

Medieval Writing Systems

(From the History of Georgian language)

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The development of Georgian language in a broader context of the Late Antiquity and medieval Christian East;

Emancipation of vernacular languages in buffer countries of Eastern Roman Empire: Coptic, Ethiopian, Gothic, Caucasian Albanian, Armenian, Georgian and Church Slavonic; the medieval writing system as a most important prerequisite for the emancipation of vernacular languages.

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The Kartvelian (South Caucasian) language family (ქართველური ენები):

Georgian (Iberian) ქართული

Mengrelian (Kolchis) მეგრული

Laz ლაზური

Svan სვანური

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Mapping of Georgians/Kartvelian languages in the earliest mythological and historical narratives

Argonautica

Herodotes

Thukidides

Strabo

Phlavios Josephos

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1. pre-Christian writing tradition in Georgia before the introduction of the original Georgian script;
2. Christianization and the introduction of the original Georgian script Asomtavruli (ასომთავრული);

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Urartian



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Epigraphic Corpus of Georgia

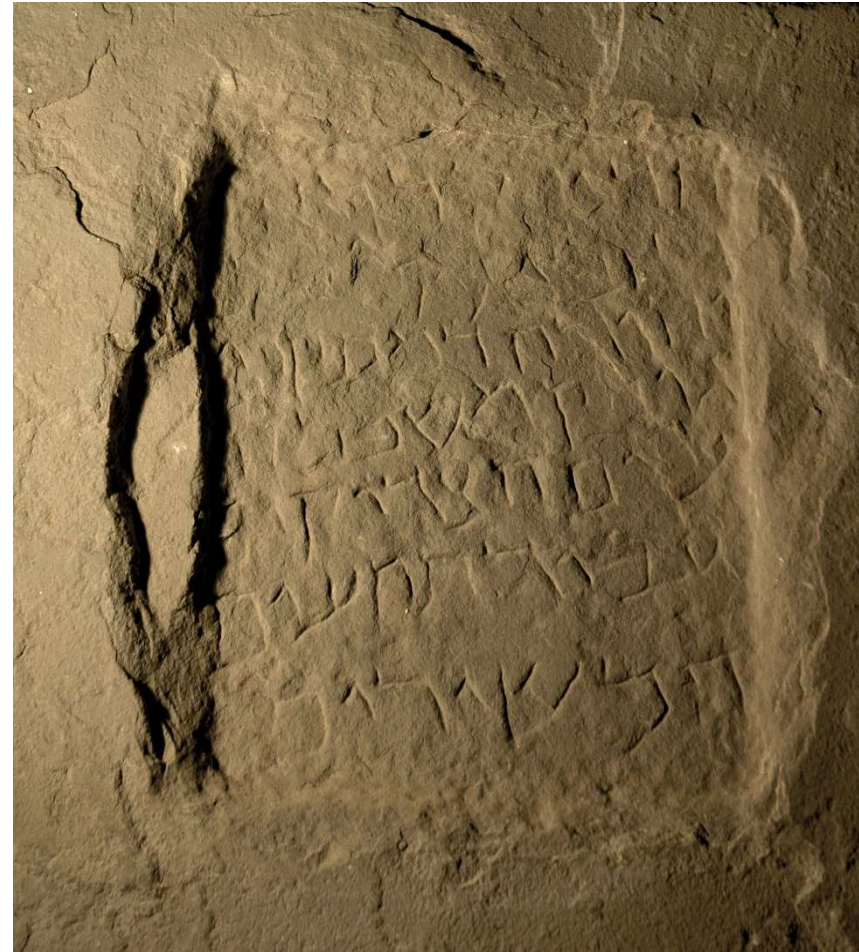
<https://epigraphy.iliauni.edu.ge/ka/>

- a) Pre-Christian Greek inscriptions and Papyri from Colchis and Iberia,

Grigol Cereteli, Papyri russischer und georgischer Sammlungen, herausg. von G. Zereteli. Bearb. von G. Zereteli, O. Kruger und P. Yernstedt. Ed. G. Zereteli. I-V, Tbilisi, 1925-1935; Amsterdam, 1966-1967 (in German)

- a) b) Inscriptions and manuscripts from the Christian period (from the 4th c.)

Jewish inscriptions from Mtskheta 1st c. AD



Armazi bilingual

Σηραπειτις Ζηουαχου
του Νεωτερου Πιτιαξου
θυγάτηρ Πουπλικιου Αγραππα Πιτιαξου
οΐου Ιωδμανγγανου γυνή
του πολλὰς νεΐκας ποιήσαντος

Ἐπιτρόπου βασιλέως Ἰβηρων Μεγαλου Ξηφαρνουγου ἀπέθανε
νεωτέρα ἐτῶν Κα
ἥτις ὅστις τό κάλλος ἀμώμητον
εἶχε

אנה סערפיט זי ברתי
זיוח קליל בטחש זי פרסמן
מלך אנתת זי יודמנגן ונציח
וכביר ארוסת עבידא רב
תרבץ זי חסיפרנוג מלך ברי

זי אגריף רבתרבץ זי
פרסמן מלך חבלחבליך מא
זי פרנוש לא גמיר והכין
טב ושפיר יהוה היך זי בר

אינש לא דמע יהוה מן
טבות ומאיתין בשנת כא



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- Christianization and the process of emancipation of vernacular languages;
- “Eastern vernacular languages which did not belong to the politically, culturally or religiously accepted or privileged languages, became literary languages” (W. Boeder).
- Inculturation and important social functions of vernacular languages

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“If an ordinary linguist compares the history of the Georgian and Oriental languages with that of Western European languages, he will definitely be surprised at the significant difference visible in the development of these languages. [...] Historical, linguistic, and social problems need explanation. How did it happen, that Georgian was established not only as a language spreading Christianity but has firmly maintained its place up to our time? Why did Greek fail to dominate here as an ecclesiastic, liturgical, scientific, as well as literary and official language, which could be expected as an analogy of Latin in medieval western Europe?” (W. Boeder).

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W. Boeder, Sprachen und Nationen im Raum des Kaukasus" , in: Gerd Hentschel (ed.): *Über Muttersprachen und Vaterländer. Zur Entwicklung von Standardsprachen und Nationen in Europa*. Frankfurt am Main ...: Lang, 1997, pp. 183-209; W. Boeder, Altgeorgisch", in: *"Alte" Sprachen*. Beiträge zum Bremer Kolloquium über "Alte Sprachen und Sprachstufen" (Bremen, Sommersemester 2003). Herausgegeben von Thomas Stolz (= Diversitas Linguarum 8). Bochum: Universitätsverlag Dr. N. Brockmeyer, 2004, pp. 135-165; W. Boeder, Sprache und Identität in der Geschichte der Georgier", in: *Georgien im Spiegel seiner Geschichte*. Zweites Deutsch-Georgisches Symposium, 9. Bis 11. Mai 1997, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Preußischer Kulturbesitz. Vortragstexte. Herausgegeben für die Berliner Georgische Gesellschaft e.V. von Brigitta Schrade und Thomas Ahbe. Berlin, 1998, 68-81

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