



International Workshop on Kartvelian Dialectology and Onomastics (with special focus on *Svan*)

Journée d'études internationale en dialectologie et onomastique kartvélienne (en particulier, *svan*)

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Sorbonne University (STIH, EA 4509) & LabEx EFL (EM2, strand 7)**

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Résumés/abstracts

1. Dialectologie/Dialectology

Tamar Makharoblidze & Jean Léo Léonard

**A report on the LaDyCa project (*Language Dynamics in the Caucasus*, IDEX Emergence, 2017-18):
methods in theoretical and empirical dialectology**

LaDyCa (*Language Dynamics in the Caucasus*, IDEX Emergence 2017-18, in partnership between Sorbonne University and Ilia State University) is an interdisciplinary project on languages of the Caucasus, strongly focused on the issue of Complexity *versus* Simplicity. This paper provides an overview of the main results, from three standpoints: (i) multilayered network dialectometry, based on Levenshtein algorithm, applied to the Georgian dialect network, (ii) *Paradigm Function Morphology* modeling of Kartvelian verb inflection system, enhancing the role of irregular verbs in highlighting *rules of stem choices* and *rules of exponence* versus *morphophonological rules*, (iii) a *simplcity* approach of intricate North-Western Caucasian phonological systems, such as Abkhaz. On the one hand, the project applies methods which have proved successful in other geographical and ecological contexts, as Mesoamerica, the converging factor being here *verticality* and *multilayered networks of interactions* between communal aggregates (populations) throughout history. On the other hand, the project deals with deep simplicity underlying complex surface patterns in verbal inflection or phonological systems of languages of the Caucasus. Last, but not least, the LaDyCa project also attempts at making a methodological contribution for the development of *social dialectology*: a community-based approach to fieldwork and elicitation of dialect varieties, with a strong concern for training students and linguists to dialect data elicitation and processing, according to current methods in endangered languages' documentation.

Elisabed Gazdeliani

Vowel length in Svan

Modern Svan differs from the rest of Kartvelian languages (Georgian, Megrelian and Laz) as to the inner diversity and complexity of its vowel system, due to the occurrence of umlauted and long vowels in the lexicon and in the segmental inventory. In Upper Svan dialects, vowel length is characteristic of Upper Bal,

whereas in Lower Svan it is to be found in Lashkhian. In scientific literature, two types of vowel length in Svan are discussed: primary (*natura longa syllaba*) and secondary, i.e. conditioned by its position (*longa syllaba*). The paper will presents key formation positions of long vowels in these dialects.

Roena Chkadua

Structural and semantic analysis of Svan microtoponyms

(on the basis of dialectal features)

The following types of patterns are distinguished in the domain of Svan microtopony word formation:

1. Simple, unmarked names;
2. Names derived via affixes:
 - a. prefixal;
 - b. suffixal;
 - c. confixal;
 - d. names derived via two or more suffixes.
3. Compound names via word coupling;
4. Micro-toponyms with three or more components.

In the geographical names derived via word-combination attributive-determinandum and governed-determinandum toponyms are attested.

In the structure of compound toponyms a key word indicator is attested, which is sometimes an independent simple toponym, and sometimes a determinant-indicator that occurs repeatedly in different names. General nouns are used as indicators: arable land, field, stream, mountain pass and so forth. In the role of an indicator there can occur the names of human body (somatisms).

The following groups are confirmed in terms of semantics:

1. Names reflecting a dissemination area of similar plants;
2. Toponymy reflecting residences;
3. Toponymy reflecting buildings;
4. Toponymy reflecting craftsmanship;
5. Toponymy linked with religion;
6. Agricultural toponymy;
7. Toponymy reflecting the dwelling of different animals;
8. Toponymy reflecting the natural-geographical environment;
9. Geographical names reflecting the remedies of historical narratives and old lifestyle, etc.

On the one hand, a structural-semantic analysis of microtoponyms is important for Svan linguistic research, on the other hand, such an approach would be very useful to reconstruct an ethnographical picture of Old Svan and Svaneti.

2. Onomastique/Onomastics

Elisabed Gazdeliani

Sacral terms in Svan microtoponyms

Svaneti is historically the oldest territorial settlement of one of the Kartvelian tribes –the Svans–, whose distribution has not changed within the borders of present Svaneti (Upper and Lower Svaneti). The fact that no traces of any foreign tribe is to be seen in Svan territory is worth being pointed out, from the standpoint of toponymic research. Most of the Svan toponyms are built on linguistic data from this autochthonous population.

