

# Unknown Pages of English-Georgian Lexicography (George Ellis and his Comparative Lexicon of Kartvelian Languages)

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**Abstract:** In 1788 a book was published by the British author George Ellis in London under the title *Memoir of a Map of the Countries Comprehended Between the Black Sea, and the Caspian, with an Account of the Caucasian Nations and Vocabularies of their Languages*. The book describes the history, culture, and religion of the peoples of the Caucasus, and provides information about the languages spoken in the Caucasus region. While discussing the countries of the Caucasus, a certain space is dedicated to Georgia with geographic, political and ethnographic information, which is followed by a small comparative lexicon of the Kartvelian languages. It is noteworthy that the author is interested not only in the Georgian language, but also in the other Kartvelian languages, and the book contains material of Megrelian and Svan along with Georgian. It can be said that the lexicographic material included in this book is the first example of describing the material of Kartvelian languages for English readers. Our article provides short information about the book itself, and discusses Ellis's *Comparative Lexicon of Kartvelian Languages* and its sources. Special attention is paid to the transliteration rules of Kartvelian words into English, which are mainly based on the rules of Modern English spelling. Ellis's *Comparative Lexicon of the Kartvelian Languages* is important for the study of early stages in the history of English-Georgian lexicography; it is also interesting in the context of linguistic affinity, as the Kartvelian languages are presented in it exactly from this point of view.

**Keywords:** Kartvelian languages, comparative lexicon, Georgian language, Megrelian language, Svan language, transliteration rules, affinity of languages

## Introduction

On July 26, 1963, a well-known Georgian anglicist, Professor Niko Q'iasashvili, published an article in the newspaper "Literary Georgia", entitled "About One Unique Book".<sup>1</sup> Thanks to this article, the Georgian public learned for the first time about a book of the British author George Ellis, *Memoir of Map of the Countries Comprehended Between the Black Sea, and the Caspian, with an Account of the Caucasian Nations and Vocabularies of their Languages* (see Fig. 1).

The book was published in London in 1788. It describes the history, culture, and religion of the peoples of the Caucasus, and provides some information about the languages spoken in the Caucasus region. While discussing the countries of the Caucasus, a certain place is dedicated to Georgia, which is followed by a small comparative lexicon of the Kartvelian languages. It is noteworthy that the author is interested not only in the Georgian language, but also in Kartvelian languages, and the book contains material of the Megrelian and Svan languages along with

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<sup>1</sup> Q'iasashvili 1963.

Georgian. It can be said that the lexicographic material included in this book is the first example of describing the Kartvelian languages with respect to English.

