General linguistic aspects of borrowed Svan vocabulary

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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, probebility 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; აგვისტო agwisto (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian agvisto < Latin augustus “saint, divine, great”; ალუბაl alubal (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian alubal-i; ანკი ankes (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian ankes-i < Pra-Indo-European ankes; კარტოპილ kartopil (Lower Bal) < Georgian kartopil-i < Russian Картопель < German kartoffel; სირმა sirma (Lower Bal, Lentekhian) < Georgian sirma < Persian sirmā; სპილო spilo (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian spilo < Pahlavi pīl; პირობ pirob (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian (Gurian, Kartlian, Kiziqian) pint-i < Ossetian fyd “avi, tsudi” – “wicked, bad”; ვარაულ qaraul (Lower Bal) < Georgian karaul-i < Turkish – karawul; ხალ xal (Upper Svan) < Georgian khal-i – < Arabic ھال: چھال jil (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian jish- i < Arabic Jins and etc.), so with different phonetic variants (e.g.: აბურა barak (Upper Bal, Lower Svan) < Georgian baraka < Arabic baraq; პირობ pirob (Upper Svan) < Georgian pirob-a; სუფრ supr (Upper Svan) < Georgian supra < Arabic sufre; პალანგ palang (Upper Svan, Lashkhian) < Georgian (Lechkhumian, Rachian, Imeretian)
palanga “a pole (for hanging something)” < Persian palanga; ღობ რიგ (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian riverside rocks < Persian რიგ “gravel, small stone”; ღოხ ჸიხ (Upper Svan, Lentekhian) < Georgian jibe < Persian (⟨Arabic⟩) ჯ < ბ; ღოხლაჸკელ თოკალთუ (Upper Bal) < Georgian tokalto < Persian თუკალთ; ღოხ ჭორ (Lower Bal) < Georgian okro < Greek օξπος “yellow”; სამარახ სამარქვ წომ (Upper Bal, Lower Svan) < Georgian sa-markh-o; ღოხე ქემუქ (Upper Bal) “book cover” < Georgian kemukht-i “leather”; ღოხი მოაქ (Lentekhian) < Georgian moakhle; ღუჯი ქვიშ (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) “cock” – Georgian kvinchila…) or in the context of data modified by semantic nuances (e.g. ღოხი ქალმაქ (Upper Svan, Lashkhhian)/ ღოხე ქაკმაქვ (Lakhamulian) (“fish”) < Georgian kalmakh-i; ღოხ ქერქ (Lower Svan) “friend, relative” < Old Georgian kerdz-i, kerdzo < Ossetian ქარდ; ღოხე ქირავ (Lower Svan) “wattle building” < ქარავ-ი; ღანგიქ მასდი (Upper Svan) “hurtful, offence, grief” < Georgian sisastike < Pahlavi “strong, firm, severe”; ღამაჸა მაჸდან (Upper Svan) “the door of balcony” < Georgian moedan-i < Persian მადან; ღაგ ჰაიო (Upper Bal)/ ღაჸი ჰეიო/ ღაჸი ჰიო (Lower Bal, Lower Svan) “miss, dream of seeing” < Georgian sevda < Arabic-Persian ჰოდ; ღოხ ჩორ (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 morphological inventory typical of Svan: palatal, vernal or labial umlaut (e.g.: ღაჸთ ბაჰ, ღოხ იარ, ფოკტაჸ უპაჳ, ღუჯჸოკელ ჭილელაჸ, ღოხე დიდაჸ, ღოხე ზირაჸ, ღაჸთ გუმაჸ, ღაჸთ ცაჸაჸ, ღიდჸოკელ გინდვერ, ღუჯჸოკელ გვირგინ…), long vowel (e.g.: ღაჸთ ზირებ, ღაჸთ-გაკახთ მაქსვაჸ, ღაჸთ-გაგარიაჸ გაზაჸბ, ღაჸთ გედნიერ, ღაჸთ-გალი ლადაჸილ…), anaptyctic element (e.g.: ღაჸთკათ აკალემ, ღილჸთ გამრ, ღაჸთკათ გარზნულ, ღაჸთკათ კაჸამბაჸ…) and etc., which guides to clarify geographical direction of borrowings (e.g., ღაჸთკათ კალატ 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 კალაჭა 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 ღაჸთკათ ლაჸირ “spade” < *ღაჸთკათ ქან-აგჸ-ირ < *ღაჸთკათ ქან-აგჸ-ირ < *ღაჸთ.
