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## **General Linguistic Aspects of Borrowed Svan Vocabulary<sup>1</sup>**

### **ABSTRACT**

This paper presents general conclusions on all aspects related to word borrowing, taking into account the borrowing-adaptation of foreign-language lexical units assimilated into Svan from Georgian- Zan, as well as North Caucasus, Western European, Russian and Eastern languages (directly or indirectly), to determine the ways and chronology of borrowings, which is very important and interesting to present a general picture of the development of Svan phonological and lexical systems. The study of borrowed material of Svan, as it has been said many times, will once again support the opinion recognized in Kartvelology for the great (sometimes decisive) importance of the grammatical phenomena of Svan in solving a number of linguistic problems.

**Keywords:** *Vocabulary, Phonetics, Semantics*

In Svan, as in any language (unwritten or written), words borrowing is one of the main sources of vocabulary enrichment. The possibility of making this conclusion was provided by the analysis of great illustrative material, which we conducted on the example of simple roots or composites according to the data of traditionally known dialects of Svan (Upper Bal, Lower Bal, Lashkhian and Lentekhian) and Cholur speech.

This paper presents general conclusions on all aspects related to words borrowing, taking into account the borrowing-adaptation of foreign- language lexical units assimilated into Svan from Georgian-Zan, as well as North Caucasus, Western European, Russian and Eastern languages (directly or indirectly), to determine the ways and chronology of borrowings, which is very important and interesting to present a general picture of the development of Svan phonological and lexical systems. The study of borrowed Svan material, as it has been said many times, will once again support the opinion recognized in Kartvelology for the great (sometimes decisive) importance of the grammatical phenomena of

Svan in solving a number of linguistic problems.

As research has shown, borrowed Svan vocabulary includes many examples of North Caucasian (Kabardian, Circassian, Abkhazian, Ossetian ...), Western European (Greek, Latin), Russian and Eastern (Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Armenian) languages, which is due to certain contacts in time and space... Alongside, of course, there are borrowings related to Kartvelian languages (Georgian, Mingrelian, Laz), the common Kartvelian data of which is not always easy to separate, however, as it is known, the situation arising from language contacts differs substantially from the post-differentiation situation... As a result of borrowing and adaptation (interference) we do not get regular phonetic correspondence” (Machavariani 1965: 49). Since such correspondence, with a few exceptions, so far only deals with sibilants, Zan vowels transitions (Georgian **a** - Zan - **o**, Georgian - **e**, Zan **a**) can be used as a means of control. Here, of course, borrowing is out of the question, where so-called Zan vowels transitions are evidenced. At the same time, it should be taken into account whether this or that particular lexeme is represented in old Georgian written monuments. In case of a positive answer, probability of borrowing from Georgian into Svan are less confirmed, especially if the vowels correspondence will be revealed in Mingrelian.

It turns out that the roots of foreign language lexemes are confirmed as phonetically- semantically unchanged in Svan (e.g.: **აბანო abano** (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian abano; **აგუისტო agwisto** (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian agvisto < Latin **augustus** “saint, divine, great”; **ალუბალ alubal** (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian alubal-i; **ანკეს ankes** (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian ankes-i < Pra-Indo-European **\*ankes**; **კარტო- ფოლ kartopil** (Lower Bal) < Georgian kartopil-i < Russian **Картофель** < German **kartoffel**; **სირმა sirma** (Lower Bal, Lentekhian) < Georgian sirma < Persian **sirmā**; **სპილო spilo** (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian spilo < Pahlavi **pīl**; **ფინთ pint** (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian (Gurian, Kartlian, Kiziqian) pint-i < Ossetian **fyd** “avi, tsudi” – “wicked, bad”; **ყარაულ qaraul** (Lower Bal) < Georgian karaul-i < Turkish – **karawul**; **ხალ xal** (Upper Svan) < **Georgian** khal-i – < Arabic **hāl**; **ჯიშ ჯიშ** (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian jish- i < Arabic **Jins** and etc.), so with different phonetic variants (e.g.: **ბარაქ barak** (Upper Bal, Lower Svan) < Georgian baraka < Arabic **baraq**; **პირობ pirob** (Upper Svan) < Georgian pirob-a; **სუფრ supr** (Upper Svan) < Georgian supra < Arabic **sufre**; **ფალანგ palang** (Upper Svan, Lashkhanian) < Georgian (Lechkhumian, Rachian, Imeretian)

