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On Some Armenian-Georgian Lexical Isoglosses

In this presentation, several Armenian-Georgian lexical isoglosses are examined from an etymological point of view. Here we do not discuss the obvious borrowings from each other which have been already examined by the previous researchers. Through a thorough linguistic analysis, we try to show that the chosen words, according to their phonological and semantical features, can not be borrowed from each other and hence come from a common substrate basis. Being two autochthonous languages of the region, Armenian and Georgian have naturally fed from a common source, which united the local languages and dialects of the tribes and the tribal unions which ever inhabited the region. In some cases, there exist quite reliable Indo-European etymologies for appropriate Armenian words, nevertheless, the Georgian cognate forms are obviously not borrowed from Armenian. In such cases, it is possible to assume the origin of the Georgian forms from the Nostratic protolanguage or from an intermediate language state, which, again, proves the autochthonous nature of the Armenian and the Georgian languages, as well as the ancient contacts which have existed between them. Besides, in rare cases, we have independent borrowings in Armenian and in Georgian from a third ancient language.