

RUSSICISMS IN THE SPEECH OF TURKISH GEORGIAN SPEAKERS

ABSTRACT

From the perspective of investigating the linguistic influence, a bigger picture that evolved in Georgia from 1870s and 1880s until 1930s is of interest, particularly: some of the Georgian territories that had been part of the Ottoman Empire in the course of nearly three centuries, fell under control of Russia for a certain period of time (nearly 40 years); besides, prior to the exile of the Muhajirs, those who were deported from South-Western Georgia, naturally, had a particular relationship with the Russian world.

The article demonstrates the trace of the Russian influence on today's speech of the Turkish Georgians. The research has revealed the following picture:

.1 Today, Russicisms rarely occur in the speech of the Turkish Georgians. A large part of the Russian borrowings (i.e. *načalniği, verñni, daprosi*, etc.) are mainly attested in the speech of the old-age population; Russicisms are either missing or, rarely (if ever) used only by younger generation in improvised humorous rhymes (*parañoñi, bariñnebi, ađořka*, etc.).

.2 nowadays, some words (*qapiqi, řauri, řoli*, etc.) that were identified by Nikolai Marr a century ago, are no longer attested.

.3 compared to other Kartvelian dialects, the speech of the Turkish Georgians features a small number of Russian words. This resulted from the fact that after the establishment of the Soviet Union and the so-called iron curtain that was drawn down blocking the country from the rest of the world, the speech of the Turkish Georgians was free of the extensive influence of Russian, the language that impacted the Georgian literary language and other Kartvelian dialects.

Clearly, a particular language contact with the Russian world in the 19th century has left a discernable trace in the speech of the Georgians. The Russian vocabulary is identified as a superstratum in the speech of the Turkish Georgians to the present day.

Keywords: Georgians living in Turkey, Linguistic Contacts, word borrowings, Russicisms.