

Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Georgian Philology

*With the Right of Manuscript*

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The XIX Century Muslim Georgia  
In Georgian Documentary-Artistic Prose and Publicism

Dissertation/Specialty-Philology/Literary Criticism

## S Y N O P S I S

of the Thesis Submitted for Gaining the Academic Degree  
of Doctor of Philology

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The Dissertation is available to the library of Shota Rustaveli State University.

The Synopsis was sent -----

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## **General Description of the Thesis**

**The Object** of our Thesis is to explore the XIX century Muslim Georgia in Georgian Documentary-Artistic Prose and Publicism of the second half of the XIX century. The study of the XIX century Georgia is quite difficult and at the same time very interesting. That's why this topic has always been the subject of research for many scientists.

We have picked up an interesting scientific material and on the basis of its analysis formed our view and conclusions.

The deep study of the Georgian documentary-artistic prose and publicism of the second half of the XIX century has given us all grounds to highlight the following issues:

- Political-economic situation of the second half of the XIX century;
- Historical Adjara, which became a battlefield;
- An intersection of different religious views;
- Traditions and customs of local population;
- Georgian public figures and their role in raising national self-consciousness.

**Relevance of the topic.** The subject of the research is the reflection of problems of the XIX century Georgia in Georgian documentary-artistic prose and publicism. The detailed overview of the topic reveals the contribution made by the Georgian public figures for their homeland in the second half of the XIX century.

The scientific work is remarkable by its diversity and concreteness. The main part of the Thesis is dedicated to the ideological understanding and the analysis of the topic.

The views and ideas of modern public figures, publishers, ethnographers and researchers of the second half of the XIX century in connection with the given topic are of the greatest interest.

The Dissertation work sheds light on views and beliefs of the famous public figures of the XIX century, as well as the ideas of the less known individuals, what is more important for all the stakeholders.

**The main goal of the Thesis** is the study and evaluation of those Georgian public figures's works who lived in the second half of the XIX century and participated in the complex processes of that time.

Our aim is to analyze the “Muslim Georgia” through the found materials from different angles. It should be noted that a peculiar attention is paid to the analysis of papers published in periodicals of that time in order to reveal the painful consequences of the ongoing processes in the second half of the XIX century.

**The object and the methods of research.** In the process of research we used documentary prose, monographs, scientific articles, periodical editions of the second half of the XIX century, in particular, "Droeba" and "Iveria". The study of theoretical works has resulted in drawing basic conclusions.

It also helped to identify the peculiarities of the topic of research and to carry out its ideological analysis.

**Scientific novelty of the Paper.** We have had the opportunity to learn more new facts about famous public men as well as to get acquainted with the less known figures, who could fully describe different problems existed in the regions of Georgia in the second half of the XIX century.

Our Dissertation work is a step forward in the study of the XIX century Muslim Georgia. It could be used as a peculiar guide for those interested in the given topic.

**The volume and the structure of the Thesis:** The Thesis consists of computer printed 130 pages. It includes Introduction, 3 Chapters, Paragraphs and General Conclusions. A list of literature references and electronic sources is attached to the Dissertation as well.

### **Contents of the Thesis**

Introduction deals with the goals and objectives, set in the Dissertation work, and emphasizes its topicality. The theoretical value of the Thesis is considered as well. Introduction discusses the relevance of the topic, the research methodology and the expected results.

Introduction reveals a political state of the country in the second half of the XIX century, which subsequently led to the beginning of the renewed process of Muhajiroba ( Muhajirs - Muslim population who had massively left Georgia during persecutions). Introduction deals with the special attitude of the people, who lived in the 60s, to their homeland.

We get acquainted and with their methods of fight against the enemies and analyzed them. The periodic editions, created by the Tergdaleulni (a group of radicals who supported the political ideals of Karl Marx) at the end of the XIX century, became a chronicle of this epoch.

The Dissertation work focuses on the papers of individual researchers and pays attention to political, economic and historical values of the second half of the XIX century.

**Chapter I – The Muslim Georgia in the documentary - artistic prose of the XIX century** – consists of 5 Paragraphs: 1. 1. Giorgi Kazbegi; 1.2. Zakaria Tchitchinadze; 1.3. Tedo Sakhokia; 1.4 Dimitri Bakradze; 1.5. Saingilo Theme.