the loss of consonants or the merging of
particularly interesting in respect of the precedence
posterior of complex transformations:
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 (ქურთის ფანში (Lower Svan) < Georgian tsminda < Pahlavi spand; ხულმოქალაქო xekip
(Lentekhian) < Georgian khelmtsipe; საქართველო saçutri (Lashkhian) < Old Georgian satsutro;
აბა (Lower Bal) < Georgian amb-i < Pahlavi hambav; თაო moax (Lentekhian) <
Georgian moakhle; საბარჯა sabărçäm (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.: ქურთის ფანში gzärob (Lashkhian) <
Georgian m-gza-v-r-ob-a; ქორთ პარკ-ოკო-ქ li-gä-zd-il-e < ქორთ პარკ-ოკო-ქ li-gä-zrd-il-e < ქორთ პარკ-ოკო-ქ li-ga-zard-il-e “to bring up well, to train” < Georgian ga-zrd-a...) or combinatorial length (e.g.: ქუვთი zireb (Lashkhian) < Old Georgian ziareba;
macwār (Upper Bal)/macwār (Lashkhian) < Georgian ma-tskh-ov-ar-i…), deaffrication-spirantization (e.g.: ḏwaneba (Upper Bal) < Georgian brdzan-eb-a (dz > z) < Pahlavi frazān “to get to know, to understand; terz (Lower Bal) < Georgian terdz-i (dressmaker); kinz (Upper Svan) < Georgian kindz-i; yerz (Upper Bal) < Georgian gherdz-i; šlāg (Upper Bal) < Georgian chichilak-i…), to make consonants voiced (e.g.: azād (Lakhamulian) < Georgian azat-i “free peasant” < Persian azād “free”; prisdaw (Lower Svan) < Georgian pristav-i < Russian pristav; ḏāzād (Upper Svan) < Old Georgian kach-i…), alternation of sonant consonants (e.g.: ḏasāl (Lower Bal) “blow” < Georgian (Pshavian, Kiziqian) sha-shar-i “sword tip, edged on both sides; “sharp to be released blood” (Saba); xanǰār (Upper Svan, Lentekhian)/xanǰār (Lashkhian) < Georgian khanjal-i; šawur-del (Upper Svan) < Georgian she-warden-i; muzein (Lower Bal) < Georgian muzeum-i…), reduction (a, e, o, u > a) processes in light and hard forms (e.g.: margalit (Upper Svan) < Georgian margalit-i; kaxəmbal (Lashkhian)/kaxəmbal (lentekhian) < Georgian kakhambal-i “thick cherry”; gamr (Lower Bal), for comparison Lower Svan gmir < Georgian gmir-i: liywāwi (Upper Bal, Lentekhian)/liywāwi (Lashkhian) < Georgian daghupva…), assimilation-dissimilation (e.g.: artkwil/artkwil (Upper Bal) < Georgian ergtul-i; cimčar (Upper Svan, Lentekhian)/cimčar (Lashkhian) < Georgian dzir-m-ts-ar-a/e; cunc (Lashkhian)/cincw (Lentekhian) < Georgian dzunts-i…), to add the sounds (e.g.: banč (Lower Svan) < Georgian paich-i; bux{w}ar (Upper Svan) < Georgian bukhar-i < Persian buxar; deputat (Ushgulian) < Georgian deputat-i < Russian Deputat; sayāt (Upper Svan) < Georgian saat-i < Turkish (Arabic-Persian) saat; qwałmand (Upper Svan, Lentekhian)/qwałmand (Lashkhian) < Georgian khomald-i < Turkish xumald…), aspiration (e.g.: harāq (Upper Svan) < Georgian arak-i < Arabic arak; hešmāj (Upper Bal) < Georgian eshka{r}-i < Pahlavi hešmak; hangir (Upper Bal)/hingir (Lower Bal) < Georgian unagir-i < Iranian hunagir…),
metathesis (e.g.: ბერკილ/ბერქილ berwikil/berkwil (Upper Bal) < Georgian bork-il-i; თაქ/täkw (Upper Svan, Lentekhian)/თექ tekw (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 ბუღდან/buywdän “fertile” < Georgian (Rachian) bughdavan-i “good accessible place”, (Lechkhumian) baghdavan-i “good, abundant place”; Lentekhian გურჯილ/gwärǯil/გარჯილ gwärǯil “sulgun-i – “variety of hard cheese” < Georgian (Lechkhumian) gvajil-i “sulguni - variety of hard cheese”; Upper Bal ქაბანა/ვარჯილ čabānäy/çavarǯil “measure of cereals” < Meskhian ხან- ჩანავ/ჩანი- ო čanay-i < literary Georgian chanakh-i < Turkish çanak “crockery”; Cholur წარვანდილეა/ჭავინილეა čwadilnelaj < Georgian (Rachian) mtsvadinela “blue-flowered bulb plant of the lily family - Tsistvala” and etc.