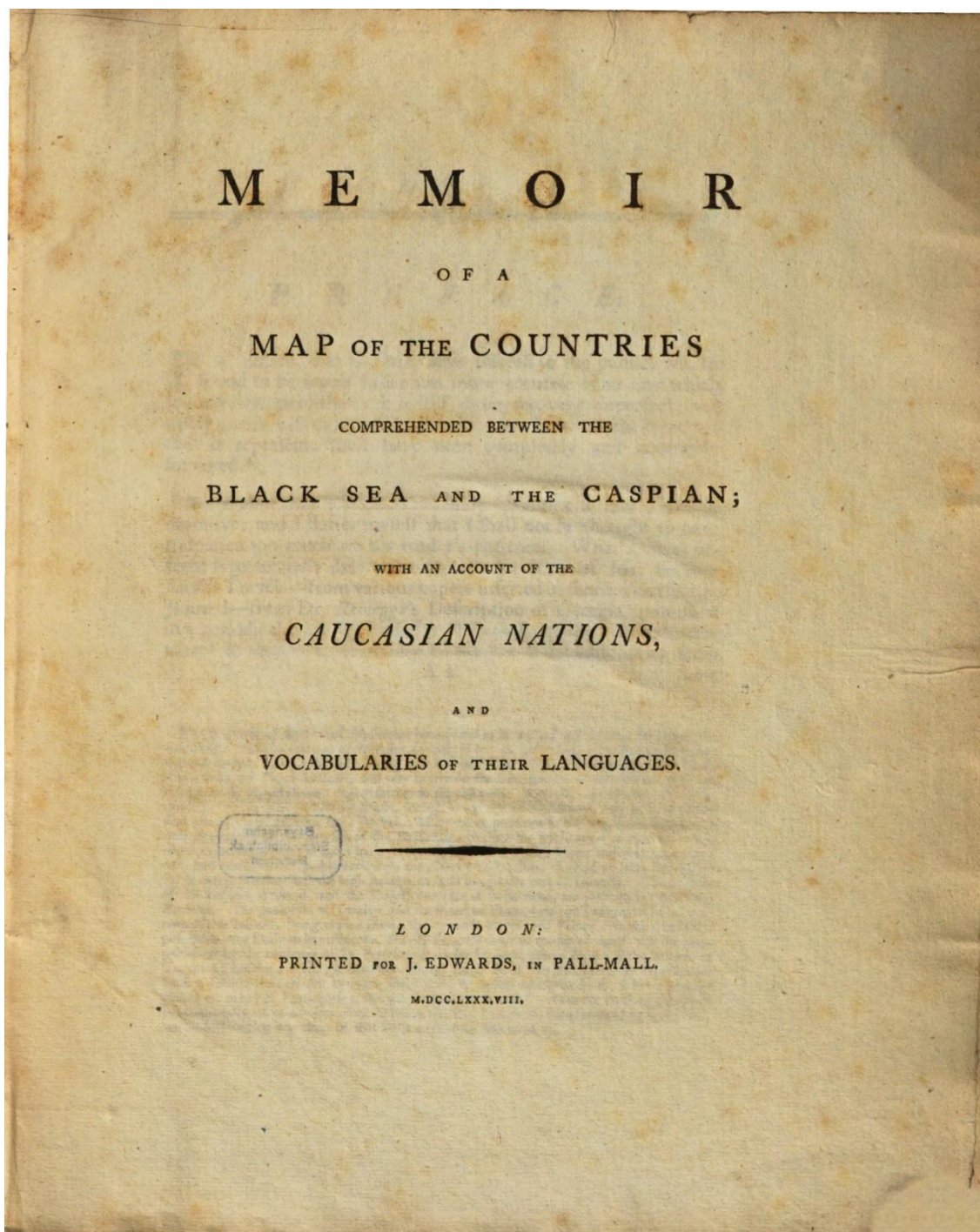


Fig. 1: George Ellis's *Memoir*, title page of the copy of Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München

That is the reason why the book attracted the attention of Niko Q'iasashvili, along with the ethnographic, geographical, and political information it contains about Georgia. It was exactly this lexicographic material that determined our interest in this book.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Ketevan Margiani and Sophio Daraselia who helped us in the correct interpretation and analysis of the English-Svan and English-Megrelian parts of the Lexicon.

## 1. George Ellis and his Sources

As mentioned above, George Ellis's *Memoir of Map of the Countries Comprahended Between the Black Sea, and the Caspian, with an Account of the Caucasian Nations and Vocabularies of their Languages* was published in London in 1788. The book consists of three parts: 1) a map of the Caucasus (see Fig. 2); 2) short information about the peoples of the Caucasus, their history, religion, culture and some other issues; 3) small comparative lexicons of the languages of the Caucasian peoples, including the Kartvelian languages. Apart from the Kartvelian languages, Ellis's book includes glossaries of the Abkhaz, Kabardian-Circassian, Ossetian, Chechen, and Lezgian languages. As Niko Q'iasashvili points out in his above-mentioned article, the Lexicon of the Georgian language is quite adequately compiled compared to other languages, as even specialists often have difficulties in recognising words of those languages.<sup>2</sup>

George Ellis was a highly educated man who received his education at Cambridge University. He was a historian, diplomat, a member of the Parliament. In 1782–1783, Ellis was on a diplomatic mission to St. Petersburg with the British ambassador, Sir James Harris. It was during this period that he became interested in the Caucasus and the Caucasian peoples.



Fig. 2: George Ellis's Map

Ellis himself had never been to the Caucasus and, while working on his book, he relied mainly on the travel notes of Johann Anton Gldenstdt, Jacob Reineggs' description of Georgia, the works of Peter Simon Pallas and Friedrich Mller. He also used some ancient sources for his book.<sup>3</sup>

From the preface of the book we learn that George Ellis's Comparative Lexicon was based on the *Comparative Dictionary of the Languages of the Whole World* published on the order of the Russian Empress Catherine II (in Latin *Linguarum totius orbis vocabularia comparativa*, in Russian *Сравнительные словари всех языков и наречий*),<sup>4</sup> which contains material of about 200 languages of the world, including Caucasian and Kartvelian languages. For the compilation

<sup>2</sup> Q'iasashvili 1963.

<sup>3</sup> Odzeli 1998: 32–33.

<sup>4</sup> [https://archive.org/details/bub\\_gb\\_mPBLAAAAcAAJ](https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_mPBLAAAAcAAJ).



of this dictionary, Catherine II invited the famous German scientist, encyclopedist, naturalist, geographer, and traveller Peter Simon Pallas, who had been a member of the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences since 1767. The dictionary was published by the Russian Academy of Sciences in two volumes in St Petersburg in 1787–1789. According to the findings of the Georgian lexicographer Aleksandre Ghlonti, the material of the Kartvelian languages was included in the above-mentioned dictionary from the notes of Johann Güldenstädt. Ghlonti also investigated that N. Akhverdov, a Georgian prince by origin, assisted Johann Güldenstädt in collecting material of the Kartvelian languages, as he did not know the Georgian language. While working on the Kartvelian languages, the editorial team of the Comparative Dictionary also used materials provided by the Georgian scholar Anton Murav'ov.<sup>5</sup>

In the preface to his book, Ellis regretfully notes that the dictionary does not fully provide information about some languages or dialects, since this information was missing from the Russian dictionary used as a source. He also points out that the sound systems of the Caucasian languages could not be rendered accurately by English letters. These sounds were first distorted in the Russian edition due to the absence of corresponding Russian sounds, and when transliterated into the English alphabet, they became even more distant from the sounds of Caucasian languages, including Kartvelian.

