

COMPOUND NAMES IN LAZIAN

TSIALA NARAKIDZE

Philologist, Researcher at the Department of Folklore,
Dialectology and Emigrant Literature Research of
Niko Berdzenishvili Institute of Batumi Shota
Rustaveli State University
E-mail: tsiala.narakidze@bsu.edu.ge
ORCID: 0009-0001-6862-5977

Abstract: The aim of the paper is to compile and conduct a comparative study of the composites known in the scientific literature and the composites discovered by us among the Laz population over the years, based on the field-specific collection and study of vocabulary. The Laz dialect of the Zan language presents interesting and characteristic empirical material in terms of producing compound words. Producing composites, Lazian follows Georgian, although it exhibits some peculiarities. The research revealed that we do not find any base-doubled composites with “and” connection in Lazian. There are also few compound words with vowel, consonant, or syllable alternations. Lexical items of Lazian, hybrid-Lazian-foreign language, or borrowed lexical units are confirmed as components of the composites recorded in Lazian. The presented research is interesting from both linguistic and ethnographic perspective.

Key words: Lazian, compound word, producing, hybrid-foreign language.

The composite was characteristic of the Kartvelian languages from the very beginning. Naturally, lexical units formed by composition are abundantly found in Laz speech as well. Such common words of composition as *gui*, *ti*, *toli*, *nana*, *khe* and etc. are found as component members of compound words in Lazian, like in Georgian. Dozens of compound words with these components are established in the lexicon of the Lazian language.

G u r p i j i – chest. “*Gurpiji*” is a single-concept composite. Both components are nouns – *guri*-heart, *piji*-mouth.

G u i c h i c h k u – soft-hearted. “*Guichichku*” is a single-concept composite. The first component is noun – *gui*-heart, the second component is adjective – *chichku*-infant.

G u i t c h v e i – heartbroken, saddened. “*Gritchvei*” is a single-concept composite. The first component is noun – *gui*-heart, the second component is participle – *chvei*-burnt.

T i g e d v a l e i – dedicated. “*Tigedvalei*” is a single-concept composite. The first component is noun – *ti*-head, the second component is participle – *gedvalei*-laid down.

T i k i k i – conceited. “*Tikiki*” is a single-concept composite. The first component is noun – *ti*-head. Semantics of the second component “*kiki*” cannot be determined, because this word is no longer used independently in Lazian.

N a n a s h a n t e s i – stepmother. “*Nanashantesi*” is a single-concept composite. The first component “*nana*” is a word of Georgian origin and means “mother” in Lazian, while the meaning of “*antesi*” is unknown, but according to one of the tellers from Arhavi, “*antesi-antisi*” is a Greek word and means “step”. Synonymous forms of “*nanashantesi*” are “*nanaotskhe*” and “*nanaoge*”. “*Otskhe*” is a term of Zan origin and means “borrowing”. “*Oge*” is a word of Eastern origin and means “in exchange for”.

K h e r g e l i – awkward (couldn’t do anything). Synonymous forms of “*khergeli*” are “*khekote*”, “*khebergi*”, “*khekatsi*”.

K h e g h u l a – thief. This composite was recorded by us for the first time. It is important and noteworthy that the word “Khirsuzi” of Eastern origin is used as a term for “thief” in the Laz language. The discovery of this composite suggests that “kheghula” was previously used as a term for “thief” in Lazian.

O s u r t c h k o r i – Married daughter. “Osurtchkori” is a single-concept composite. The first component “osur” is more a word adapted to the Zan speech than a regular equivalent of the Georgian word “asuli” (daughter). However, “osur” is rare in Chan, but common in Megrelian. In Chan, it has retained the meaning it has in Georgian (daughter), but in Megrelian, the meaning has changed somewhat. The main meaning of “osur” is “wife”, but “osurskua” means “daughter” and “osurkata” – “women”, contrary to

“kimolkata”. The second component of composite “tchkori” is used in the meaning of “slave”, “obedient” in Megrelian, but the term “osurtchkori” in the meaning of a married daughter is not found at all. It is noteworthy the term “motchkudu” in Megrelian, which a single woman wears after her engagement. The etymology of this term is interesting. In Megrelian, the word for dowry is “otchkuduri”. This word is derived from the verb “tchkvidua”, which means “break” in Georgian. “Motchkudu” means abducted, that is, someone who has been forcibly separated from the whole. An engaged woman is also separated from her birth family, she is adopted by another family, and therefore the name of an engaged woman is derived from this. In Lazian we have the verb “otchkiru” || “otchkoru” (to cut). It is possible that, like the Megrelian “motchkudua”, “tchkori” – the second component of the composite “osurtchkori” comes from the verb “otchkoru” and means a daughter – cut, separated from her father&No39;s family. In parallel with “osurtchkori”, the existence of the term “okhotchkao” in Lazian, the second component of which – “tchkori” – is derived from the Greek “kiura” and refers to a woman, suggests that it is possible, “tchkori” is derived from the Greek “kiura”, but the separate existence of components of the composite with different meanings in Lazian and Megrelian, indicates the Zan origin of this term.

O k h o r m a n j e – is a single-concept composite. The first component is presented as the base “okhor”, while the meaning of the second component “manje” is unknown. According to some tellers, “okhormanje” is a businesslike, capable, skillful man, devoted to his family, and the head of the family.