palanga “a pole (for hanging something)” < Persian **palanga**; რიყ **riq** (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian riverside rocks < Persian **rīg** “gravel, small stone”; ჯიბ ჯიბ (Upper Svan, Lentekhian) < Georgian jibe < Persian (< Arabic) **J** < **b**; თოქალთუ **tokaltw** (Upper Bal) < Georgian tokalto < Persian **tukaltu**; ოქრ **okr** (Lower Bal) < Georgian okro < Greek **oxpos** “yellow”; სამარხუ **samarxw** (Upper Bal, Lower Svan) < Georgian sa-markh-o; კემუხ **kemux** (Upper Bal) “book cover” < Georgian kemukht-i “leather”; მოახ **moax** (Lentekhian) < Georgian moakhle; ყუიხ ყუიჩ (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) “cock” – Georgian kvinchila...) or in the context of data modified by semantic nuances (e.g. კალმახ **kalmax** (Upper Svan, Lashkhanian)/კალმახუ **kakmaxw** (Lakhamulian) “fish” < Georgian kalmakh-i; კერძ **kerz** (Lower Svan) “friend, relative” < Old Georgian kerdz-i, kerdzo < Ossetian **kærd**; კირაუ **kiraw** (Lower Svan) “wattle building” < **karav-i**; მასდიკ **masdik** (Upper Svan) “hurtful, offence, grief” < Georgian sisastike < Pahlavi “strong, firm, severe”; მწიდან **mäjdan** (Upper Svan) “the door of balcony” < Georgian moedan-i < Persian **maydān**; საუდ **saud** (Upper Bal)/სეუდ **seud**/სეუდ **sewd** (Lower Bal, Lower Svan) “miss, dream of seeing” < Georgian sevda < Arabic-Persian **souda**; ჭირ **çir** (Upper Svan, Lentekhian) “to work, to take some pains, heavy work” < Georgian chir-i and etc.).

Some borrowed roots are “Svaned”, it means they contain morphonological inventory typical of Svan: palatal, veral or labial umlaut (e.g.: ბან **bän**, ღერ **yär**, უფელ **upäl**, ყუითელჿ **qwiteläj**, დიდჿ **didäb**, ზირჿ **zirüb**, დუმჿ **dumäj**, ჭალჿ **çaläj**, ჭალჿ **çalä**, გინდუერ **gindwer**, გუირგუინ **gwirgwin**...), long vowel (e.g.: ზირებ **zīreb**, მაცხუერ **macxwär**, გზარობ **gzārob**, ბედნიერ **bedniēr**, ლადრაჯალ **ladražäl**...), anaptyctic element (e.g.: აკლდამ **aḱəldam**, გემრ **gəmr**, გერზნეუილ **gərznewil**, კახემბალ **ḱaxəmbal**...) and etc., which guides to clarify geographical direction of borrowings (e.g., კალთ **ḱalät** entered in Upper Bal and Lentekhian dialects through Georgian, this is confirmed by the last vowel umlaut, which is the trace of the loss of nominative case morpheme; the original Greek **καλαζα** is preserved only in Georgian).