In some cases, the terms “language” and “dialect” are confused in Ellis’s Lexicon. The Svan language is considered to be a dialect, while Megrelian is referred to as the Imeretian dialect. This mistake was made in the Russian dictionary, where Megrelian words are considered to belong to Imeretian dialect (*Имеретинский*) and eventually it was also introduced in Ellis’s Lexicon. Generally, the errors characteristic of the Russian edition are also found in the English version.

Despite the errors, this is a very important book, the lexicographic part of which is the first source for the English-speaking world about the Caucasian and Kartvelian languages. The Georgian-Megrelian-Svan lexical material included in the dictionary of George Ellis, and especially the Megrelian and Svan material has stirred up the interest in the scientific study of the Kartvelian languages.

## 2. The Comparative Lexicon of George Ellis

### 2.1. The English-Georgian part of the Lexicon

The Georgian language is referred to in the Lexicon as a dialect (*Carduel Dialect*). This mistake can be traced back to the Comparative Dictionary published by the Russian Academy of Sciences, in which the Georgian material is considered to belong to the Kartlian dialect (*Карталински*). The English-Georgian part of the dictionary comprises 129 words, which are arranged thematically and not alphabetically. The first words of the dictionary are *God* and *Heaven*, followed by words denoting human beings and kinship terms (*father, mother, son, daughter, sister, brother, wife, husband, woman, man*, etc.); parts of the human body and facial features (*head, body, legs, stomach, face, nose, eye, eyebrow, ear, forehead, cheeks, mouth*, etc.); natural phenomena (*wind, storm, rain, hail, lightning, snow, ice*); seasons of the year (*spring, summer, autumn, winter*); periods (*day, night, morning, evening, year, time*); celestial

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<sup>5</sup> Ghlonti 1983: 80-84.

bodies (*sun, moon, star*); surrounding geographical environment (*tree, mountain, land, river, sea, hill, shore, etc.*); senses, feelings, perception (*sight, smell, hearing, touch, feeling, pain, love*) and others (see Fig. 3). George Ellis's Lexicon follows the Russian source in terms of the arrangement of the material. This is exactly how words are presented in the Comparative Dictionary published by the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences. These thematic groups generally coincide with word lists compiled to compare languages and establish their affinity (e.g. by Gottfried Leibniz), and the creation of such comparative dictionaries served precisely the aim to establish the fact of relatedness of languages.

As noted above, the most adequately compiled part of Ellis's Comparative Dictionary of Caucasian Languages is the Georgian dictionary. As Niko Q'iasashvili points out in his above-mentioned article, the analysis of the Georgian material clearly shows that some difficult Georgian words are transliterated into English quite accurately. For example, 'Nails – Prchkheeelby' (ფრჩხილები), 'Fire – Tsetskhlee' (ცეცხლი), 'Marriage – Kortseeneba' (ქორწინება), 'Evening – Mtsookhry' (მწუხარი), 'Summer – Zapkhooly' (ზაფხული) and others. Even in words with transliteration errors, these errors often concern only one letter, for example in 'Gogonebba' – გაგონება (*gagoneba, o for a*); 'Gbeely' – კბილი (*k'bili, g for k*); 'Knossa' – კნოსვა (*knosva, s for v*) and others. All errors in the transliteration of words are related to the Russian source and were transferred from it into Ellis's Lexicon.

Georgian equivalents of English words are also selected quite well. There are instances when words are not transliterated correctly, but the Georgian equivalent is adequate. There are examples when an English word has two or three Georgian equivalents out of which one may not be transliterated accurately. There are few cases when transliterated words do not correspond to any Georgian word.

## 2.2. The English-Megrelian part of the Lexicon

The English-Megrelian section of George Ellis' Comparative Lexicon contains only 61 words. As mentioned above, the Megrelian language is erroneously referred to in the Lexicon as the Imeretian dialect, an error that can be traced back to the Russian source. The number of Megrelian words is the same as in the Russian source. It should be noted that in the Comparative Dictionary of the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences, many words are missing from dictionaries of other languages and dialects, not only from the Megrelian and Svan word lists. Like the English-Georgian part, the Megrelian part of Ellis's Lexicon also contains quite competently transliterated words. All transliteration errors are related to the Russian source. The Megrelian equivalents, in the majority of cases, are also quite adequate.

## 2.3. English-Svan Part of the Lexicon

The Svan part of George Ellis' Lexicon includes only 60 words, like its Russian source, and the highest number of errors and inaccuracies are found in this part. Almost 60% of the Svan words included in the Lexicon are incorrectly transliterated, and often Svan equivalents do not correspond to English words. This fact can probably be explained by the complexity of the Svan language.

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GEORGIAN LANGUAGE.