Paragraph 1.1. deals with Giorgi Kazbegi's journey to Southwest Georgia, which is given in a form of documentary prose. "Three months in Turkey's Georgia" is a title of the book by George Kazbegi, which clearly shows the current political and social situation of the country.

Giorgi Kazbegi's journey represents one of the most interesting works containing the mixture of traditions, customs, economic conditions and religious views of each village in southwestern Georgia. The analysis of this story precisely allows us to create a general historical-cultural picture.

Paragraph 1.2. narrates about Zakaria Tchitchinadze's merits. It also deals with the analysis of Muhajiroba. Zakaria Tchitchinadze referred to this process with great pain. He also cared about the preservation of Georgian language, because he realized the significance of Georgian language for the national identity.

It should be noted that Zakaria Tchitchinadze had a tolerant attitude towards religion. This issue is circumstantially considered in the given paragraph. Here we have tried to get acquainted with the details of Zakaria Tchitchinadze's journey and to convey the researcher's views, goals, results with the lesser accuracy. Zakaria Tchitchinadze's most important trip was to Adjara.

Paragraph 1.3. tells about Tedo Sakhokia's travelling and its results. Tedo Sakhokia lived in the period when the lands, captured by the enemies, were returned to the homeland. Therefore, the researcher describes the situation of that period in detail. A special place in his work is assigned to Adjara's role.

Tedo Sakhokia described his trip to different villages of Adjara in his monograph "Travels". The researcher reveals the situation in the villages, talks about education issues, discusses Russia's and Ottoman's attitude toward Adjara. It is obvious that the researcher prefers Russia to Ottoman.

The following paragraph of the Chapter I includes some interesting facts about Dimitri Bakradze's life, who greatly contributed to enhancing the national self-consciousness and preserving the spirit of the Georgian people.

Dimitri Bakradze had an especially distinguished attitude towards the Georgian public figures: the researcher tried to make his contemporary public figures take to heart the difficult situation in the country. Describing the country's history, he wanted to pay the Georgian society's attention to the region of Adjara.

The last paragraph is dedicated to Saingilo (formerly Georgian Azeri area) theme. It describes a geographical location and separate corners of this place. The paragraph deals with the Avars' raids, which were quite common in Saingilo in the second half of the XIX century.

We have also mentioned here such public figures as T.Papuashvili, Z.Edili and analyzed their works, which include a detailed description of the situation in Saingilo, the relationship of the local people, their attitude, family traditions and customs, etc.

We have singled out the interesting references, which in some way emphasize a tense situation in Saingilo.

Z. Edili divides the population of Saingilo into two parts – the Kekeli and the Eliseli Ingilians. The interrelations and distinctive features are presented as a result of research in this paragraph.

**Chapter II** – The process of Muhajiroba in the Georgian press in the second half of the XIX century.

The title itself refers to our population's most painful process of the XIX century Muslim Georgia. Before talking directly about the process of Muhajiroba, we have reviewed the reasons and historical facts that caused this process.

In this Chapter we have identified those regions where the process of Muhajiroba was going on most heavily. These regions (Tao, Klarjeti, Artaani, Adjara, Kobuleti) were almost completely abandoned.

The Chapter deals with the merits of the Georgian Muhajirs who have managed to maintain the Georgian language, the traditions and customs determining their national identity.

The chapter also describes the constant struggle of Ottomans, on the one hand, and Russians, on the other hand, who tried to deserve the friendliness of the local people of the historic Adjara, what, in its turn, would have strengthened their position in this region. In this chapter we also emphasize the role and the aim of the periodicity towards this problem. The periodical editions of this epoch occupied a special place in the life of the Muhajirs.

A certain part of publicists wrote that the Muhajirs were satisfied with the results of the resettlement, while the other part indicated that they, on the contrary, regretted and wanted to return to their homeland.

The aim of this paragraph was to reveal a special attitude and an attempt to maintain the national spirit, what could have been gained by the Georgian society of the XIX century with the help of the periodic body.

The events of the XIX century were reflected and analyzed by the Georgian press. Iliа Chavchavadze, Akaki Tsereteli, Sergei Meskhi, Niko Nikoladze, Iakob Gogebashvili and others described and examined the situation in the Adjara region with full accuracy in their works and tried to evoke the patriotic feelings among the population. We have studied and analyzed the opinions and ideas of different public figures, published in the periodic press. We tried to draw the attention to the most important issues of the above mentioned epoch, which determined the formation of political and national views. At the same time, the analysis of the journalistic letters has been resulted in the evaluation of the given epoch and the process.