Sometimes the root borrowed from Georgian is so “Svaned” that quite complex phonological transformations are taken into account to restore the original version: e.g.: Upper Bal ლწხირ **lāxir** “spade” < \*ლწ-ხუ-ირ **lā-xw-ir** < \*ლწ-ნ-ხუ-ირ **lā-n-xw-ir** < \*ლა-

ნე-ხტ-ორ *la-ne-xw-ir* < Georgian *sa-nekhv-e*; for comparison Lower Bal ლაჟხი *lawxi*, Lashkhian ლაჟირ *läyir*, Lentekhian ლაჟერ *läyer*. If we had only Lower Svan data, it would probably be difficult to connect this root to Georgian root "*nekhv*". Upper Bal ჩამსტულ *čamswäl*, Lashkhian ჩამსტალ *čamswal* "duty of gunpowder" < Georgian *shemosaval-i*, the presumable transformation of which in Svan is as follows: შე-მო-სა-ვალ-ო *še-mo-sa-wal-i* > შე-მო-სა-ტულ *še-mo-sa-wäl* > \*შე-მ-სა-ტულ *še-m-sa-wäl* > \*შა-მ-სა-ტულ *ša-m-sa-wäl* > \*ჩა-მ-სტულ *ča-m-swäl*; Lower Bal ნაცემულ *näcemul*, to which had to go through a rather complicated phonological transformation from Georgian form *natlismtsemel-i*. Georgian *na-t-l-i-s-m-ts-em-el-i* > Svan \*ნა-თ-ლ-ის-მ-ც-ემ-ულ *na-t-l-is-m-c-em-ul* > \*ნა-თ-ლ-ის-ც-ემ-ულ *na-t-l-is-c-em-ul* > \*ნა-თ-ლ-ო-ც-ემ-ულ *nä-t-l-i-c-em-ul* > \*ნა-თ-ლ-ც-ემ-ულ *nä-t-l-c-em-ul* > \*ნა-თ-ც-ემ-ულ *nä-t-c-em-ul* > ნაცემულ. The stages of phonological evolution of the relevant "soul mentioning" Svan term is particularly interesting in respect of the precedence-posterior of complex transformations: Georgian *sun/l-is mo-khsen-eb-a* > Svan \*სუინ-ომ მო-ხსენ-ებ *suin-iš mo-xsen-äb* > სუინ-ომო-ხსენ-ებ *swin-i-mo-xsn-äb* > სუინ-მო-ხსენ-ებ *swin-mo-xsn-äb* > სინ-მო-ხსენ-ებ *sin-mo-xsn-äb* > სინ-ო-ხსენ-ებ *sin-o-xsn-äb* > სინ-ო-ხსენ-ობ *sin-o-xsn-ob* or: სუინ-მო-ხსენ-ებ *swin-mo-xsn-äb* > სუინ-ო-ხსენ-ებ *swin-o-xsn-äb* > სუინ-ო-ხსენ-ებ *swin-o-xsn-äb* and etc.

One extremely well-defined tendency of auslaut nature of Svan names transformation open-syllables structures into closed-syllables ones is most often expressed in borrowed stems (წმინდ *čmind* (Lower Svan) < Georgian *tsminda* < Pahlavi *spand*; ხელმწიფ *xelčip* (Lentekhian) < Georgian *khelmtsipe*; საწუთრ *sačutr* (Lashkhian) < Old Georgian *satsutro*; ამბ *ambä* (Lower Bal) < Georgian *ambav-i* < Pahlavi *hambav*; მოახ *moax* (Lentekhian) < Georgian *moakhle*; საბერწამ *sabərčäm* (Lower Bal) < Georgian *sa-pir-is-tsaml-e* and etc., which implies simplification of forms.

in most borrowed Svan words there are the compensatory ones obtained as a result of the loss of consonants or the merging of vowels (e.g.: გზარობ *gzärob* (Lashkhian) < Georgian *m-gza-v-r-ob-a*; ლი-გა-ზდ-ილ-ე *li-gä-zd-il-e* < \*ლი-გა-ზრდ-ილ-ე *li-gä-zrd-il-e* < \*ლი-გა-ზარდ-ილ-ე *li-ga-zard-il-e* "to bring up well, to train" < Georgian *ga-zrd-a...*) or combinatorial length (e.g.: ზირებ *zireb* (Lashkhian) < Old Georgian *ziareba*;

