abkhazian villages are also part of Hendek. Texts recorded from the local Laz population in the villages of Hadji Marjan and Fevziye clearly indicate that the Laz idiom is freely practiced in this entirely Turkish area. Many interesting Georgian wordforms are attested there. From this perspective, the word qorçi/orçi is worth noting, considered to be the lexeme originating from Turkish/Persian. We believe, it is a common Kartvelian word which should have transferred from Laz into Turkish (and Persian).

The respondents, first of all, pay attention to identification signs of the Laz. They specifically ask us whether (1) we know the Laz language, and (2) we eat “luqu”. – *chkinebua gichkin?* “Do you speak our language”? – *luqu tchkumupt tqva?* “Do you eat Kohlrabi pkhali?” If our answer is yes, they will consider us to be Laz.

The practice of recording and exploring of the Laz dialect materials is essential for preservation of an important part of the Kartvelian linguistic and cultural heritage which currently is under enormous threat of disappearance in Sakarya and other regions of Turkey.

**Keywords:** Laz, Georgians from Turkey, spoken Laz.