Linguistics

Present State and Topicality of the Research of Svan Toponymy

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ABSTRACT. In the present paper toponyms are studied from historical and linguistic aspects. Historians consider toponyms as the source reflecting historical processes, geographers outline the historical boundaries of the country, regions and the settlement area of any tribe. Toponym is a unique phenomenon that closely connects several fields with each other, but first of all it is a basic language entry word. Therefore, it is studied from the linguistic standpoint. Only then it becomes reliable material for the researchers of the other fields. Despite the fact that in Georgia the toponymy was developed as a scientific field later, Georgian scientists created many high-level and remarkable scientific works in this field. Regional toponymic dictionaries were published, but there is no fundamental work on the Swan toponyms, which could consider the material of all Svan dialects (Upper Bal, Lower Bal, Lashkhian, Lentekhian, also Cholurian speech) and list the geographical names preserved on the present Svaneti territory. Svaneti is one of the most important parts of Georgia with its specific relief, where in a short distance the peak, gorge, mountain, ravine, upland, mound, river, etc. alternate each other and with one of the Kartvelian languages Svan that preserved many linguistic features vanished in other Kartvelian languages. © *2017 Bull. Georg. Natl. Acad. Sci.*

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As is known in the professional literature, toponymy is one of the most important onomastic branches that investigates the structure of geographical names, determines their origin and linguistic property, as well as their semantics and etymology. Toponyms, as the entries reflecting the development of the language, preserve archaic as well as dialectal vocabulary and trace of substratum. Along with linguistics toponymic research renders the valuable information to the contiguous disciplines: historical geography, ethnography, study of local lore, archeology, etc.

It is especially important to describe the varied and diverse archaic toponyms of the unwritten Kartvelian languages as well as structural-semantic and etymological analysis of this material. Naturally, the Svan language data are very important in this regard, because Svaneti is the oldest hub of Georgian ethnic world, culture and statehood.

Since the formation of Kartvelology as a scien-

tific discipline, many well-known researchers and scholars were interested in Svan toponyms and a number of important researches were written, but monographically the issue has not yet been processed, which is a gap in the field of toponymy. The absence of toponymic dictionary on the data of all four Svan dialects (Upper Bal, Lower Bal, Lashkhian and Lentekhian) is felt. It should be emphasized that among the large regional materials obtained by the research-fellows of the Toponic Laboratory of Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, there is diverse Svan toponymic material, unique manuscript toponymic material obtained by the research-fellow of the same laboratory A.Chkadua in Upper-Lower Svaneti in the 60-70s of the last century.

As aforesaid the absence of fundamental work on Svaneti toponyms, in which the material of the Svan dialects and the fully-listed geographical names preserved in the present Svaneti region will be represented, is a shortcoming in this field. In order to correct this flaw, we intended to work on Svan toponyms and create a fundamental work "Svan Toponyms *(Fundamental-Applied Research With Dictionary)*".

The research-fellows of the Kartvelian Languages Department of TSU

Arn. Chikobava Institute of Linguistics compared all the available up to date important scientific researches on Svaneti toponyms, copied out the relevant material from the published Svan texts. Kartvelian Languages Department of Arn. Chikobava Institute of Linguistics preserves the unique toponymic material from A. Davitiani's unpublished Svan texts obtained and listed in Upper-Lower Svaneti over the years and computerized by A. Chkadua.

As a result of analyzing and comparing the Svan dialectal toponymic material the following structural models distinguished in Svan toponymy:

A) Primary non-marked toponyms

B) toponyms derived from affixes

C) toponyms derived via word-combination (composites).

Several subgroups were distinguished in each group.

As it is noted in the professional literature one and the same primary (non-marked) toponyms can be fixed in several places of Svaneti, e.g, *baq* "crossing, pass (*lit.* 'step')" is a road name in the village Jakhunderi in Lower Svaneti, but in the village Sasashi it denotes 'hay-meadow land', in Chvelieri – 'arable land', in Upper Svaneti, namely in Lakhamula – 'forest' and 'rock', in the village Pari – 'mountain ridge' [1]. Similar situation is especially characteristic of primary toponyms. Simple toponyms do not have any derivative marker. Basically, primary toponyms are divided into three groups depending on the character of a toponym stem whether it is a noun, adjective or participle.