მაცხტურ macxwār (Upper Bal)/მაცხტურ macxwār (Lashkian) < Georgian ma-tskh-ov-ar-i...), deaffrication-spirantization (e.g.: ზზანება bzaneba (Upper Bal) < Georgian brdzan-eba (dz > z) < Pahlavi frazān “to get to know, to understand; თერზ terz (Lower Bal) < Georgian terdz-i (dressmaker); ქინზ kinz (Upper Svan) < Georgian kindz-i; ღერზ yerz (Upper Bal) < Georgian gherdz-i; შიშლანგ šišläg (Upper Bal) < Georgian chichilak-i...), to make consonants voiced (e.g.: აზად azād (Lakhamulian) < Georgian azat-i “free peasant” < Persian āzād “free”; პრისდაუ prisdaw (Lower Svan) < Georgian pristav-i < Russian пристав; ყაჯ ყაჯ (Upper Svan) < Old Georgian kach-i...), alternation of sonant consonants (e.g.: შაშლ šašäl (Lower Bal) “blow” < Georgian (Pshavian, Kiziqian) sha-shar-i “sword tip, edged on both sides; “sharp to be released blood” (Saba); ხანჯარ xanžār (Upper Svan, Lentekhan)/ხანჯარ xanžar (Lashkian) < Georgian khanjal-i; შაურდელ šawur-del (Upper Svan) < Georgian she-var-den-i; მუზეინ muzein (Lower Bal) < Georgian muzeum-i...), reduction (ა a, ე e, ი i, ო o, უ u > გ ə) processes in light and hard forms (e.g.: მარგლიტ margaliṭ (Upper Svan) < Georgian margalit-i; კახემბალ kaxəmbal (Lashkian)/კახემბალ kaxəmbal (Lentekhan) < Georgian kakhambal-i “thick cherry”; გემრ gəmr (Lower Bal), for comparison Lower Svan გმირ gmir < Georgian gmir-i: ლილუპაუი liywpäwi (Upper Bal, Lentekhan)/ლილუპაუი liywpawi (Lashkian) < Georgian daghupva...), assimilation-dissimilation (e.g.: ართქუილ artkwil/ართქუილ ärtkwil (Upper Bal) < Georgian ertgul-i; წიმწარ čimčār (Upper Svan, Lentekhan)/წიმწარ čimčar (Lashkian) < Georgian dzir-m-ts-ar-a/e; წუნწ cunč (Lashkian)/წინწკუ činčkw (Lentekhan) < Georgian dzunts-i...), to add the sounds (e.g.: ბანჭ banč (Lower Svan) < Georgian paich-i; ბუხ(ტ)არ bux{w}ar (Upper Svan) < Georgian buxhar-i < Persian buxar; დეპუტანტ deputaṭ (Ushgulian) < Georgian deputat-i < Russian Депутат; საღათ sayät (Upper Svan) < Georgian saat-i < Turkish (Arabic-Persian) saat; კუმალმანდ qwmalmänd (Upper Svan, Lentekhan)/კუმალმანდ qwalmänd (Lashkian) < Georgian khomald-i < Turkish xumald...), aspiration (e.g.: ჰარაყ haräq (Upper Svan) < Georgian arak-i < Arabic arak; ჰემმა hešmäj (Upper Bal) < Georgian eshkma{k}-i < Pahlavi hēšmak; ჰენგორ həngir (Upper Bal)/ჰინგორ hingir (Lower Bal) < Georgian unagir-i < Iranian hunagīr...),

metathesis (e.g.: ბერტკილ *berwḱil*/ბერკუტილ *berḱwil* (Upper Bal) < Georgian *bork-il-i*; თაკუ *täḱw* (Upper Svan, Lentekhian)/თეკუ *teḱw* (Lashkhian) < Georgian *tok-i* < Armenian *tok...*) and etc.

