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Cultural Similarities in Proverbs

(using the example of Georgian, Svanetian and Azerbaijanian languages)

This paper will be delivered in English.

The region of the Caucasus is known for its multinational, cultural and ethnic diversities. These factors have brought about inevitable social and cultural contacts which are reflected and manifested in a number of ways including languages, for example, a collection of specific proverbs.

Thus this paper will be based on data taken from two groups of languages spoken in the Caucasian region. On the one hand, it will analyse and compare the data of the relevant groups of proverbs of two Kartvelian languages (Georgian and Svanetian - 200 proverbs from each language), and on the other hand, compare those of Azeri proverbs (up to 150 proverbs).

The criterion for selection to the collection was the existence of a lexeme (or lexemes) of cultural or historical significance in the proverb shared by the communities speaking the abovementioned languages in the region. On the basis of the Pragma-Semantic model of a proverb (Rusieshvili, 2005), fully and partially equivalent proverbs will be singled out and compared.

Rusieshvili, M. The Proverb, Tbilisi, 2005 (in Georgian). Monograph published by Lomisi Publishing House.