	<i>Carduel Dialect.</i>	<i>Imeretian.</i>	<i>Suaneti Dialect.</i>
God	Gmerty	Horomti	Gherbet
Heaven	Tfah	Tfash	Tfah
Father	Mamma	Mooma	Moo
Mother	Dedda	Deeda	Dee
Son	Shyilly	Skooa	Yezag
Daughter	Kaly	Ozoory	Zoonak
Brother	Tfmah	Djeema	Moohkbay
Sister	Da	Datchkym	Datchoor
Husband	Kmary	Komodjy	Chafh
Wife	Tfoly	Cheely	Aikhoo
Girl	Kally	Ozoory	Soorag
Boy	Bidjaoo	Bidjaoo	Tfhkynta
Child	Kmatfvilly, Tfvilly, Krmah	Bofhy	Bobfh
Man	Kadtsy	Kodfhy	Maray
People	Khalkhee, Erny, Catfuy	Margalee	Khvaeemary
Head	Tavee, Kavee	Doodce	Tkhoom
Face	Peeraffa, Sakhay, Peeris-fakhay	Peejeefhee	
Nose	Tfkhveery	Tchkhindee	Yepkhna
Nostril	Nefto, Nefvy		
Eye	Twaly, Tvaly	Toly	Tay
Eyebrow	Tfarby		
Eyelashes	Khaltay, Erkta		
Ear	Koory	Oodjy	Shdeem
Forehead	Shoobly	Kooa	Neekba
Hair	Tma	Toma	Patoo
Cheeks	Loka, Koba		
Mouth	Peeree	Pidjee	Peel
Throat	Kharkhanto, Tkelly		
Teeth	Kbeely, Gbeely	Keebeery	Shdik
Tongue	Aina	Neena	Nin
Beard	Tfwerry, Tferry	Preemooly	Waray
Neck	Kifferry, Kaily	Kifferry	Kinfhkh
Shoulder	Pkary, Mkhary	Khoodjy	Mekher
Elbow	Dakvy, Tikrtah		

Hand

Fig. 3: George Ellis's Lexicon, Georgian part, beginning (p. 77)

### 3. Transliteration Rules of Words of the Kartvelian Languages into English

One of the interesting issues of George Ellis's Lexicon is the transliteration rules of words of Kartvelian languages into English. Ellis's Lexicon does not contain any explanation of the rules that he used in his Comparative Dictionary to transcribe Georgian, Megrelian, and Svan words into English. Therefore, we have described these rules by observing the material of all three languages.

It should be noted that the transliteration rules are often quite competently compiled. This fact is also noted by Niko Q'iasashvili. As examples, he cites such difficult-to-transliterate words as 'Nakvertskhaly' (ნაკვერცხალი), 'Ttseleetsadee' (წელიწადი), 'Khelmtsepaiba' (ხელმწიფეობა), 'Mtsookhry' (მწუხრი), 'Ghelva' (ღელვა), which are rendered into English with great accuracy.<sup>6</sup> For conveying the sounds of the Kartvelian languages into English, Ellis mainly relies on the Modern English spelling rules. The application of spelling rules of a target language in transliterating source language words was a common practice at that time. This is evident by the analysis of bilingual dictionaries of Georgian with Italian and Dutch of the 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>7</sup> The transliteration rules discussed below apply to Georgian as well as Megrelian and Svan.

### 3.1. Vowels

1) The Georgian back vowel ა [a] is conveyed into English by the letter *a*.

2) The Georgian back vowel უ [u] is rendered into English by means of *oo* or *u*. *Oo* is pronounced in English as a long vowel [u:] (e.g. in *moon* [mu:n]). This rule of reading appeared in the Modern English period as a result of the Great Vowel Shift, when the Middle English long vowel [o:] changed into long [u:].<sup>8</sup> Consequently, the Georgian equivalent of 'forehead', შუბლი (*šubli*), is transliterated in Ellis' Lexicon as *Shoobly*.

3) The Georgian front vowel ი [i] is transcribed into English by the following vowels and vowel sequences: *ee*; *i*; *y*; *ey*; *uy*.

a) *Ee* is pronounced as a long vowel [i:] in English, e.g. in *tree* [tri:]. This rule of reading is also connected with the Great Vowel Shift, when the Middle English long [e:] changed into long [i:]. As a result, the Georgian equivalent of 'mouth', პირი (*p'iri*), is transcribed in Ellis' Lexicon as *Peeree*.

b) The transliteration of the Georgian vowel ი [i] by means of the English vowel *i* is also explained by English rules of reading, given that 'i' is pronounced as a short vowel [ɪ] in closed syllables, e.g. in *bit* [bit]. We can observe this transliteration rule in the word *Kinnooly* - ყინული ('ice').

c) The latter example (*Kinnooly*) shows the third rule of transliterating the Georgian vowel ი [i] into English, namely by means of *y*. The application of English *y* for the rendition of the Georgian vowel ი [i] is mostly found at the end of a word. The use of *y* instead of *i* at the end of a word has an interesting explanation in the history of the English language. This rule developed in the Middle English period and is associated with the technique of writing on expensive parchment. To save space, when working on manuscripts, scribes would write words without space between them, and the use of *y* instead of *i* marked the end of a word. We observe this rule in English words like *boy*, *toy*, etc.<sup>9</sup> Examples from Ellis' Lexicon are *Kmary* - ქმარი [kmari] 'husband'; *Tvaly* - თვალი [tvali] 'eye'.