As the observation on the material showed, the borrowed material entered in Svan not only from the literary language, but also from dialects (e.g.: Lentekhian ბულტდან *buywdän* “fertile” < Georgian (Rachian) *bughdavan-i* “good accessible place”, (Lechkhumian) *baghdavan-i* “good, abundant place”; Lentekhian გუბრჯილ *gwärzil*/გუარჯილ *gwärzil* “sulgun-i – “variety of hard cheese” < Georgian (Lechkhumian) *gvajil-i* “sulguni - variety of hard cheese”; Upper Bal ჩაბანა *čabānāy* “measure of cereals” < Meskhian ჩანა *čanay-i* < literary Georgian *chanakh-i* < Turkish *çanak* “crockery”; Cholur წადილნელა *čwadilnelaj* < Georgian (Rachian) *mtsvadinela* “blue-flowered bulb plant of the lily family - Tsistvala" and etc.

In this regard, the abundance of data of western dailects of Georgia is especially noticeable. There is difference even within the dialects of Svan itself: In Lashkhian and Lentekhian there are much more Georgian borrowings than in Upper Bal dialect, while in Lower Bal Zan (Mingrelian-Laz) vocabulary is more prevalent (e.g.: Lower Bal ბუყუინ *buqwin* "wooden barrel for storing cheese for winter" < Zan (Mingrelian) ბუყუნ-ო/ბუყუნ-ო *bukun-i/buk'n-i* "wooden utensil, barrel made specially, which are used to pour milk, to make yogurt; often to store grain (maize), flour"; Lower Bal კორკოც *korḱoc* < Zan (Mingrelian) კორკოც-ე *korḱoc-e* “whooping cough; strong cough”; Lower Bal ნახუაწა *naxwača* < Zan (Mingrelian) ნახვაწა *naxvača* “crust formed on the bottom of the saucapan when making Ghomi (porridge), \_ Ghomi crust”; Lower Bal უოსხირ *wosxir*/ოსხირ *osxir* < Zan (Mingrelian) ოსხირი/ოსხერი *osxiri/osxəri* “beam, foundation, basis, on which the wall of the house were built”; Lower Bal ჩხუინდ *čxwindä* (Lower Bal) “a man with a twisted nose or an ugly nose” < Zan (Mingrelian) ჩხვინდ-ამ-ო *čxvind-am-i* “big-nosed, long-nosed, pointed”, Laz ჩხვინდა *čxvinda* “big-nosed” and etc.).

Attention must be paid to the chronological flatness of the borrowed words. The situation is especially difficult when dealing with ancient borrowings, which may have been represented by sounds correspondence in Kartvelian languages: Although Georgian სპილენძ-ო - *spilendz-i* and Svan სპილენჯ *spilenž* - *spilenj* at first glance reveal the regular

phonemes correspondence (**dz** \_ **j**), we still can not consider them as later data after the differentiation of the Pre-Georgian language, because in ancient Georgian **პილენძ-ო** - **pilendz-i** (< Middle Persian \**pirinz* \_ Andronikashvili 966, 16-18, 168, 186, 202, 262, 361-365) was more common than **სპილენძ-ო** - **spilendz-i**; the latter seems relatively late and therefore, naturally, could not give correspondence in Svan. The same can be said about the stem **ვერცხლ-** **vertskhl**, which is only found in old written monuments of the 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> centuries, and in ancient sources this lexeme without sonant is represented in inlaut (**ვეცხლ-ო** - **vertskhl-i**). According to special literature (Z. Sarjveladze, H. Fenrich, G. Klimov), Svan **ვარჩხილ** **warčxil** - **varchkhil** is considered to be borrowed from Mingrelian **ვარჩხილ-ო** - **varchchkhil-i**.

Adding sonant in inlaut, is common phenomenon for Mingrelian. Since Georgian form **ვერცხლ** - **vertskhl** is late, obviously, we consider this stem to be derived from the common Kartvelian level. Also, despite the fact that in Svan "black colour" is conveyed by the suffix **შხ-** **shkh** (for comparison Georgian „**ნა-ხშ-ორ-ო**“ - “*na-khsh-ir-i*” - coal or „**ცხ-ობ-ა**“ – “*tskh-ob-a*” – to bake) expressing the root "burning" after the differentiation of the Pre-Kartvelian language, at least in relatively late borrowings (Upper Svan **შაუბედ** **šawbed** “black fortune”; Upper Bal **შაუგურმალ** **šawgurmäl**, Upper Svan **შეგურმან** **šegurmän**, Lashkian **შეუგურემან** **šewgwreman**, Lentekhan **შაუგურმან** **šawgurmän** “swarthy”; Lower Bal **შაურაშ** **šawräx** “dark-complexioned”; Lashkian **შაუფსხალაჲ** **šawpsxalaj** “pear variety, black pear”, Shavmskhala) **შავ** - **shav** is confirmed.