**Chapter III** – we have discussed Muslim Georgia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Georgian publicism, as one of the directions of journalism in which epoch problems were described authentically. Since 60-70-s of the XIX century, according to the interests of the society, papers of Georgian periodics often used to print interesting letters and researches. Thus, it is very interesting to get acquainted and analyze the inheritance of publicists who published in the newspapers and magazines of the last century. We speak about those publicist letters which are discussed in the present paper in details.

In order to properly depict vital picture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is necessary to study the literature and publicist production which authentically reflects actuality of those issues that were present in the given historical epoch.

Thought and mind of the abovementioned epoch's researchers was directed towards Muslim Georgia, who created and left authentic reflection of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century reality. Right on this base, we considered necessary to look up for publicist letters and select them, so as interested people could get acquainted with them in one space.

Published magazines and newspapers in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century contributed to increase national self-consciousness in society.

It was the transitive epoch when a new type of thinking established, different ideas, goals started to appear. Consequently, in the present chapter, we considered it interesting to draw our attention on the newspapers “Droeba” and “Iveria”, which had become a national liberation headquarter.

The mentioned third chapter consists of several Paragraphs – 3.1 the newspaper “Droeba”; 3.2 the newspaper “Iveria”; 3.3 Davit Tsereteli’s publicism; 3.4 Saingilo in the second half publicism of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; 3.5 Saingilo in the newspaper “Droeba”; 3.6 Saingilo in the newspaper “Iveria”.

In the Paragraph 3.1., the newspaper “Droeba”, we discuss current affairs in Ajara region. On the basis of different publicists thoughts we examine lifestyle, customs, and peculiarities of different religions of local people. We consider the role and assignment of the periodical organ really interesting in order to get acquainted with the mentioned problem.

The newspaper “Droeba”, that had become a flag for national liberation movement, used to have many readers, as it really reflected Ajara reality in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By the newspaper we got acquainted with the thinking of famous publicists as well as thoughts of local people, which expressed the mentioned reality even clearer.

From the publications brought in this chapter it is clear that the newspaper “Droeba” shows worries of both famous public figures and those who tried to resist the enemy with the power of words. They wanted to show their fighting efficiency and obstinacy. On the basis of publicist letters found in the present chapter, we can conclude that Georgian publicists who worked in the second half of the XIX century made great contribution to the united Georgian state formation and returning people, who were sent off from the native land by fate injustice, to the united Georgian space.

The Paragraph 3.2. of the third chapter – the newspaper “Iveria” also represents the sphere of our interest.

Like the newspaper “Droeba” the newspaper “Iveria” was also distinguished with obstinacy and orientation towards the mentioned epoch. In the given paragraph we have actively discussed thoughts, ideas and aims of Ilia Chavchavadze and his team-mates.

“Iveria” was a thematically diverse national publication, which must be considered an authentic chronicle of the last quarter of the XIX century. “Iveria” was the organ enforcing national self-conscious ideas of political independence of Georgian people who fought against Tsarism. The newspaper completely depicts the main worry of that time – converting fellows to Islam, their exile and Muhajirship.

Ilia Chavchavadze himself dedicated several publicist letters to this problem. We have clearly presented publicist letters of Ilia Chavchavadze and others in the Paragraph 3.2. of the stated topic.

The Paragraph 3.3. deals with Davit Tsereteli publicism. As we have already mentioned, in order to completely form the picture of the second half of the XIX century, it is necessary to get acquainted with the works of famous Georgia public figures as well as to study the thoughts of less famous for us people. One of such people was Davit Tsereteli, whose publicism is the subject of our interest, as Davit himself was a direct participant of the affairs that went on in Ajara in the second half of the XIX century. Davit Tsereteli preserved several letters for us where he presented his modern political and social processes clearly.

Davit Tsereteli belongs to the number of famous patriots, who, according to the national interests, planned their professional work with the writing and journalistic works and made their contribution to the public activities. By means of publicist letters, the publicist clearly painted existing condition of Machakhela Gorge in the XIX century. Right for this reason we considered it appropriate and important to get acquainted with Davit Tsereteli’s less famous publicist wealth.

In the third chapter we have separated Saingilo in the newspaper “Droeba” and newspaper “Iveria”. We found interesting publicist letters and tried to present Saingilo lifestyle thoroughly in the second half of the XIX century.

