

LADO SULABERIDZE – A CAPTIVE LEGIONNAIRE POET OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

ABSTRACT

During the Second World War, the Germans formed special legions out of captured Soviet fighters who took an active part in military operations. The main motivation behind this voluntary decision by the former Soviet citizens was the escape from the impending punishment as they had been declared to be traitors, and the liberation of their countries occupied by the Soviet Russia.

The foregoing was also the motivation for Germans to create “Bergmann” legion from Caucasian prisoners. As the poet Lado Sulaberidze recalls, such a strategic battle plan made him and his comrades think about their country’s liberation from the Soviet Union and made them hopeful about achieving independence. That is why they made a decision to join the legion and take part in battles planned by the Germans against the Soviet Union.

The above-mentioned legion also included a famous Georgian poet Lado Sulaberidze who was captured at the time. He became a member of the Georgian legion as soon as it was established. When in captivity, the poet actively collaborated with the Georgian newspaper ‘Sakartvelo’ (Georgia) published in Berlin in 1942-1945. Lado Sulaberidze’s poetry received such approval that the publishers of the newspaper ‘Sakartvelo’ decided to publish his poems as a separate collection. But the idea was never accomplished.

Lado Sulaberidze’s works included the topics about nostalgic feelings. His inner world has been reflected through such feelings at the time. All his poetry of the specified period was permeated with his spiritual anguish that was rather everburning. According to his works, Lado Sulaberidze is definitely a professional poet, which is clear from his poetry.

The German period of L. Sulaberidze’s life ended in 1944 in Poznan, Poland. The poet who was a prisoner of war was allowed to return to his homeland after the end of the war, but was arrested in 1948 and deported to Siberia. He was granted amnesty and was released in 1956. The above-mentioned tragic events had impact on Lado’s worldview to such an extent that the literary representation of feelings became the main focus of his works.

It should be mentioned that Lado Sulaberidze made a contribution to the history of Georgian literature due to his talent of representing inner pain in a skillful and highly artistic way.

Keywords: Georgian literature, Georgian legionnaire poet, Lado Sulaberidze, Georgians working in Germany.