We have specially studied as borrowed religious (mainly Christian) vocabulary (e.g.: **აიაზმა** **aiazma** (Upper Svan) “saint, sanctified (water)” < Georgian *aiazma* < Greek **Αγιασμός** (**agiasmos**) “sanctify”; **ბარძიმ** **barzim** (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Old Georgian *bardzim-i* "church utensils having feet made of silver (or other precious metal) for eucharist" < Pahlavi **Barzīn** “tall”; **ზირაბ** **ziräb** (Upper Svan)/**ზირებ** **zireb**/**ზიარებ** **ziareb** (Lashkian)/**ზირაბ** **zirab** (Lentekhan)/**ძიარება** **ziareba** (Ushgulian) < Old Georgian *ziareb-a*; **კრისდე** **krisde** (Upper Svan, Lashkian) < Georgian **kriste** < Greek **χριστός**; **მაცხუარ** **macxwär** (Upper Bal)/**მაცხუარ** **macxwär** (Lower Bal, Lentekhan), for comparison Lashkian, Cholur **მაცხუარ** **macxwär** 1. “Our Savior”, 2. “the church of Our Savior” < Old Georgian *ma-tskh-ov-ar-i...*), as well as foreign-language toponymic material

assimilated from Georgian-Zan directly or indirectly (e.g.: **ასტმელდ astməld** (Upper Bal) “shrubby”; pasture (exactly **ასტამ-უკა-astam-uka**)” < Old Georgian *astam-i*; **ორლობ oryob** (Lashkian) “pasture (exactly **ორ-ლობე - or-ghobe**)” < Georgian *orghobe*; **ტევრ თევრ** (Lentekhian) “vineyard (exactly **ტევრ-ი - tevri-i**)” < Georgian *tevri-i* “dense forest, tickets”; **ბულონ bulon** (Lentekhian, Lakhamulian) “mountain, summer pasture of the Mingrelians (exactly **ბალ-ნ-არ-ი -bal-n-ar-i**)” < Mingrelian *bulon-i* “a place where many cherries (trees) stand”; **ტყაბედნიერ tğabednier** (Lakhamulian) “cornfield (exactly **ტყე-ბედ-ნ-იერ-ი - tke-bed-n-ier-i**)” < **ტყაბედნიერი-ი tğabednirer - tyabednirer-i**; **წყურგინ çqurgin** (Lakhamulian) “way (exactly **წყარო გრილი - tskaro grili**)” < Mingrelian **წყურგილი çqurgili** “spring”; **კანოლ kanol** (Lower Bal) “hay meadow; legislative place (exactly - **კანონ-ი - kanon-i**)” < Georgian *kanon-i* < Greek *kanōn*; **ლათთუნუარ lattunwar** (Lentekhian) “pasture (exactly **სა-თუთუნ-ე - sa-tutun-e**)” < Georgian *tutun-i* < Turkish *tutun* “tobacco”; **ჭაბუკუანი çabgwäni** (Lower Bal) “arable (exactly - **სა-ჭაბუკ-ე - sa-chabuk-e**)” < Georgian *chabuk-i* < Persian *čāpūk*; **ლაშერბათილ lašərbätıl** (Upper Bal) “spring (exactly **სა-შარბათ-ო-უკა-სა - sa-sharbat-o-uka**)” < Georgian *sharbat-i* < Arabic *Sarbat*; **ლერანგ leräng** (Lower Bal) “hay meadow (exactly **სა-რანგ-ე - sa-rang-e**)” Georgian (Rachian), Mingrelian *rang-i* “drink made of honey, honey wine” < Ossetian *rong...*), most of them are presented for the first time in Kartvelological linguistics. It was interesting to study Svan hybrid (resp. crossbreed) toponyms containing borrowed anthroponyms. One of the components we have identified in most of the basic models of hybrid toponyms (mostly the first, or in this case anthroponym), as a result of a considerable amount of illustration material, as expected, turned out to be borrowed from different languages (directly or indirectly). It is known from special literature that foreign anthroponyms are found next to national names in almost all languages, and, obviously, Svan is no exception in this respect, where besides the Svan material itself, it is often foreign, mainly borrowed from Turkish (e.g.: **ბეკერბი bekerbi** < Karachay-Balkar **bij** < Turkish **beg** (/bej) “mister”; **რადიმხან dimxan** < Turkish **radim** + the oldest Turkish rank **xan**; **ყარბეგ qarbeg** < Turkish **kara** “black”, “brave” + **beg** (/bej) “mister”...), anthroponyms are also confirmed, most of which are considered to have been assimilated from Karachay-Balkar in Svan (Jikia 1973: 213).