Below the following types of toponyms distinguished by us in Svan toponymic material are presented:

• Simple nouns without affixes: *dab* "field for cereals/arable land (*lit.*– 'borough')", *ṭob* "gorge (*lit.* 'lake, paddle')", *mol* "field, forest, arable land, pasture (*lit.* 'fresh rich pasture, sward')", *had* "pasture, hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'azalea')", *swip* "rural meeting place"...

• With affixes:

A) nouns with prefixes: *la-xar* "hay-meadow land, field for cereals/arable land (*lit.* 'borough')", *la-täf* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'slope')", *la-buχ* "hay-meadow land, pasture (*lit.* 'dusty place')", *lä-xil* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'place for fruit')", *as-kart* "yard, garden (*lit.* 'fenced')" ...

B) Nouns with suffix: *šdugr'-el* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'land of mic')", *särk-el* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'mirrored place')", *ṭwirb-iš* "place (*lit.* 'dusty')", *ḳä r-iš* "rural cemetery and playground (lit. 'uphill')"...

C) Nouns with prefixes and suffixes: *lä-šer-a* "summer pasture, mountain (*lit.* 'whetstone')", *la-xwbašr-a* "river (*lit.* brotherly')", *la-m šk-a* "hay-meadow land, pasture (*lit.* 'place for ants')", *la-bäsq-ild-äš* "ruined dwelling place/settlement, place (*lit.* 'place for strawberries')", *le-šgwdin-i* "for . . . . *lit.* 'shade-giving place')", *ma-gard-el* "name of village (*lit.* 'rounded')"...

• Composites: *p̣ap̣arob* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'priest's hay-meadow land')", *ḳirisotär* "cliff/rock (lit. 'lime columns')"...

In addition, the followings are distinguished:

• Plant collect names: *teḳer* "summer pasture (*lit.* 'maple copse')", *lagw ǯeri* "hay-meadow land, field for cereals/arable land (*lit.* 'chestnut copse')", *ḳaḳär* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'walnuts')", *irtär* "place (*lit.* 'bushes, shrubbery')"...

• Groups of derived nouns (*of purpose, property, diminutiveness-tenderness*): *la-lkan-a* "place for kitchen gardening (*lit.* 'place for cannabis')", *la-bux* "hay-meadow land, pasture (lit. 'dusty place')", *ç̌ipr-il* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'beech forest')", *erx-ald* "mountain, forest (lit. 'grove of aspen trees')", *cx m-är* "name of the village (*lit.* 'hornbeam forest')"...

• Toponyms denoting natural and geographical environment: *naḳ* "hay-meadow land, rural field (lit. 'valley')", *latäp* "hay-meadow land, field for cereals/arable land (lit. 'slope')", *laxwbašra* "stream, river (*lit.* 'brotherly')", *tetel* "place, mountain (*lit.* 'white')", *lepur* "mountain, summer pasture (*lit.* 'cow shed/pen')", *laḳun* "place, mountain, forest (*lit.* 'place for pine marten')" and so forth.

In addition to detach the structural-semantic models of toponyms, attention was focused on key-word indicators, with which Svan toponym is rich. Especially *däb* "cornfield", *lara* "field", *twib* "stream", *mol* " fresh rich pasture, sward" and so on are often used as indicators. They occur as independent simple toponyms, as well as repeated modified nouns in geographical names, such as: *babäš lara* "pasture (*lit.* 'grandpa's field, hay-meadow land')", *bagräti mol* "pasture (*lit.* 'Bagrati's field')", *baḳašer ṭwib* "ravine (*lit.* Bakasan ravine, gorge')", etc.

While working on the Svan toponymic material, one fact was revealed, namely: any part of the human organism can be used as an indicator (so called somatisms): *lesg* "side (to denote one of the rural areas)", *qarq* "gullet (which basically denotes the passages in the mountains)", *ç̌išx* "foot (name of the field)" and others.

We present the illustrative material:

našxwiš lesg "burnt side of smth (denoting one of the village's sides)", *läxiaš qärq* "Lakhi's larynx (pass of the Lakhi mountain) ", *žabe yišxild* "upper foot (name of the field in the mountain)"…

As aforementioned, such words can occur as independent toponyms.

