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Towards the Vocabulary Denoting *Rainbow*

S u m m a r y

“To study a language, its past and future in connection with culture and history – it means, to study the most essential, the most valuable what we have in a language – as in social phenomenon” (Arn. Chikobava).

It is well-known, that two levels can be conditionally distinguished in any language: **mythic** and **historic**. The first (mythic) reflects the world through symbols, the other (historic) – transforms the real characteristic to a relevant social formation into a language reality. Manifestation of a “mythic thinking” – it is the perceiving of concrete phenomena of the world in the forms of symbolic generalization and their transforming into relevant depict. Mythic transformation of earlier cosmogonic images takes place in a language.

A clear example of this is the **rainbow**: in the material world there is a seven-coloured arch, which appears in the opposite of the sun in rain-drops through refracting of the sun rays. This is an objective, real data, the corresponding lexical units of which are built on different motivation in different languages (according to a form, colour and others). For the Georgian language reality, it is a ‘**cis sartqeli**’ – “a belt of the sky”, **cisartqela** (Zan-Megr. **cašortqapu**, Svan. **deceš lartq / dece lartq**). The following synonyms are evidenced in dictionaries: **mšvildi** – ‘bow’, **cis mšvildi** ‘the sky-bow’, **irise**.

The rainbow – as the God’s (or the sky’s, or angels’ and other heaven beings or phenomena’s) weapon (a bow) a sign, a way, an arch, etc. is reflected in different peoples’ mythological and religious oral traditions and a language, relevantly to a language perception of a nation.

The data of the Kartvelian (Georgian, Megrelian, Svan), the mountainian Ibero-Caucasian and Indo-European languages is reflected in the article.

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