Exactly the language absorbed these anthroponyms and used as forming a geographical name, although along with Turkish anthroponyms we often find anthroponyms borrowed from Greek (e.g. **ანთიმოზ** *äntimoz* (Upper Svan, Lentekhian) < Georgian *antimoz-i* (< Greek) “florid”, blossoming”; **პეტრე** *peṭre* (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian *Petre* (< Greek) “rock, large rock”...), from Hebrew (e.g.: **ეესებ** *jeseb/ესებ* *eseb* (Lower Bal) < Georgian *Ioseb-i* (< Old Hebrew) “reproduction”, “increase”; **აბრამ** *abram* (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian *Abram-i* (< Old Hebrew) “father of heights”, “raised up”...), from Russian (e.g.: **მეხა** *mexä* (Lower Bal)/**მიხე** *mixe* (Iakhamulian) < Georgian *Mikheil-i* < Russian **Михаил** < **Greek** **Μιχαηλ** < Old Hebrew **Miqael**...), from Ossetian (e.g.: **სოსლან** *soslan* (Lower Bal) < Georgian *Soslan-i* (< Ossetian < Ingush) “the name of one of the heroes of the epic of the Narts” ...), from Iranian (e.g. **არჩილ** *ärçil* (Upper Svan, Lentekhian)/**არჩილ** *arçil* (Lashkhan, Cholur) < Georgian *Archil-i* (Iranian) “correct”, “sincere”, “right”, “bright”, “merciful”, from Old Slavic (**ლადიმერ** *lädimer* (Upper Svan) < Georgian *Vladimer* (< Old Slavic) “owner of the country), from Arabic-Persian (**მურზაყან** (Upper Svan) < Georgian *Mirza* < Arabic-Persian **Amirzade** “Emir’s son” + Persian suffix **xan** (**Mirzakhani**)...) and etc. Borrowed anthroponyms, most of which are currently found only in toponyms and in names denoting family-branch names. Most of the foreign-language anthroponyms have been preserved by the names denoting family-branch names and, as M. Kaldani indicated, they saved them from eventual oblivion (Kaldani 1987: 304). Obviously, most of the mentioned anthroponyms are assimilated into Svan from Georgian-Zan (directly or indirectly).

### Conclusion:

Clearly, our main area of interest is to determine the geographical direction of the borrowing and, if possible, the chronology, which, of course, is associated with great difficulty. Determining the chronological boundaries of borrowed words is usually difficult, especially when dealing with ancient borrowings, which may have been represented by sound correspondence in Kartvelian languages (Sagliani 2005: 218). The anthroponyms that have survived in Svan toponyms and family-branch names are of ancient formation and most of them, as already mentioned, have been preserved by

toponyms and family-branch names. In addition, early proper nouns of Svan have undergone phonetic-semantic adaptations over time, that makes it difficult to restore the original form of analytical forms and makes it even difficult to define both chronological boundaries and the geographical direction of borrowing.

#### NOTES:

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