The issue of phonetic-morphological changes within toponyms is discussed separately. As E. Gazdeliani confirms in the Zeskhuri gorge, the name of the deserted village *lazräš* must be derived from the name *zuria* via adding a *la* prefix and *-iš* relative case marker. As a result of phonetic processes characteristic of Ushgulian *la-zr-äš* was originated from the form *la-zuria +jiš* (iš) . Adding of a *la* prefix resulted in losing of a vowel *-u-* in the stem *zuria* and merging of a stem *-i-* and relative case marker *-i-* vowel with *-a-* umlauted and lengthened *-a-* vowel [2]. Naturally, there are many other examples, where phonetic processes change the primary form of toponyms.

Analysis of Svan toponyms from morphological standpoint made it clear that almost all those formants (except some exceptions) occur as derivative markers which occur in morphology of a noun. Especially a high number of derivative prefixes and suffixes of purpose (*la-, le-*), pre-condition (*na- / nä- _ ar*), diminutive (*-il, -ul, -ild, -uld ...*), branch of family, etc. are confirmed.

In the Svan toponym three-component geographical names often occur, e.g:

baba antweš goräg "coniferous forest ridge in Mestia region, in the village Vedi (lit. 'grandpa Antoni's hill')", *babd ši äži našq̇äd* "slope in Mestia region, in the village Lanchvali (lit. 'Babdi's horse falling place')"...

The *composites* are discussed separately. As the analysis of the material demonstrated, the following toponyms are composites: *ubxäli* "place in the village Pari (lit. 'lower stream')", *žubxäli* "place in the village Pari (lit. 'upper stream')", *orlaḳäd* "place in the village Pari (lit. 'soil taker')"...

According to formation several groups are detached in composite toponyms:

1. Attributive names: *ç̌ rni kwax* "mountain (lit. 'red rocks')", *mašri χär* "hay-meadow land (lit. 'wide ravine')", *mešxe ḳožär* "place, rock (lit. 'black rock, cliffs')"...

2. Attribute-governing names: *sigugiš naḳ* "hay-meadow land (lit. Sigugi's valley')", *kabäš dab* "field for cereals/arable land (lit. 'Kaba's field for cereals/arable land')", *orbetiš bä* "pasture (lit. 'Orbeti{'s'} stone')"...

It is particularly noteworthy the toponyms denoting the natural-geographical environment, of which several semantic groups were identified. They are:

A) Toponyms depicting the residential places: *läzga* "name of the place in the village Pari (lit. 'vacant lot (for building a house)')", *bavär* "mountain name in the village Pari (lit. 'tends (a building, temporary residence in the field, in the woods or in the other place to overnight)')"...

B) Toponyms depicting buildings: *nankor* "name of the place in the village Pari (lit. 'ruined house/dwelling')", *korär* "place name in the village Pari (lit.' houses')"...

C) toponyms depicting economic activity: *daber* "place name in the village Pari (*lit.* 'fields for cereals/arable lands')", *m h-er* "place name in the village Pari, ruined house/dwelling (lit. ' of ripening place')"... Of the se toponyms it is clear the agricultural activity the villagers were engaged. According to ethnographic material, the place name *m h-er* is associated with wheat threshing/smashing (cf. *m h-er-ob* "threshing/smashing time", which is linked with the vocabulary entry *m h-i* "ripe"), and *daber* is the area where there were fields for cereals/arable lands.

Besides, the foregoing semantic groups, the following toponyms are detached in Svan, as well: the toponyms denoting: *cult* (*kašvet* "cemetery (*lit.* 'Kashueti')"..., *ináš* "cemetery (*lit.* 'Iona's')"... and *craftsmanship* (*läšera* "name of mountain, summer

pasture in the village Tkhumari (lit. 'whetstone'…)", the *toponyms derived from the names of animals and birds* (*mamlär* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'cocks')"…There are also toponyms that indicate the existence and use of *various natural wealth* (*eiš* "place (*lit.* 'of copper')"…) One part of the toponyms is associated with the *name* and *surname of the human*, i.e. surname or name is used as a toponym (*gengesäni* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'land after Genge')"..., etc.