In this regard, the abundance of data of western dialects 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 ოსხირ/ოსხჷრი wosxir/osxiri “beam, foundation, basis, on which the wall of the house were built”; Lower Bal ჩხვინდა/ჭხვანდ čxvinda “big-nosed”) and etc. (Lower Bal წარვან/ჭავინ ჭაო/ჭაა čaow/cxw “big, long-nosed, pointed”, Laz ჭაო/ჭაა čxw “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- i and Svan სპილენჯ spilenź - 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 11th -12th centuries, and in ancient sources this lexeme without sonant is represented in inlaut (ვეცხლ- i). According to special literature (Z. Sarjveladze, H. Fenrich, G. Klimov), Svan არჩხილ warčxil - varchkhil is considered to be borrowed from Mingrelian არჩხილ- o’ – varchkhil-i’.

Adding sonoant in inlaut, is common phenomenon for Mingrelian. Since Georgian form პილენძ - 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 „ბ-ბ-ო-შ-“ – na-khsh-ir-i” – coal or „ო-ო-შ-“ – 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 შაბედ sawbed “black fortune”; Upper Bal შაგურმალ šawgurmäl, Upper Svan შეგურმან šegurmän, Lashkhian შეგურმან šewgwreman, Lentekhian შაგურმან šawgurmän “swarthy”; Lower Bal შარｘ šawräx “dark-complexioned”; Lashkhian შაფსხალაჲ 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 barʒim (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Old Georgian bardzim-i “church utensils having feet made of silver (or other precious metal) for eucharist” < Pahlavi Barzin “tall”; ზირბა zirāb (Upper Svan)/ზირე ზიარებ (Lashkhian)/ზირე ზიარებ (Lentekhian)/ზიარება (Ushgulian) < Old Georgian ziar eb-a; ქრისტე krisde (Upper Svan, Lashkhian) < Georgian kreste < Greek χριστός; მაცხრ macxwär (Upper Bal)/მაცხრე მაცხღორ macxwär (Lower Bal, Lentekhian), for comparison Lashkhian, Cholur მაცხრი macxwari 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.: ასტმჷლდ astmald (Upper Bal) “shrubbery”; pasture (exactly ასტამ-ი astam-uka) < Old Georgian astam-i; არღობ oryob (Lashkhian) “pasture (exactly არგჸობ orghobe)” < Georgian orghobe; ტევრ tewr (Lentekhian) “vineyard (exactly ტევრი tevri-i)” < Georgian tevri-i “dence forest, tickets”; ბულონ bulon (Lentekhian, Lakhamulian) “mountain, summer pasture of the Mingrelians (exactly ბალ-ნ-არი bal-n-ar-i)” < Mingrelian bulon-i “a place where many cherries (trees) stand”; ტყაბედნიერ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგობ ორგო
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 антиmoz (Upper Svan, Lentekhian) < Georgian antimozi (< Greek) “florid”, blossoming”; პეტრე petre (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian Petre (< Greek) “rock, large rock”…), from Hebrew (e.g. იესებ/ესებ jeseb/eseb (Lower Bal) < Georgian Ioseb-i (< Old Hebrew) “reproduction”, “increase”; აბრაამ abram (Upper Svan, Lower Svan) < Georgian Abram-i (< Old Hebrew) "father of heights”, “raised up”…), from Russian (e.g. მეხოხო mexä (Lower Bal) მიხე mixe (lakhamulian) < Georgian Mikheil-i < Russian Михаил < Greek Μιχαήλ < Old Hebrew "father of heights”, “raised up”…), 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 arčil (Upper Svan, Lentekhian)/არჩილ arčil (Lashkhian, Cholur) < Georgian Archil-i (Iranian) “correct”, “sincere”, “right”, “bright”, “merciful”, from Old Slavic (лăдимер lădimmer (Upper Svan) < Georgian Vladimer (< Old Slavic) "owner of the country), from Arabic-Persian (امیرزاده Amirzade (Upper Svan) < Georgian Mirza < Arabic-Persian Amirzade “Emir’s son” + Persian suffix خان 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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