

CASES OF SOUND SUBSTITUTION IN THE SPEECH OF PRONE VALLEY

ABSTRACT

The present article analyzes the cases of sound substitution in the speech of Prone Valley. The research is based on the latest material we have collected in the villages of the Prone valley. The Prone Valley is located in the heart of Kartli, to the left side of Mtkvari. It covers Dvanistskali, Alistskali, Ptsistskali and Suramistskali. The speech of Dvanistskali and Ptsistskali villages belongs to Shidakartlian, while the speech of Alistskali and Suramistskali villages belongs to – Western Kartlian. Dialect texts recorded at different times by Georgian linguists (Ar. Martirosovi, Gr. Innaishvili, Al. Ghlonti and others) are analyzed to represent linguistic processes that are chronologically distant in time and space.

Similar and different forms are sought in relation to the Georgian literary language and other dialects. Cases typical to Kartlian are more attested in Central or Shida Kartlian, although more or less different forms are observed depending on the valleys and villages. This or that type of sound substitution which is attested in one part of Kartli, may be missing or be very rare in the other part . Sound substitution is a rather common phenomenon in the speech of Prone Valley. Similar sounds (mostly consonants) substitute one another mainly depending on the place or variety of production: v>m; v>b; m>v; b>v; m>n; b>p; d>ʃ, etc.

The speech of the village of Dirbi is distinguished with its peculiarity, where the alternation of other type of sounds also occurs. We have the n sound where the v sound is expected (av>am>an: qans, hedans; ev>em>en: çens; ov>om>on: çonda...). o>u, u>i vowel alternation is worth mentioning.

Keywords: Kartlian dialect, Prone Valley, substitution, Phonetic changes.