

## GENDER LEXICON MATERIALS OF GEORGIAN LANGUAGE

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**Abstract.** Georgian language has not been studied monographically in the context of gender. Our work is the part of the systematic research, which has been launched in the context of gender in Georgian language.

Georgian language does not have categories of grammatical gender and class. Study of language in the context of gender means description of nominative system and analysis of it afterwards, we begun research of Georgian language in the context of gender from describing lexical material which has gender context. Language material of gender context consists of more than 3300 words and phrases and about 150 idiomatic units. The accomplished proceedings are a precondition to creation of the first gender dictionary of Georgian language. Lexicographical description of gender gives us an opportunity to summarize and comprehend the language in the context of linguistic gender studies; it would also facilitate a new branch of the linguistics in Georgia.

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**Keywords:** Georgian vocabulary, Georgian language gender dictionary, gender vocabulary of the Georgian language.

**Main Part.** As it is commonly known, gender linguistics explores two main subjects. Those are:

– *Gender representation in the language:* nominative system, vocabulary, syntax, sex category and such kind of subjects. Goal of this kind of approach is to describe and explain the designation of women and men in the language.

– *Speech and communication behavior of women and men:* written and verbal behaviors of female and male sex. Their strategy and tactics of communication. How representatives of opposite sex talk and what kind of linguistic mechanisms are the basis of this process. Language phenomenon which is linked with differences of language bearers of opposite sex. What/which context constructs gender and how social factors affect this process (Kirilina, 2005).

Georgian language has not been studied monographically in the context of gender. Many aspects are left unprocessed. Our work is the part of the systematic research, which has been launched in the context of gender in Georgian language. It is dedicated to manifest lexical paradigm in Georgian language. Language material of gender context obtained by us consists of more than 3300 words and phrases and about 150 idiomatic units. Empiric material which have been obtained during 2 years' period is a precondition for creation of Gender dictionary of Georgian language. The article is prepared on the basis of the Young Scientists grant of the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (#YS15\_2.6.2\_25).

Representatives of feministic linguistics distinguish 11 semantic groups according to gender marker:

1. sex
  2. age
  3. blood / law relations
  4. marital status
  5. interpersonal relationships
  6. national and ethnic affiliation
  7. profession or business image
  8. social affiliation
  9. sexual orientation
  10. qualitative index
  11. place of living
- (Kipiani, 2010, pg. 441).

Listed semantical categories are established on the basis of European languages studied in the context of gender, which has grammatical gender category unlike Georgian language. *Georgian language does not have categories of grammatical sex and class.*

One of the lexical group which depicts male and female, their social status is confirmed in the verbal language, literary Georgian language and its dialects. On the assumption that study of language in the context of gender means description of nominative system and analysis of it afterwards, we begun research of Georgian language in the context of gender from describing lexical material which have gender context.

Literary and dialectic lexical material obtained by us (more than 3300 lexical unit and phrase) is broken down to the following 17 semantic categories:

1. *Sex* (woman, female, lady, wife... boy, man, male, gentleman...).
2. *Age* (girl, elder woman, gammer... gaffer, elder man, boy...)
3. *General vocabulary for both sex* (human, young, newborn...)
4. *Blood or law relation* (mother-in-law, step-mother, uncle, brother-in-law...)
5. *Male and female names* (Gvritia (< meaning “dove”), Phiso (“Kitty”), Gela (“Mgela”- meaning “Wolf”), Datvia (meaning “bear”). Personal names for both sex: Guguli (meaning Cockoo), Minino (meaning sparrow-hawk), Nukri (meaning Fawn)...)

Observing Georgian personal names shows us masculine and feminine characteristics of Georgian culture and daily life as well as gender stereotypes. Anthroponyms actually affirm that common noun (appellative) was gaining new functions at the initial stage of formation of anthroponyms in the language. This was taking place in case of naming a male as well as female. Gender balance was kept equal to some extent, although there were cases of gender inequality as well, because the noun for male name was chosen on the basis of physically strong animals. Observation of anthroponyms gives us a basis to state that Georgian language like other languages uses words mainly presenting power for male personal names, like ethnonyms, geographical names and names of mighty animals. Whereas female names are more “tender” (Kurdadze, Ruseishvili, 2004. Gitolendia, 2016).