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<sup>6</sup> Q'iasashvili 1963.

<sup>7</sup> Uturgaidze 1999: 31–37; Witsen 2013: 166–167.

<sup>8</sup> Rastorgueva 2003: 200–203.

<sup>9</sup> Rastorgueva 2003: 184–186.

d) The application of the vowel sequences *ey* or *uy* for conveying the Georgian vowel *o* [i] is very rare and cannot be explained by English spelling rules.

4) Like the Georgian vowel *o* [i], there are various rules for transliterating the vowel *ჟ* [e] into English: *e*; *ay*; *ey*; *y*; *ai*.

a) As the study of the material has revealed, the most common way to transcribe the Georgian, Megrelian and Svan vowel *ჟ* [e] into English is the English letter *e*, which corresponds to the English rule of reading, given that this English letter is pronounced as [e] in closed syllables, e.g. in *red* [red], *bed* [bed].

b) The vowel sequences *ey*, *ay* are used quite often for all three Kartvelian languages in the transliteration of the vowel *ჟ* [e]. It is noteworthy that these vowel sequences denote the Georgian vowel *ჟ* [e] predominantly at the end of a word. This transliteration rule can be found in the following examples from Ellis's Lexicon: *Sakhay* – სახჟ (*saxe* 'face'); *Khay* – ხჟ (*xe* 'tree'); *Gamey* – ღამჟ (*game* 'night').

c) Cases of the transliteration of the Georgian vowel *ჟ* [e] into English by means of *y* or *ai* are rare in the Lexicon and cannot be explained by English spelling rules.

5) The English letter *o* is used to transliterate the Georgian back vowel *ო* [o] into English, which again fully complies with the English spelling rules. The English vowel *o* is pronounced as a short [ɒ] in closed syllables, e.g. in *hot* [hɒt], *cot* [kɒt], *pot* [pɒt].

#### 4.2. Consonants

1) Ellis's Lexicon is quite consistent in the transliteration of sonorants. The Georgian consonants ლ, მ, ნ, რ are consistently transliterated into English with the corresponding English consonants *l*, *m*, *n*, *r*.

2) The English fricative *s* is used to convey the Georgian fricatives ს [s] and ზ [z]. A confusion of these two Georgian consonants can be seen in the examples *Seesmaree* – სიზმარო (*sizmari* 'dream'); *Seeskhly* – სისხლი (*siskhli* 'blood').

3) The English voiceless stop *t* conveys both the Georgian aspirated stop თ [t] and the glottalised stop ტ [tʰ]. This confusion is due to the fact that there is no letter corresponding to თ [t] in the Russian language. Therefore, the Russian source conveyed both Georgian consonants თ [t] and ტ [tʰ] in the same way. This was transferred into the English Lexicon where both Georgian consonants are rendered by means of English *t*. Examples: *Tkeveely* – ტკივილი (*t'k'ivili* 'pain'); *Tovlee* – თოვლი (*tovli* 'snow').

4) The same reason explains the uniform transliteration rule for the Georgian aspirated stop ქ [k] and the glottalised stop კ [kʰ]. The two English letters *k* and *c* are used to transcribe these consonants into English. The letter *c* has two-fold reading in English: if it is followed by a back vowel, it is pronounced as a voiceless stop [k] (e.g. in *car* [ka:]), and if it is followed by a front vowel, it renders a fricative sound [s] (e.g. in *ice* [aɪs]).

5) For the transliteration of the Georgian fricative ვ [v], Ellis uses the English letters *v*; *u*; *w*; *b*.

a) The transliteration of the Georgian consonant ვ [v] with the English back vowel *u* can be traced back to the following fact from the history of the English language. The voiced fricative



[v] and the back vowel [u] were not distinguished in English spelling until almost the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This shortcoming was only regulated by the orthographic reform of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>10</sup>

b) The Georgian consonants ბ [b] and ვ [v] are sometimes confused in the Lexicon. This manifests itself in the fact that in several words in the dictionary, the Georgian voiced stop ბ [b] is transliterated by the English *v* while the Georgian fricative ვ [v] is rendered into English by the English *b*.

6) The Georgian aspirated stop ფ [p] is conveyed into English by the letters *p* and *f*. There is no sound in Georgian which would be an equivalent of the English fricative [f]. This error can be traced back to the Russian source, where there is no equivalent of the aspirated stop ფ [p]. This was transferred to the English version where the letter for the fricative *f* appeared in transliterating this Georgian consonant into English.