The scientific inventory and investigation on Svan toponymy allows to shed light on the origin of the peoples residing on this area. Genesis and structural-semantic analysis of geographical names will help linguists, historians, ethnographers, archaeologists to determine the most important issues in the history of peoples and their lifestyle.

Microtoponyms, in general, and especially among the Svans, include names and toponyms of churches, places dedicated to prayers or to the cult, hay meadows, pastures, arable lands, rural areas, small rivers and their tributaries, forests, roads, human gathering places, natural phenomena, agricultural activities, dissemination places of a variegated array of local flora and fauna.

The author here will attempt at highlighting some of the geographical names containing sacral terms from microtoponyms, recorded 50 years ago. One of our sources will be the Chkadua's manuscript intitled "*Svan toponymic dictionary*", which according to preliminary data, provides many religious terms, some of which will be analyzed in the paper.

Lela Giglemiani

Affixal microtoponyms in Svan

In the realm of Kartvelian microtoponyms, names with affixal derivation are most commonly spread, making up a set of separate subgroups: prefixal, suffixal, prefix-suffixal (confixal). Elements with different functions, or left without functions on synchronous level, may be inserted between the affixes and a root.

In current literature, it is taken for granted that in Georgian the amount of prefixal derivation for geographical names is less conspicuous, as compared to the amount of suffixal and confixal patterns in other components of the language. Instead, this pattern is generally considered to be characteristic of word formation.

In Svan, the amount of prefixal derivation is quite large: **la-**, **le-**, **na-** ... These prefixes are attested in geographical names separately, and with suffixes.

In Svan pre-circumstantial names, only prefixal derivation often occurs precisely where corresponding equivalents in Georgian have a confixal pattern.

Prefix **na-** is considered one of the oldest, among Common-Kartvelian affixes. With a verbal root, it derives a participle, whereas with a nominal root, it produces pre-circumstantial nouns.

In Svan toponymy **na-** occurs on the one hand, as prefix, and on the other hand, with suffixes. It is suggested that the prefix **na-** expresses only a pre-circumstantial situation, whereas as a suffix, it has one function only, and it can be substituted.

In Svan geographical nomenclature, names marked with several formants often occur. This is especially true about the toponyms expressing pre-circumstantial content/existence.

From my viewpoint, suffixes that can be considered to be without function in appellatives. In toponyms, they demonstrate additional nuances, characteristic of a certain place.

To get to a final conclusion, many types of geographical names in Svan should be analyzed as fully as possible.

In terms of semantics, the pre-circumstantial names denote: the place where the cultivated plant was grown the name of which is denoted in a root word; where there was a place of agricultural, cult, household or other purpose (which is no longer exists) and the place where a natural phenomenon took place the name of what is denoted in a root morpheme.

Noteworthy fact is that the names with **na-** prefix actively participate in microtoponyms with two- and more components with the function sometimes of determinandum and sometimes of determinatum.

3. Modélisation diasystémique/Diasystemic modeling

Roena Chkadua

Correlation of verb-formative processes in Svan

It is generally widely accepted that any language is characterized not only by its creative, renewing potential, but also by its strong trend for self-preservation of its structures. Interestingly enough, in modern

Svan, regardless of affiliation to different chronological steps, various verb-formative principles coexist with more or less intensity: reduplication, vowel-substitution, and affixation.

The verbs derived from the reduced stems and root-ablauted lexemes use affixes in the paradigms of the conjugation, although the reduced and inflectional forms are preserved, as well.

Anais Tran Ngoc, Tamar Makharoblidze, Jean Léo Léonard

Svan verb inflection: a (tentative) diasystemic approach of inflectional classes.

This presentation is based on comparative data gathered in March 2018 by Prof. Tamar Makharoblidze and Jean Léo Léonard, at the Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics at Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, with the Svan participants of this conference (Roena Chkadua, Elisabed Gazdeliani, Lela Giglemiani). A special focus is given on irregular verbs (*cover*, *say*, *have* an. & inan., *be*, *give*, *come*), applying Paradigm Function Morphology. The Word & Paradigm approach, and the parsing of Rules of Stem Choice vs. Rules of Exponence help to disentangle the Svan verbal complex, especially in order to improve the survey of TAM fine-grained categories. We suggest orientations for further research, out of this tentative approach of diasystemic complexity of the Svan verb.