

## THE RANGE OF COLOURS IN GEORGIAN (ACCORDING TO LITERARY WORKS)

### ABSTRACT

Georgian language is rich in colour terms. Apart from the terms denoting seven main colours (red, orange, yellow, green, light blue, dark blue, purple (violet(-coloured)), there are words in Georgian that are related to the colour of certain things / phenomena, plants, birds and so on. The article offers the analysis of lexical units attested in the works of the authors of classical Georgian literature (Konstantine Gamsakhurdia, Galaktion Tabidze and others). For example:

**Things / phenomena:** scarlet, brick-coloured, sand-coloured, sea-blue, earth-coloured, smoke-coloured (smoky-grey), etc.

**Metal:** golden, silver, iron-coloured, steel-coloured, etc.

**Minerals:** turquoise, amber-coloured, ruby-red, jet-black, coral-coloured, etc.

**Food products:** creamy white, tea-coloured, sugar-coloured (buff (colour), wine-coloured, honey-coloured, etc.

**Plants:** grass colour, leaf colour, colour of durum wheat, wheaten-coloured, etc.

**Birds:** pheasant-coloured (shimmering blue), dove-coloured, raven-black, quail brown coloured, etc.

Structurally, there is a variety of colour terms:

a) **those with a simple stem:** red, white, silver(-grey), yellow, green, etc.

b) **derived: with a suffix:** *it-ur-i* (red (hair)), *zurmuxt-<ovan-i* (emerald (in colour)), *mečam-ul-i* (dark red, purple), etc. with a circumfix: *mo-tetr-o* (whitish), *mo-cispro-o* (a (light) blueish), *ča-rux-o* (greyish), etc.

c) **those with a complex stem:** *vardis-peri* (rose-coloured, pink), *taplis-peri* (honey-coloured), etc. *kat-kata* (dazzling (white)), *ğażğ-aža* (with a red sheen/lustre, ruddy), etc. *šav-tetri* (black and white), *šav-qviteli* (dark yellow), etc.

The colour terms created by Georgian prosaists and poets expand and enrich the vocabulary of the Georgian language.

**Keywords:** Georgian language, colour vocabulary, lexicology.