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**THE IDEA OF NATIONAL-LINGUISTIC UNITY
IN THE WORKS
OF PROFESSOR TARIEL PUTKARADZE**

Shorena Lomaia

Maka Salia

Fevzi Çelebi

Düzce University

Düzce, Turkey

ABSTRACT

“A mother language is a reflection of a person; the people create a language, and the language constructs the nation. The state language is a measure of dignity”, the magnitude of these words by Professor Tariel Putkaradze is fully reflected in numerous of his academic works the primary focus of which is the idea of the national-linguistic unity of the Georgians.

The article deals with a remarkable idea of the national-linguistic unity of the Georgian people to which the great Kartvelologist and state-minded scholar dedicated his short but productive career. As he remarks, in the post-Soviet period, he together with his like-minded colleagues revived the then neglected traditional vision shared by Georgian chroniclers and public figures. Based on historical sources, modern criteria, and attitudes that distinguish between a language and a dialect, he reinforced the historical perspective concerning one mother language of the Georgians and promoted the issue of the national-linguistic unity as well as its importance for further construction of democratic Georgia.

Tariel Putkaradze made a significant contribution to the development of Kartvelology and the Humanities in general. Through his research, he advanced the idea of the national-linguistic unity of the Georgian people, emphasizing the exceptional importance of the language for the consolidation of the nation.

Keywords: Kartvelology, the issue of national-linguistic unity, Tariel Putkaradze.