**Author: Natia Botkoveli**

**Supervisor: Prof. Marine Ivanishvili**

**Aims**

In the presented work would be considered Zan borrowings in the Gurian dialect: plant names

**Introduction**

The Kartvelian languages (Georgian, Zan (Megrelian and Laz) and Svan are reach in dialectal varieties. The investigation of the Kartvelian dialects may be effective according to various points of view: characterizing the dialects' phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical peculiarities; showing the common lingual tendencies manifested in the dialects of this or that district; investigating the principle of linguistic isoglosses; from the ethnic- territorial point of view, etc.

**Overview**

All the Kartvelian languages and dialects historically and nowadays are closely connected to each other; especially the western Georgian dialects are related to geographically near to them localized Zan languages.

According to the scientific literature, one of the west Georgian - Gurian dialect, is influenced by Megrelian language. Academician Ivane Javakhishvili, analyzing Gurian place names, toponyms, writes: “Gurian geographical names argue that until Gurians there have lived tribes, who spoke Megrelian”. Lots of names of places and rivers could be explained on the basis of Megrelian: Mountain Jikhanjiri [ǯixanǯiri] (Georg.: Tsikhisziri [cixisʒiri], “the bottom of the fortress”, Jumati [ǯumati] “laz: brother”, Chkongvari [č̣q̇ongvari] “č̣q̇on, Megr.: oak”, river Ochkhamuri [očxamuri] “piscatorial”, etc.

According to the scholars, Zan (Megrelian and Laz) language was one of the general factors, which played a significant role in formation of the western Georgian dialects (Gurian, Acharian, Imeretian). The influence of Megrelian is obvious even nowadays in the domains of phonetics, morphology, syntax and vocabulary.

**Our task**

In the presented research is obtained the empirical data from the basic lexical fund of the language, particularly, the plant names. There is compared Gurian lexical unites to the other Georgian dialects, also Megrelian, Laz and Svan ones. The influence upon Gurian became clearer. There are three types of similarity:

1) Gurian plant names are absolutely similar to Zan ones;

2) Similarity in phonetical changes;

3) In Gurian dialect there are translated Megrelian plant names.

**Conclusion**

As it was already noted the influence of Zan language on the Gurian dialect appears in vocabulary too. Our results show that all three groups of plant names in the Gurian dialect comprise great amount of lexical units borrowed from Zan language.