

**GEORGIAN ETHNO-CULTURAL REALITIES
AS SEEN IN THE GEORGIAN-GERMAN
DICTIONARIES**

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ABSTRACT

Names of ethnocultural realities occur in every language. They pose quite serious challenges to lexicographers in the process of compiling translation dictionaries. The reason for that is often the untranslatability of such words and the absence of their precise equivalents in other languages. This is a serious problem when compiling any translation dictionary but at the same time, the entirety of such lexical units create the national and linguistic image of the Universe.

There is not a single uniform opinion about the classification of the ethnocultural lexis among the linguists. Some of them consider that such lexis includes idioms, phraseologisms, proverbs, and even proper names.

When incorporating the names of ethnocultural realities in the dictionary, it is essential to select such words beforehand and divide them into **thematic groups**, on the one hand, and to explore and discover the relevant translation tools, on the other hand. One of the functions of the translation dictionaries is to deliver the culturological data by means of the words of ethnocultural content.

We have analyzed some of the Georgian-German dictionaries (i.e. K. Tschenkéli, 1965-1974; R. Zekalashvili, 2009) from the above-mentioned perspective. Some thematic groups were selected from the available words of ethnocultural content (it should be noted that a certain part of these lexical units was not of Georgian origin), namely:

Traditional festive days, such as: haṭoba – Khatoba (Heiligenfest, Kirchweih, Kirmes) ‘Festival of pagan shrine’, ‘Saint’s day’; bzoba – Palmsonntag ‘Palm Sunday’; mariamoba – Mariä Himmelfahrt ‘Dormition of the Virgin’; giorgoba – Tag des heiligen Georg ‘St George’s Day’.

Customs and traditions: kadagi – Prediger, Propezeiher ‘shaman, seer’; tamada – Tafelleiter, Tischvorsitzender ‘chairman of feast’, ‘toast-saying master’; sadḡeḡḡelo – Toast, Trinkspruch ‘toast’; qanḡi – Trinkhorn, Weinhorn ‘drinking horn’.

Terms referring to work activities such as tone – Bäckerei, Tongefäss ‘cylindrical clay oven for flat bread’; kvevri – Weinkrug (in der Erde vergraben) ‘wine-jar (set into ground)’; saḡnaheli – Trotte, Weinkelter ‘pressing device to press juice of grapes for wine’.

Names of **dishes and sweets:** ḡiḡkali – Khinḡali (Art Ravioli) ‘ravioli’

(chopped meat boiled in pastry sache); *ħaĉapuri* – Käsekuchen ‘pastry with cheese/curds filling’; *sacivi* – *Sazivi* (Puten- oder Geflügelbrühe mit gewürzter Walnusssoße) ‘chicken/turkey in cold walnut sauce’; *sulguni* – *Sulguni* (eine Art Käse) ‘variety of hard cheese’; *gozinaqi* – *Gosinaki* (Näscherei aus Nüssen und Honig zum Neujahr) ‘chopped nuts boiled in honey’; *ĉurĉhela* – *Tschurtschela* (aufgefädelte Nüsse, die im Most getunkt und gedörnt sind) ‘string of walnuts/hazel-nuts/raisins etc. dipped into thickened boiled grape-juice’.

Clothes and shoes: *ĉoħa-aħaluhi* – kaukasische männliche Tracht, Halbrock ‘Caucasian tunic and coat’, ‘man’s national dress’; *kalamani* – Bastschuh, Ledersandale ‘laced sandal’; *nabadi* – Filzmantel, kaukasischer Filzüberwurf ‘felt jacket(s) and cloak(s)’.

Musical instruments: *panduri* – *Fanduri* (dreisaitiges Zupfinstrument) ‘3-stringed lute’; *ĉonguri* – *Tschonguri* (viersaitiges Musikinstrument) ‘four-stringed lute’; *ĉianuri* – *Tschianuri* (georgisches Streichinstrument) ‘3/4-stringed Georgian viol’; *gudaštʷiri* – Dudelsack, Sackpfeife ‘bagpipes’.

Dances and songs: *samaia* – ‘women’s round-dance’; *iavnana* – child’s lullaby’.

Plays and other means of entertainment: *qeenoba* – *Kheenoba* (Maskenspiel am ersten Montag des Fastens) ‘fertility festival, carnival’; *berikaoba* – *Berikaoba* (Volksmaskenspiel) ‘summer carnival (dressed as wild animal)’; *laħtaoba* – Gürtelspiel der Jungen ‘boy’s belt game’; *ķuķudamalobana* – Fangspiel, Versteckspiel ‘children’s game hide-and-peek’; *daħuĉobana* – Blindekuh ‘hide-and-peek’.

Fairy-tale characters and magic things: *nacarkeķia* – Aschenbrödel, Faulenzer, Müßiggänger ‘lazy but sly fairytale hero’; *ķudiani dedaberi* – Hexe, Alraune ‘a witch’, ‘evil demon’; *uĉinmaĉinis kudi* – Tarnkappe ‘magic cap of invisibility’; *naṭʷris tvali* – Wunschstein ‘magic stone, magic jewel’.

Terms of endearment: *šeni ĉirime* – mein Liebes, du meine Güte! (dein Unge-mach auf mich, deine Not mir) ‘my darling, please’ (lit. (give your) trouble to me); *šen genacvale* – mein Liebes!; *tu mir die Liebe!* (ich will dich in der Not ersetzen, ich will für dich durchs Feuer gehen) ‘my dear!’ (let me take your place, if something bad happens).

In the above-mentioned Georgian-German dictionaries several means are used to express Georgian ethnocultural realities: a) definitions of words are transliterated; b) detailed explanations of the content and meaning of the realities without transliterations (or loan translation); c) selecting proper lexical units of similar content available in German.

Keywords: Ethno-cultural Vocabulary, Bilingual Dictionaries, German-Georgian Dictionary, Translation equivalent.