From the publicist letters published in the newspaper “Droeba”, we considered it interesting to give special importance to those publications that described not so desirable relationship of the Ingilo and Kiziqian.

Agitation policy of mullah-seniors did not lose actuality in Saingilo as well, on the basis of which, we considered necessary to get acquainted with several publicist letters in this chapter.

The newspaper “Droeba” gave plenty of pages to the information about Saingilo that were filled with most interesting facts. The main thing was that the publicists themselves were participants of affairs and processes of Saingilo and told stories they had witnessed themselves. This made the sense of readers even harsher and made them feel painful processes.

We also considered interesting to raise the problem of Saingilo depicted in the newspaper “Iveria”, which is a separate Paragraph.

The newspaper “Iveria” was a periodic publication of second half of the XIX century, the main goal of which was to inform Georgian people, it assisted to increase national self-conscience, especially in such regions as Ajara and Saingilo. In order to make Dissertation work complete, we considered it necessary to raise those publicist letters which clearly depicted existing problems of Saingilo in the XIX century.

From publicist letters we selected those ones that were most interesting for the country and social class. In the stated Paragraph we have reviewed the fate of the Georgian people converted to Islam and educational institutions in Saingilo. We get acquainted with general characteristics of an Ingilo woman, mother and her role in the family.

In the present Dissertation work we have tried to present Muslim Georgia of the second half of the XIX century. On the basis of our research and separate documents and publicistics we tried to present general conclusions.

As the observation made clear, the second half of the XIX century was the period, the harshness and obviousness of which was clearly familiarized by the public figures of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The analysis of the XIX century clearly showed political and social problems that existed in the second half of the XIX century. There is a separate problem of religious attitudes and

interrelationship of religious confessors. We can also see tireless labour of public figures in order to help patriots wake up again and sense the love of native land.

The study of documental-fiction and periodic publications of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, outlined tendencies clearly presented by the Dissertation work.

On the basis of rich actual material, the main principle of the paper was to present historical analysis of the processes going on in the second half of the XIX century in these parts of Georgia.

The study of the dissertational topic has shown that each researcher, publicist, ethnographer and historian obviously and clearly showed political, social and cultural state in the second half of the XIX century. And the fact, that they were direct participants and witnesses of the processes themselves, adds harshness and credibility to each work.

#### **General conclusions:**

The study of Georgian documentary-feature prose and publicist letters of the second half of the XIX century revealed interesting tendencies, namely that these genres contributed to the formation of public opinion in Georgia and aimed at informing people about various state, governmental topics, including political and religious aspirations of residents of Adjara, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Saingilo. They supported and encouraged Georgian society to be informed about Georgian traditions and values in these regions.

In the thesis we studied and discussed sketches, monographs and publications about Adjara and Saingilo created by Georgian public figures, researchers and publicists.

The main principle of the dissertation work was based on the rich factual material, which provided the historical analysis of the current processes in Georgia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The above mentioned issue was not the goal of our research but provided us with the possibility of studying the issue and correct conclusions. While studying the issue, we

realized that many facts happening today have acquired other accents, many of them have been forgotten, and so the relevance of our work was to highlight and discuss these issues.

In the dissertation research we discussed periodical editions of the second half of the XIX century, documentary feature prose created by Georgian public figures and writers.

While talking about the documentary-fiction prose of this period, we focused on the opinion of Georgian public figures such as Zakaria Chichinadze, Tedo Sakhokia, Giorgi Kazbegi, Tengiz Papuashvili and others. They mainly talked about Georgia in the second half of the XIX century, when the active phase was one of the regions of Adjara, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Saingilo, and on the other hand Russia's issue of subjugation and subordination.

The study of the issue showed that each author has clearly expressed the political, social and cultural situation in the second half of the XIX century. And the fact that they were the main participants and eyewitnesses of these processes, make the publication more reliable and harsh.

Based on the research, each author has been a kind of agitator for compatriots in order to maintain Georgian spirit, language, culture and almost forgotten traditions with their work and proclamation. They also spoke with grief about all the facts and events that contributed to the decline of national self-consciousness among the Georgian people. For example, we can note that Zakaria Tchichinadze described “Muhajiroba” as the most painful process against nationality. It is worth mentioning that Tedo Sakhokhia and Dimitri Bakradze paid attention to the many painful issues of Adjara as well.

