

ANTHROPONYMS OF TURKISH ORIGIN IN SVAN

ABSTRACT

The Svan anthroponymy is characterized by a variety of personal names with -khan, -kan, -bi, etc. formants. Borrowing of anthroponyms is a natural phenomenon for every nation and language. It is well known from the literature on onomastics that the use of the titles such as Mirza, Khan, Beg, etc. as personal names or their components are regarded as one of the features of Near Eastern or Middle Eastern anthroponymy (M. Jikia).

Compared to Georgian and Megrelian, the great number of Anthroponyms of Turkish Origin in Svan, and generally, the personal names marked by -han, -qan, -bi, etc. lexemes was conditioned by direct contact with the neighboring North Caucasian languages such as Adyghe-Kabardian, Karachay-Balkar, and social-economic, cultural and other kinds of contacts.

The analyzed Material in the proposed article have been selected from the Svan prose texts. Svanetian written monuments, the chrestomathy of Svan, etc.

Chronologically, as it can be claimed based of observations made on the written monuments, anthroponyms of Turkish origin with -han, -qan, -bi formants do not occur in commemorations, Svan chronicles of the souls the deceased of earlier period, in written monuments dating back to earlier than XVI c.

It was found that specifically frequent occurrence of these types of personal names is typical to the genealogies of Dadeshkeliani nobles of Balsqemo Svaneti. The modern Svanian onomasticon reflects the tendency of dramatic decrease in (even disappearance of) the number of anthroponyms of Turkish origin, compared to the data of the past century.

Keywords: Svan Dialects, Word Formation, Onomastics, Anthroponyms, Turkish Anthroponym formants.