

“LANGUAGES IN CONTEMPORARY GEORGIA”

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Abstract

The main topic of the report will be issues related to functionality of the languages in Post-Soviet state – Georgia from the 90-ies to the present. Research materials can be classified in terms of sociolinguistics, covers issues related to the functionality of state languages, language characteristics in the autonomous republic:

From the 90-ies Georgian language is given an opportunity for the first time to accomplish mission of the state language. It shall be noted that majority of the population of Georgia is Russian speaking and there are many organizations which operate in Russian.

In early 90-ies after gaining independence, Georgia found itself in a transition period and various issues related to the functionality of the language became important, such as: language legislation, language of instruction, languages of national minorities and other.

Besides the Georgian language, Abkhazian (the second state language) has an importance in terms of its functionality. There are several Caucasian languages that are on an edge of extinction and Abkhazian is one of these. It suffers from small areas of functionality and active usage of Russian language in this region is an additional threat. There are less people who tend to speak the language and same trend applies to the research and study of Abkhazian.

General review of the linguistic situation in Georgia will be performed in the topic, issues related to functionality of two state languages of Georgia will be presented more specifically, such as share of use of these languages in media, educational system, state agencies, literature and etc. Additional materials will be given to have a general linguistic picture, such as languages of the national minorities (which are big quantity in Georgia) and the other issues related to functionality of languages.

Such analyses will enable us to have a clear image of language related environment in contemporary Georgia and to also compare situation to the past and try to find correlation between Georgian and Abkhazian languages on number of problematic issues.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Functionality of languages; Contemporary Georgia;