O k h r a s k i r i || O k h a s k i i – brother-in-law. This term literally means a child of home. The first component of composite “okhor” is “home” and the second component “skiri” is “child”. Similarly to “okhraskiri”, in Lazian the composite “o k h r a s u l e” || “o k h a s u l e” is used to mean the sister-in-law, and means the daughter of home. The term “okhasule” is also important and noteworthy from the point of view that the second component of this composite “asuli” suggests that in Lazian, “asuli” was previously used as a term for daughter, which is not currently used in Laz speech. Producing the composites, Lazian follows the Megrelian rule, but here it seems more limited (Topuria, 1979:304). Various types of composites are also found in Lazian, like in Georgian: composites with unchanged and changed base from base-doubled composites. The composites with unchanged base from base-doubled composites are: tamo-tamo – slowly; mani-mani – hurry; kap-kapi – wicked, demon. The following are composites that have undergone base changing due to phonetic phenomena: v i r v i l i : b i l b i l i – toy

g h a r g h a l i : o g h a r g h a l u – speaking

k a r k a l a: pumpkin ...

k v i l i - k v a l a – In this composite, not only the base is simply repeated, but the vowel is also changed.

B e r e - b a r i – In this composite, not only the base is repeated, but vowels are also changed and a doubled base is used to indicate abundance. From composites with different base

a) Definitive composites:

M z o g h a p i j i – seashore; K h e s h g u r i – palm; K u d e l m t c h

i t a – redstart; T i k h c h e – white-headed; K c h e n j a – poplar; K h

e g o s v e i - touched; G e t a n a p i j i – dawn... There are also found composites truncated with suffix -sh -ish in genitive case:

J o g h o r k u r d z e n i – dogwood; T s k a r m z e s k u – waterthrush; K h e b i g a – walking stick...

b) The composition of the possessive composites is like Georgian:

N o s i - t i t k h u – light-minded; To l i - g o n t s k i m e r i – watchful;

G u i g e d v a l e i – dedicated; T i t e t e l i – bareheaded; K a i g u o n i – kind...

c) The connection “and“ is meant in base-different double-concept composites without connection:

N u k u - p i j i – face; T o l i - k u j i – observe; C h i l - k i m o j i – husband and wife; K h e - k u c h k h e – arms and legs; S e r - d g h a l e r i – day and night... In Lazian, the loss of a consonant or an entire syllable is often expected in prepositional compound words. For example: J u m a d i – uncle. Arn. Chikobava explains this word as follows: Juma-didi, i.e. big-brother or older brother (Chikobava, 1938:28). It is similar d a d i. da-didi - older sister. “Dadi“ is used in Lazian to mean aunt. Like Georgian, Lazian also contains composites formed by combining the bases of three words:

K h e k u c h k h e g o t a k h e i – with broken arms and legs

K h e l a k a u b a d z i a m e i – the ones seen joy and goodness

G u i s k h e g e d v a l e i – with folded arms

T o l i p i j i d o l o u c h a n e i – with blackened eyes and mouth

K h e k u c h k h e k i e l i – with bound feet and hands...

It is known that a language exposed to a foreign language environment undergoes changes, which is clearly reflected in the vocabulary. The immediate environment of the Greek and Turkish speaking world has left its mark on Lazian as well. That is why Laz-foreign language hybrid or borrowed composites are quite common in Lazian:

N o g h a m i s a – bride. “Noghamisa“ is a single-concept composite. In the first component “no“ is a Lazian confix producing participle. The base “gham“ must come from a term of Greek origin – gamos (ghamos) and we find a number of Greek terms with this base that are entirely related to marriage (Kharikov, 1980:205).

O f i d i d z o n d z o l a – Eyebrow man. The first component “ofidi“ is Greek term and means an eyebrow. The second component “dzondzola“ is a word of Lazian origin and means ragged.

B o r j i g e d v a l e i – obliged. The first component of composite – “Borji“ (borc) is Turkish word and means a debt.

T o l i k y o r i – blind. The second component of composite – “kyori“ is Turkish word and means blind.

I g b a l i g o t c h v e i – unlucky, unhappy. The first component of composite – “igbal“ (ixbal) is a word of Eastern origin and means fate.

Y a r a k o t s k i m e i – with opened wound. The first component of composite – “yara“ (yara) is Turkish word and means a wound.

N u n k u e s m e r i – brunette. The second component of composite – “esmer“ is Arabic word and means brunette, dark. Among the composites borrowed in Lazian, mainly complex words of Eastern origin (composites) are found, such as:

A k h i r z a m a n i (ahirzaman Arabic) – the end of the country, the second coming, bad time (Chlaidze, 2001:34, 308, 558);

D a r m a d a g h a n i (darmadağın Turkish) – messy, scattered;

Y a r a l - p a r a l i (yaral-paral Turkish) – wounded and torn;

G y u l y a g h i (gülyağı Turkish) – rose oil...

Thus, producing compound words in Lazian presents an interesting linguistic picture. It is natural that in this respect Lazian follows the rule of composite production established in common Kartvelian, although it exhibits some peculiarities. Particularly important are those composites whose component member revives previously widespread lexical units in Lazian, which have been replaced by a term of Eastern.

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