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FORMING PLURAL OF NOMINALS IN TAOIAN DIALECT

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ABSTRACT

Taoian is one of the Georgian dialects which, at present, functions in the territory of the Republic of Turkey. Therefore, the changes occurring in the speech of Taoian Georgians are interesting.

The proposed paper deals with the instances of distribution of plural formants in nominals and their positions where they occur. For analysis, we have selected published texts that present Taoian dialect and unpublished materials that have been recorded in Tao villages (Yusufeli district, Turkey) during the dialectological expeditions of 2009-2019, preserved at Scientific-Research Center of Kartvelology at Akaki Tsereteli State University.

The analysis of the above-mentioned material reveals that there are a variety of ways to form the plural in nominals in the Taoian dialect. Apart from the -eb suffix typical to the modern Georgian literary language and the dialects, the archaic -n/-t formants are quite productive. Complex formants (-n-eb, -eb-t) also occur. In the dialect under discussion, the plural is expressed also by -oba, and -nar suffixes which perform other functions in Georgian literary language and the dialects. The distribution area of the -nar suffix is quite extensive in the Taoian dialect. It is comparable to the -eb suffix. -nar as a plural formant is uncommon for other dialects, though it seems specific to the Taoian dialect. The forms containing the Turkish -lar suffix rarely occur. The share of Turkish suffixes, compared to the Georgian ones, is insignificant.

Keywords: Georgian language, Taoian dialect, formation of nominals.