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ISSUE OF STRESS IN KARTVELIAN SPEECH

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ABSTRACT

The word stress is not reflected in the literary form of the Georgian language that is common for all regions, while there are numerous and diverse speech forms. What captures attention are the differences between the speech of the lowland and mountainous regions. Among the differences, the word stress is particularly highlighted.

The Kartvelian idioms of mountainous regions are distinct due to their strong tonal stress. As a result of the stress, the final vowel of the word form is removed, ending the word with a closed syllable. Svan and Khevsurian display a similar situation in this respect. In the Tushian dialect, the final vowel of the word is suppressed by the glottal ɣ (ɣ) sound (q`velaɣ – q`vela). It could be stated that within the same language system, despite the territorial separation, the same structural element is applied in the same way.

According to the analyzed material, it is impossible to classify the two speech forms in different ways: one (i.e. Svan) as a separate language structure, and the other (i.e. Khevsurian) as a dialect. Similar evaluation is also unacceptable from the ethnological point of view. The Svans, the Khevsurians, the Tushetians cannot represent different ethnic groups because they perceive the world through one language system.

Keywords: Georgian / Kartvelian Language, Dialectology, phonetics, stress.