

კულტურული მემკვიდრეობა ღია ცის ქვეშ
(ეპიტაფიებისა და ეთნოგრაფიული
მასალების მიხედვით)
CULTURAL HERITAGE UNDER THE OPEN SKY
(ACCORDING TO EPITAPHS
AND ETHNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS)

დავით შავიანიძე
ლუიზა ხაჩაპურიძე
აკაკი წერეთლის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი
ქუთაისი, საქართველო

David Shavianidze
Luiza Khachapuridze
Akaki Tsereteli State University
Kutaisi, Georgia

ABSTRACT

Epitaphs and ethnographic materials serve as primary sources for researching an ethnos' self-awareness and sociocultural characteristics. The epitaphs and related ethnographic materials that we collected in various historic-ethnographic regions of western Georgia are discussed in the proposed study.

The materials analyzed point to “the truth that a mirror tells us”. Different terms were employed to signify and distinguish between *sik'vdili* (death) and *gardac'valeba* (transformation, passing away, (“departing this world”): death is governed by “a merciless fate”, while departing from this world is governed by the “providence of nature”.

A gravestone specifies the epitaph that is a representation of various aspects, including national self-consciousness, vision, way of life conditioned by ethnopsychology, the interplay between traditional culture and modernity, unique cultural-traditional complexes, and the transmission of morals and duties across generations.

Gravestones are also epigraphic monuments adorned with inscribed or engraved ornaments and calligraphy. They manifest the history of both the nation and the national language.

The materials used for our research, collected and studied over the years during expeditions, are preserved in the collective memory of the Georgian people, akin to a museum or archive.

Based on the findings of extensive ethno-historical research, we believe that a gravestone should be acknowledged as a cultural heritage monument.

საკვანძო სიტყვები: ქართული ტრადიციული კულტურა, საფლავის ქვების ეპოგრაფიკა, ქართული ეპიტაფიები.

Keywords: Georgian traditional culture, tombstone epigraphy, Georgian epitaphs.