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AMIRAN ELIZBAR LOMTADZE

**PHONETIC MODIFICATIONS
OF SPIRANTS AND AFFRICATES
IN KARTVELIAN LANGUAGES**

10. 02. 01 Kartvelian Languages

SYNOPSIS OF THESIS

of the work presented to earn the degree
of the Doctor of Philology

TBILISI
1999

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The work is done at the Department of the Georgian Language and Speech Culture of the Tbilisi Ilya Chavchavadze State University of Language and Culture.

Expert of the Dissertation Board

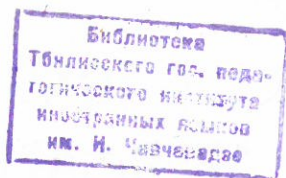
— Doctor of Philology Professor
Tedo Uturgaidze

Official Opponents

— Doctor of Philology, Professor
Natela Kutelia

Doctor of Philology, Professor
Izolda Chantladze

Doctor of Philology, Professor
Napoleon Lemonjava



Leader organization: the Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli State University

Defence of the thesis will take place on November ... 1999, at 12 o'clock, at the meeting of the dissertation-certifying board of the Philology branch 10.02.01 C No 4, of the Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia.

Address: 380008, Tbilisi, No 8, P. Ingorokva Str.

The work (thesis) can be found at the Scientific Library of the Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia.

The synopsis of the thesis was sent out on October ... 1999.

Scientific secretary
of the Dissertation Board
Doctor of Philology;

0.3.2.306

T. Vashakidze

THE ACTUALITY OF THE SUBJECT, AIM, TASKS AND OBJECT. The Georgian linguistics has reached such a level of development that it is high time the historic - comparative phonetics (and grammar, of course) of the Kartvelian languages were created. And to achieve this aim it is necessary to study not only the questions of the phonetic structure of these languages by means of the historic-comparative analysis, but phonetic processes as well. Much is done in this sphere. Some phonetic processes have already been studied.

The present work deals with the analysis of phonetic modifications of sibilants in the Kartvelian languages: it discusses the well-known theory of affrication as a result of the merging of spirants into occlusive consonants; the question of affrication of the spirants *s, š, z, ž* while contacting with occlusive consonants in post and pre-positions; the analysis of deaffrication (their turning into spirants).

Besides that we deal with substitution, analogy, assimilation, losing of consonants, etc.

The material for analysis has been obtained by the author, and taken from the works of Georgian linguists specializing in the Kartvelian Languages.

THE METHOD of research is historic-comparative. At the same time some other methods have also been used, such as descriptive, typological.

THE MAIN RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH AND NEW DISCOVERIES. The views of Kartvelologists are duly considered in the work, and an attempt is made to present a new solution to the main questions.

On the basis of the analysis of the studied material we have established that in Kartvelian languages the affrication of spirants takes place in the cases when the spirants: *s* or *z, š* or *ž* follow an occlusive consonant directly. Affrication is caused by noise (plosive) occlusives (voiced, aspirate, sharp) as well as sonorants: it does not matter what kind they are.