6. *Form of address, including taboo address* (Miss, Mister... off-limits: hey you!...)
7. *Marital status*: (bachelor, single, old maid, married, widowed, divorced, marriageable, nubile...)
8. *Social affiliation* (the lady (privileged female), “Beka” (wife of the lord, like The Lady), “Kneina” (Countess, wife of an earl), maid (servant lady), lady... gentleman, prince, “Sephetsuli” - son of a tsar...)
9. *Sexual orientation* (hermaphrodite, gay, lesbian...)
10. *Profession or business image*: monk, nun, midwife, nanny, ploughman (< a person, who works on the ground and follows the plough during the ploughing), deacon...)
11. *Interpersonal relationships, words and phrases expressing social behavior*: (spouse (female), consenting party (female), sweetheart, best half, girlfriend, boyfriend... to get married, engagements, to marry, to unite, to love-match, to wed...)
12. *Qualitative index of female and male*: voluptuous, childless, beautiful, tom-boy (bold woman, over-lively), brave, womanizer...)
13. *Double notion composites* (uncle-and-aunts, boys-and-girls, brother-sister, mother-father, man-and-woman...)

14. *Morphologically differentiated sex* – The dictionary created by Sul Khan-Saba Orbeliani back in 17<sup>th</sup> century, represents one group of words where female sex is morphologically differentiated: man-mana, (like in Spanish: *el – ella*. or in Russian *он-она*. *Translators note.*) mephe – mepha, (*regin-regina*. *Translators note*), monazoni – monazona (monk/nun), mokhutsebuli – mokhutsebula (elder man/elder woman), kaltsuli-kaltsula, kurivi-kuriva, etc. As it is shown above Georgian language does not have grammatical sex. **a** – suffix used to differentiate female sex was not in compliance with Georgian language nature, but influence from foreign languages (Greek and Russian) it was attempted to be established. Artificially created forms could not establish themselves in the language and now it represents neuter Georgian phenomenon.

In the context of morphologically marked gender differences, one of the Georgian last name’s group is very interesting to observe: Chaladze – Chala**uri** (a woman with maiden name Chaladze would be Chala**uri** after marriage – *meaning “coming from Chaladze”-TN*). Ghlonti – Ghlont**iphkhe** (a woman with maiden name Ghlonti would be Ghlont**iphkhe** after marriage) (Kobakhidze, 1987; Kurdadze, 2012). These differences are only confirmed in dialectical and verbal speech.

15. *Gender vocabulary determined by Georgian traditions* (“Alob” book (provincial language: an agreement between fiancé and the bride-to-be before the marriage), “bride-show” (provincial language: fiancé visits bride-to-be), “returning home”(prov.: when married woman is

staying in her parents' home), Carrying "gideli" (vintage basket) – (marriage rule of Phshavi: when fiancé and bride are visiting bride's parents with gifts), "giving hand" (prov.: first arrangement of male and female parties on their marriage)...

16. *Gender defined adverb* (cattle shed, parish, house with eaves, hut (place for woman in labor and when menstruating), "deduleti" ("off mother" - mother's home), "kedloi" (prov.: a place at the house wall where there are chairs and women with handcraft are sitting), "tsolouri" ("off wife", family of wife's parents)...) )

17. *Time expressed with gender*: "adam koko" (aged person, of Adam's age), "of Adam's period" (very old), "of Adam's age" (very old, elderly), "of Adam's year" (of a long time, old, elderly)...

Lexicographical description of gender helps us record the vocabulary of certain direction. The material gives us an opportunity to comprehend and make conclusions on perception of language and language speaker's in the context of linguistic gender studies. Vocabulary material obtained by us will play role of the initial source for experts working in different spheres: for linguists, phycologists, ethnologists, experts of cultural studies, social studies, etc., Gathering of lexically evinced gender, its systematization and then publishing will facilitate development of gender researched of Georgian language, as well as this will promote gender linguistics in Georgia as a modern scientific perspective.

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