In addition to the research of this documentary-feature prose, except single documentary facts, we reflected personal emotions of the facts and phenomena. According to the above-mentioned we conclude that the authors themselves are painfully affected by the political and social situation that is emotionally reflected in their work. Their main concern was not only to reflect the current facts and events but also the moral and psychological support of local residents in these regions, helping them to deal with painful issues.

While working on the Dissertation we studied and discussed periodical editions of the second half of the XIX century. Special attention was made to "Droeba" and "Iveria", because these periodic editions fought against Muhajiroba and other painful political processes and have made wide propaganda for the spread of literacy and popularization of the Georgian book. They were fairly considered as the leaders of magazines and newspapers, and we can undoubtedly note that these editions gave the nihilistic Georgian nation courage and firmness .

With the "times" and "Iveria", " the forgotten friends" returned to their lost faith and looked forward to their own future in the united Georgian community. Important publications printed on press papers belonging to different journalistic genres (correspondence, narrative, reporting, interview, review, interview) confirm the genre and thematic diversity of the Georgian period, and each publication, which in many cases informs facts and events, appeared as chronicler, who left us a great treasure in the form of publicist letters .

The newspaper "Droeba" was one of the leading periodical publications in which the famous public figure correspondent from Adjara and Saingilo was published with special intensity.

The newspaper "Iveria" was a publication which was always ready to embrace the sense of national self-consciousness, despite the great resistance of Georgian compatriots, and was one who fought for the restoration of the unity of Georgia.

The authors of the publication of the two publications followed the events and let the whole Georgia know about their pain .

While working on "The 19th Muslim Georgia in Georgian Documentary and Artistic Prose and Publicism", we were convinced that during this period many of the notable material was published from the past of Adjara, special attention was paid to the Muhajirs' trial, the reasons for its cause and the government were encouraged to take decisive measures to stop these processes. The inhabitants of this region were forced to ignore the psychological, moral and religious values of the Ottoman as well as the overthrow of Russians by the Russians. The

merits of Georgian journalists and public figures should be regarded as the fact that the number of muhajirs has decreased and agitation against resettlement has resulted.

In the study we have a special emphasis on the Saingilo region to learn about the situation and make sure that the Georgian nation, that strength and defiance always stood for the period of unbearable political and social factors proceeded to bend and lost values, which in time of national and moral and ethical values to keep Nancy and Charles.

The research revealed that despite the religious expansion, the women's culture, which have been in the epoch, has been particularly valuable and unattractive. Reflecting the reality of each of the researchers, the second half of the 19th century, once again assures us that the Georgian nation supported the Georgian soul by mutual respect.

In the study of the thesis of the dissertation we found out the patriarchs who tried to ignore their interests and oppose the Russian and Ottoman invaders so that they could not disgrace the Georgian nation both religious and moral. Despite their great pressure and humiliation, they maintained their faith, dignity, and most importantly their native language.

We tried to follow the second half of the 19th century chronologically. We have tried to study and investigate the facts, which are seen in Adjara and Saiglio until now. The process of work on the study has shown that "the 19th Century Georgia Georgia is a widely studied and analyzed issue in Georgian documentary-fiction prose and publicism". There are problems that require a fraudulent attitude.

We think the dissertation thesis, "The 19th Century Muslim Georgian Documentary-Artistic Prose and Publicism", the main goal was to find out how the national-liberation and cultural processes in Georgia, particularly in specific regions, were reflected in the Georgian publications and the press. We think that this issue can become a subject of many research, and this work will help people who are interested in this study in further study.

**The main provisions of the research topic are published in the following publications:**

1. „Newspaper “The Muslim Georgia“ and its role in the process of returning to the homeland of Adjara ", Faculty of Humanities, Batumi 2016.
2. „Life of Georgian Muhajirs seen by the 19<sup>th</sup> century Georgian publicists' eyes" – “Ganatleba", Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi 2014 N 1 (10), pp.50-52.
3. "Political Discourse in the Georgian Press of the Second Half of the 19th Century (Mukhajiroba) -" Humanitarian Sciences in Information Society - II ", Part III, Faculty of Humanities, Batumi 2014, pp. 174-176.
4. "Interesting Works About David Tsereteli" - "Philological Matsne II", Georgian Philology Department, Tbilisi 2015, p. 12.
5. „Reflection of the country’s problems in Georgian Press in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup>“ - „Людина віртуальна: нові горизонти“, київ 2014, 101-103.