7) The situation is more complicated with the transliteration rules of Georgian consonants that are unknown to both Russian and English. Accordingly, those sounds that were already distorted in the Russian source became even more distant from Georgian sounds in their English rendering. Despite this fact, it should be noted that the rules of transliteration of Georgian affricates are quite competently compiled, for example with ც – *ts*; ძ – *dz*; ჩ – *tch*, *ch*. The same can be said about the transliteration rules of the Georgian back fricatives into English: ლ – *gh*, ზ – *kh*. However, these rules are not consistently implemented in the Lexicon and the above mentioned consonants are also conveyed by other letter clusters (see the table of transliteration rules in Fig. 4).

8) The Lexicon of George Ellis confuses the Georgian consonant triplets ძ [dz], ც [ts], წ [ts’], as well as the letters ჩ [ch] and ჭ [ch’], which are often transliterated into English by the same letter combinations.

9) The Georgian glottalised stop ყ [q] is unknown to both English and Russian. Therefore, the author seems to have equated it with the fricative ბ [kh] and conveys it into English accordingly, with *k* and *kh*.

Fig. 4 presents a combined table of the transliteration rules of the Kartvelian languages used in George Ellis’s Lexicon.

## 5. Conclusion

George Ellis’ Lexicon of the Kartvelian Languages is undoubtedly an interesting work for the study of the early stages in the history of English-Georgian lexicography. As noted, this dictionary is the first example of describing material of the Kartvelian languages with respect to English and it has truly awakened the interest into these languages. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, English authors continued to study the Kartvelian languages. In 1883, Demetrius Rudolph Peacock published his Dictionary of five, as he calls them, West Caucasian languages (*Original Vocabularies of Five West Caucasian Languages compiled on the spot by Mr. Peacock*): Georgian, Megrelian, Laz, Svan and Abkhaz.<sup>11</sup> During the same period, Oliver and Marjory

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<sup>10</sup> Rastorgueva 2003: 184–186.

<sup>11</sup> Odzeli 1998: 33–34; Kikvidze, Pachulia 2019: 15–22.

Wardrop become interested in Georgia and the Kartvelian languages <sup>12</sup> and Oliver Wardrop compiles “An English-Svan Dictionary”.

ა	ან	a	ს	სან	s; z
ბ	ბან	b; v	ტ	ტარ	t
გ	გან	g; gh	უ	უნ	oo; u
დ	დონ	d	ფ	ფარ	p; f
ე	ენ	e; ay; ey; (ai; y)	ქ	ქან	k; c
ვ	ვინ	v; w; u; b	ღ	ღან	g; gh; (h)
ზ	ზენ	s; z	ყ	ყარ	k; kh
თ	თან	t	შ	შინ	sh
ი	ინ	i; ee; y; ey; (uy)	ჩ	ჩინ	tch; ch; tsh
კ	კან	k; c	ც	ცან	ts; dts
ლ	ლას	l	ძ	ძილ	ts; tsz; dz
მ	მან	m	წ	წილ	ts
ნ	ნარ	n	ჭ	ჭარ	ch, tsh
ო	ონ	o	ხ	ხან	kh; gh; k; hk
პ	პარ	p	ჯ	ჯან	dj
რ	რაე	r	ჰ	ჰაე	h

Fig. 4: Transliteration rules in George Ellis’s Lexicon

George Ellis’ Lexicon is also interesting in the context of the study of affinity of languages, as the Kartvelian languages appear in it exactly under these considerations. The epochal works of Franz Bopp (*On the Conjugation System of Sanskrit in comparison with that of Greek, Latin, Persian and Germanic*) and Rasmus Rask (*Introduction to the Grammar of the Icelandic and other Ancient Northern Languages*), which marked the beginning of the scientific study of Indo-European languages and the development of the historical-comparative method, had not yet been published. However, by that time there was already a fairly mature linguistic view that similarities between European languages could not be accidental and might indicate their origin from some common source.

It was this interest that gave the impetus to the comparative study of languages. Various lists of words were created and scholars wrote down equivalents of these words in different languages of the world. Empress Catherine II, who commissioned the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences to create a comparative dictionary of the world’s languages, compiled the first list herself and invited Peter Simon Pallas to implement this project. It is worth noting that the thematic groups that were included in such lists (words denoting human beings and kinship terms, body parts and facial features, celestial bodies, natural phenomena, surrounding geographical environment, etc.) would later play an important role in the study of language families.

<sup>12</sup> Odzeli 1998: 34-35.

Despite this great interest in the issue of the affinity of languages, we observe methodological mistakes in terms of selecting and comparing the linguistic material. The error of this method is that authors compare words with similar meanings in different languages. This was precisely what the historical-comparative method which gave rise to the scientific study of languages has “corrected”. The change that this method has brought about is the comparison of words with similar forms and not similar meanings in different languages. Cognate words do not always have the same meaning in related languages and can undergo certain semantic changes. For example, the Kartvelian word for ‘fence’, ღობე, has preserved this meaning in Georgian and Megrelian, while it underwent a semantic change in the Svan language where it denotes a ‘beehive’.<sup>13</sup> The English word *fowl* has the meaning of a ‘domestic animal’, while its cognate in German, *Vogel*, means ‘bird’. Thus, if we compare German *Vogel* with English *bird* and not English *fowl*, the methodological mistake will be obvious. Such examples can be cited ad infinitum.<sup>14</sup>

Comparative dictionaries were created at the early stage of the development of linguistics and despite methodological errors, they played an important role in the discoveries that led to the scientific study of languages and the establishment of the historical-comparative method.