A large number of toponyms denoting plant collection is detached in the Svan toponymy, e.g. *teker* "mountain, forest, place where the cattle is taken in summer (lit. 'maple copse')", *ḳaḳär* "hay-meadow land (*lit.* 'walnuts')", *cx mär* "village name in the Mestia region (*lit.* 'hornbeam forest')"… As it is known from the professional literature, Svan stem *cxum-/cx m -/cxwim- (cxum/cx m /cxwim* "hornbeam") is confirmed in many toponyms (c.f. the oldest name of Sokhumi *cxum-i/cxom-i*). Its natural phonetic correspondences are: Georgian *cxeml-*, Megrelian *cxemur- / cximur-* and Lazian *cxemur-* [3]. It is also known that in ethnotoponym *le xum* which is located in Svaneti's neighborhood, a stem *xum* -is originated from the older *cxum* [4]. All these indicate that the linguistic, historical and geographical aspects are closely interconnected with each other in the toponymic study. It should be noted that Svan toponyms are first confirmed in the historical-geographical work. We consider in the first half of XVIII century the Vakhushti Bagrationi's most important work "*Description of the Kingdom of Georgia*" and "*Geographical Atlas*", in which the location of *Lašxeti* and *Etseri*, of hydronyms – *Tskhenistsqali*, *Kodori* and *Enguriis* indicated...

ენათმეცნიერება

სვანური ტოპონიმიის კვლევის თანამედროვე მდგომარეობა და აქტუალობა

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არნ. ჩიქობავას სახელობის ენათმეცნიერების ინსტიტუტი, ქართველურ ენათა განყოფილება, თბილისი, საქართველო

ტოპონიმები შეისწავლება ისტორიული, გეოგრაფიული, ლინგვისტური... ასპექტებით. ისტორიკოსები ტოპონიმებს განიხილავენ, როგორც ისტორიული პროცესების მართებულად გაშუქების წყაროს. გეოგრაფები მათი მეშვეობით ადგენენ ქვეყნისა და რეგიონების ისტორიულ საზღვრებს, ცალკეულ ტომთა განსახლების არეალს და ა. შ. ტოპონიმი, ეს იშვიათი ფენომენია, რომელიც ერთმანეთთან მჭიდროდ აკავშირებს რამდენიმე დარგს, მაგრამ თავისთავად წარმოადგენს ენის ძირითად ერთეულს, სიტყვას. ამიტომ, პირველ რიგში, იგი შესწავლილ უნდა იქნეს ენათმეცნიერული თვალსაზრისით. მხოლოდ ამის შემდეგ იქნება იგი სანდო მასალა სხვა დარგის მეცნიერებისათვის.

მიუხედავად იმისა, რომ საქართველოში ტოპონიმიკა მეცნიერების დარგად გვიან ჩამოყალიბდა, ქართველ მეცნიერთა ინტენსიურმა მუშაობამ ბევრი მაღალი მეცნიერული დონის გამოკვლევა და საყურადღებო ნაშრომი შექმნა ამ სფეროში, მაგრამ არ მოგვეპოვება სვანური ტოპონიმიის ერთიანი ფუნდამენტური ნაშრომი, სადაც გათვალისწინებული იქნებოდა სვანური ენის ყველა დიალექტის მასალა და სრულად აღინუსხებოდა დღევანდელი სვანეთის ტერიტორიაზე შემონახული გეოგრაფიული სახელწოდებანი. ასეთი ნაშრომის არარსებობა თავისთავად დიდ ხარვეზს წარმოადგენს, რადგანაც სვანეთი საქართველოს ერთ-ერთი მნიშვნელოვანი კუთხეა თავისი სპეციფიკური რელიეფით (სადაც მცირე მანძილზე ერთმანეთს ცვლის მწვერვალი, ხეობა, მთა, ზეგანი, ბორცვი, მინდორი, მდინარე და ა. შ.) და ქართველურ ენათა ჯგუფში შემავალი სვანური ენით, რომელსაც ცოცხლად შემოუნახავს არაერთი ენობრივი თავისებურება, რაც სხვა ქართველურ ენებში გამქრალია.

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