

ON CLASSIFICATION OF HYDRONYMS FROM SHIDA KARTLI (MEJUDI GORGE)

ABSTRACT

Mejudi Gorge, just like other gorges in Kartli, is very interesting due to its history and geographic names part of which is attested in several written monuments, including the Descriptions authored by Vakhushti Bagrationi and Ioane Bagrationi. Description of the Ksani Gorge of 1781 compiled by Ivane Javakishvili is an important source for the study of hydronyms of the gorge.

Historically, the principle of organization by gorges in Shida Kartli has been associated with rivers and their system. A lot of water-related geographic names occur in Mejudi Gorge. The names mostly include the terms **ćqali**, **hevi** which represent the second component of a syntagm. For example, **Benderis ćkali**, **Goretis ćqali**, **Gomtis ćqali**, **Ařaturis ćqali**, etc. **Bezeta hevi**, **Ivretis hevi**, **Tiris hevi**.

There are two types of hydronyms in the form of syntagms:

- .1substantive: Pitsartis Tskali, Gubis Tskaro, Kldi(s) Tskaro, etc.
- .2attributive: Tetri Tskali, Zhava Tskali, Liklika Tskaro, etc.

Hydronyms formed through the -ura / -ula suffixes are rather frequent in the gorge: **řind-ur-a**, **ććo-hur-a**, **van-ur-a**, etc. **rehv-a**, **řorřl-a**, **grjel-a**, **mřavel-a**, etc.

The analyzed material clearly reveals localization, feature and motivation of particular hydronyms, thus providing important information for clarification of several historical and ethnic issues.

Keywords: Hydronymy, toponymy, Mejudi Gorge, Shida Kartli.