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<sup>13</sup> Fähnrich / Sardschweladse 1990: 513.

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# ინგლისურ-ქართული ლექსიკოგრაფიის უცნობი ფურცლები (ჯორჯ ელისის ქართველური ენების შედარებითი ლექსიკონი)

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1788 წელს ლონდონში გამოიცა ბრიტანელი ავტორის ჯორჯ ელისის წიგნი რუკა შავი და კასპიის ზღვებს შორის მოთავსებული ქვეყნებისა, კავკასიის ხალხთა აღწერითა და მათი ენების სიტყვარებით (Ellis 1788).<sup>15</sup> მასში აღწერილია კავკასიის ხალხთა ისტორია, კულტურა, რელიგია და მოცემულია ინფორმაცია კავკასიის რეგიონში გავრცელებული ენების შესახებ. კავკასიის ქვეყნებს შორის გარკვეული ადგილი ეთმობა საქართველოს, რომელსაც ავტორი ურთავს ქართველური ენების მომცრო შედარებით ლექსიკონს. საყურადღებოა, რომ ავტორი ინტერესდება არა მხოლოდ ქართული ენით, არამედ ქართველური ენებით, და წიგნში ქართულთან ერთად წარმოდგენილია მეგრული და სვანური ენების მასალაც. შეიძლება ითქვას, რომ ამ წიგნში შესული ლექსიკოგრაფიული მასალა არის პირველი ნიმუში ქართველური ენების განხილვისა ინგლისურ ენასთან მიმართებით. სწორედ ამ ლექსიკოგრაფიულმა მასალამ განსაზღვრა ჩვენი ინტერესიც ჯორჯ ელისის აღნიშნული წიგნისადმი.

ჯორჯ ელისი უადრესად განსწავლული პიროვნება იყო, რომელსაც განათლება კემბრიჯის უნივერსიტეტში ჰქონდა მიღებული. იგი იყო ისტორიკოსი, დიპლომატი, პარლამენტის წევრი. 1782–1783 წლებში ჯ. ელისი დიპლომატიური მისიით იმყოფებოდა სანკტ-პეტერბურგში დიდი ბრიტანეთის ელჩთან, სერ ჯეიმს ჰარისთან ერთად. სწორედ ამ პერიოდში დაინტერესდა იგი კავკასიით და კავკასიელი ხალხებით. თავად ელისი არასოდეს ყოფილა კავკასიაში და, აღნიშნულ წიგნზე მუშაობისას, იგი ძირითადად დაყრდნობს ი. გიულდენშტედტის მოგზაურობის ჩანაწერებს, ასევე ი. რაინეგის საქართველოს აღწერას, პ. ს. პალასისა და ფრ. მიულერის შრომებს, ასევე ნაშრომისთვის გამოიყენა ანტიკური წყაროები (ყიასაშვილი 1963; ოძელი 1998: 32–33).

როგორც წიგნის წინასიტყვაობიდან ირკვევა, ჯორჯ ელისის შედარებითი ლექსიკონი დაფუძნდა რუსეთის იმპერატრიცა ეკატერინე მეორის დაავალებით გამოცემულ მთელი მსოფლიოს ენების შედარებით ლექსიკონს (*Linguarum totius orbis vocabularia comparativa*, რუსულად *Сравнительные словари всех языков и наречий*),<sup>16</sup> რომელშიც შევიდა მსოფლიოს 200-მდე ენის, მათ შორის კავკასიური და ქართველური ენების, მასალა. ლექსიკონი პეტერბურგის მეცნიერებათა აკადემიამ გამოსცა პეტერბურგში ორ ტომად 1787–1789 წლებში.

ლექსიკონის ინგლისურ-ქართულ ნაწილში შესულია 129 სიტყვა, რომლებიც დალაგებულია თემატურად და არა ანბანურ რიგზე. ლექსიკონის პირველი სიტყვებია: ღმერთი და ზეცა, შემდეგ კი მათ მოსდევს ადამიანისა და ნათესაობის აღმნიშვნელი

<sup>15</sup> *Memoir of Map of the Countries Comprahended Between the Black Sea, and the Caspian, with an Account of the Caucasian Nations and Vocabularies of their Languages.*

<sup>16</sup> [https://archive.org/details/bub\\_gb\\_mPBLAAAACAAJ](https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_mPBLAAAACAAJ).

