

**LINGUISTIC SITUATION AT LAZARIAN INSTITUTE  
OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES IN MOSCOW  
(SECOND HALF OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY)**

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**ABSTRACT**

This article explores the linguistic situation in the second half of the 19th century at the Lazarian Institute of Oriental Languages in Moscow. The personal archival fund, epistolary heritage, scholarly articles, and press materials of Georgians working here provide us with important information to examine the issue. According to historical and literary sources, the Lazarian Institute of Oriental Languages in Moscow, as a private educational institution, was established on May 10, 1815, using the funds of the Iran-based, affluent and influential family of Armenian origin, the Lazarians. The founders were brothers, Ivan and Ecom Lazarevich Lazarians.

Along with Oriental languages (Armenian, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and so on), the teaching of the Georgian language was introduced at the Lazarian Institute in Moscow from the very beginning. Famous public figures such as Mikheil Gurgenidze, Petre Nakashidze, Ilia Okromchedlishvili, and Alexandre Khakhanashvili pursued teaching there.

The teaching of Georgian language and literature acquired an academic nature and was carried out systematically and efficiently during Ilia Okromchedlishvili's tenure. Ilia Okromchedlishvili gained great authority with his social-scientific and educational work. He was always considered, appreciated, and deservedly respected.

Aleksandre Khakhanashvili is a representative of the generation of Georgian public figures living in Russia who were actively involved in the care and study of the Georgian language and culture. After he graduated from the Faculty of History and Philology of Moscow University, starting from 1889, he delivered lectures in Georgian language and literature in the capacity of Privatdozent at the Lazarev Institute of Oriental Languages.

The study of the materials that reflect the educational and scholarly activities of teachers of the Department of Georgian Language and Literature at the Moscow Lazarev Institute is of special importance with reference to the modernity.

**Keywords:** Moscow Lazarev Institute, teaching Georgian language, Mikheil Gurgenidze, Petre Nakashidze, Ilia Okromchedlishvili, Alexandre Khakhanashvili.