სიტყვები (მამა, დედა, ვაჟიშვილი, ქალიშვილი, და, ძმა, ცოლი, ქმარი, ქალი, კაცი და სხვა); ადამიანის სხეულის ნაწილებისა და სახის ნაკეთების აღმნიშვნელი სიტყვები (თავი, ტანი, ფეხები, მუცელი, სახე, ცხვირი, თვალი, წარბი, ყური, შუბლი, ლოყები, პირი და სხვა); ბუნებრივი მოვლენების აღმნიშვნელი სიტყვები (ქარი, ქარიშხალი, წვიმა, სეტყვა, ელვა, თოვლი, ყინული); წელიწადის დროები (გაზაფხული, ზაფხული, შემოდგომა, ზამთარი); დროის მონაკვეთის აღმნიშვნელი სიტყვები (დღე, ღამე, დილა, საღამო, წელი, დრო); ციური სხეულები (მზე, მთვარე, ვარსკვლავი); გარემომცველი გეოგრაფიული გარემოს აღმნიშვნელი სიტყვები (ხე, მთა, მიწა, მდინარე, ზღვა, ბორცვი, ნაპირი და სხვა); გრძობა-აღქმის აღმნიშვნელი სიტყვები (მხედველობა, ყნოსვა, გაგონება, შეხება, გრძობა, ტკივილი, სიყვარული) და სხვა.

ქართული ენის მასალა ლექსიკონში მოხსენიებულია, როგორც დიალექტი (*Carduel Dialect*). ეს შეცდომა მომდინარეობს რუსეთის მეცნიერებათა აკადემიის მიერ გამოცემული შედარებითი ლექსიკონიდან, რომელიც ჯორჯ ელისის ლექსიკონის წყაროა და რომელშიც ქართული ენის მასალა მოხსენიებულია როგორც ქართული დიალექტი (*Карталински*).

უნდა აღინიშნოს, რომ ჯ. ელისის კავკასიური ენების შედარებითი ლექსიკონის ყველაზე კვალიფიციურად შედგენილი ნაწილი ქართული ლექსიკონია. ქართული მასალის ანალიზი ნათლად აჩვენებს, თუ როგორი სიზუსტითაა გადატანილი ინგლისურ ენაზე საკმაოდ რთული ქართული სიტყვები. მაგ.: Nails – Prchkheelebby (ფრჩხილები), Fire – Tsetskhlee (ცეცხლი), Marriage – Kortseeneba (ქორწინება), Evening – Mtsookhry (მწუხრი), Summer – Zapkhooly (ზაფხული) და სხვა. იმ სიტყვებშიც კი, სადაც ტრანსლიტერაციის შეცდომებია, ხშირად შეცდომა მხოლოდ ერთ ასოს შეეხება. მაგ.: Gogonebba – გაგონება (o > a); Gbeely – კბილი (G > K); Knossa – ყნოსვა (s > v) და სხვა. სიტყვების ტრანსლიტერაციის ყველა შეცდომა რუსულ წყაროს უკავშირდება და რუსული წყაროდანაა შეცდომით გადმოტანილი ელისის ლექსიკონში.

ლექსიკონის ინგლისურ-მეგრული ნაწილი მხოლოდ 61 სიტყვას მოიცავს. მეგრული ენა ლექსიკონში მოხსენიებულია, როგორც იმერული დიალექტი, რაც ასევე რუსული წყაროდანაა შეცდომით გადმოტანილი. მეგრულ ნაწილში, ისევე როგორც ინგლისურ-ქართულ ნაწილში, არის საკმაოდ კვალიფიციურად ტრანსლიტერირებული სიტყვები. ტრანსლიტერაციის ყველა შეცდომა რუსულ წყაროს უკავშირდება.

ლექსიკონის სვანური ნაწილი მხოლოდ 60 სიტყვას მოიცავს, ისევე როგორც მისი რუსული წყარო და ყველაზე მეტი შეცდომა და უზუსტობა სწორედ ამ ნაწილში ვლინდება. ლექსიკონში შეტანილი სვანური სიტყვების თითქმის 60% არასწორადაა ტრანსლიტერირებული და, ხშირად, სვანური ეკვივალენტი არ შეესაბამება ინგლისურ სიტყვას. ეს ფაქტი ალბათ სვანური ენის სირთულით უნდა აიხსნას. სვანური ენა ლექსიკონში ასევე დიალექტადაა მოხსენიებული.

ჯ. ელისის ლექსიკონის ერთ-ერთი საინტერესო საკითხი არის ქართველური ენების სიტყვების ინგლისურად ტრანსლიტერაციის წესები. ამისათვის ავტორი იყენებს ახალი ინგლისური ენის კითხვის წესებს და ისე გადააქვს ინგლისურ ენაზე ქართული, მეგრული და სვანური სიტყვები.

ჯორჯ ელისის ქართველური ენების ლექსიკონი მნიშვნელოვანია ინგლისურ-ქართული ლექსიკოგრაფიის ისტორიის ადრეული ეტაპის შესასწავლად. ეს ლექსიკონი საინტერესოა იმის გამოც, რომ მასში ქართველური ენები შეტანილია ენათა გენეზისური კავშირების კვლევისა და ენათა ნათესაობის დადგენის კონტექსტში.