

GRIGOR KAPANTSYAN



Gr.Kapantsyan was one of the outstanding representatives of the XX century Armenian Armenologists, whose fundamental studies had pioneering impact on different fields of modern Armenology.

Gr.Kapantsyan was born in Ashtarak (not far from Yerevan) in February 13, 1887. After graduating the local school he continued his education at the Armenian-Georgian-Persian section of the Oriental faculty, Saint-Petersburg (Russia). Among his teachers were renowned linguists and orientalists – N.Marr, C.Saleman, I.Bauduin de Courtenay, N.Adontz, I.Javakhishvili.

After University he came back in Armenia in 1914 and was appointed as a teacher the Gevorgyan seminary of Echmiadzin (until 1918). At that same year Gr.Kapantsyan had participated in the archaeological excavations of Ani, the capital city of the Bagratide Armenia headed by N.Marr. In May 1918 he he was one of those Armenian intellectuals who fought against the Turkish army near Sardarapat who advances towards Yerevan.

After the Sovietization of Armenia, in 1921 Gr.Kapantsyan entered Yerevan state university where until 1954 he was the chair of the department of General linguistics. At the university he taught Classical Armenian (grabar), comparative linguistics of Armenian language, general linguistics, and Urartian language as well. In 1932 he became professor, and in 1943, was awarded the degree of doctor (without dissertation).

Until the end of his life Gr.Kapantsyan was the director of the Institute of Language, Armenian Academy of Sciences (1950-1956). He was also one of the establishers of the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

The scope of scholarly activities of Gr.Kapantsyan embraces different spheres of Armenology - philology, history and related disciplines. Due to basic education his studies are distinguished by infinite deepness of used materials, both Armenological and related ones. He was equally fluent in Armenology, Kartvelian studies, Iranistics, Hittitology and Urartology as well.

Among the scholarly interests of Gr.Kapantsyan were various aspects of Armenian ethnogenesis, early Armenian statehood, Armenian-Iranian, Armenian-Georgian, Armenian-Hittite interrelations. Gr.Kapantsyan was focused also on Armenian dialectology and pre-Christian Armenian pantheon.

Although some ideas of Gr.Kapantsyan, due to the appearance of new linguistic and archaeological source materials, as well as new theoretical approaches today are outdated, nevertheless they had paved way for current and future studies nearly in all aspects of Armenology.

Selected bibliography of Gr. Kapantsyan

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4. The History of Urartu, Yerevan, 1940 (in Arm.).
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7. The worship of Ara the Handsome, Yerevan, 1945 (in Arm.).
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9. Suffixes and suffixed words in the toponymy of ancient Asia Minor, Yerevan, 1948 (in Russian).
10. Hurrian words of Armenian language, Bulletin of Academy of Sciences, 1951/5 (in Russian).
11. About the relatins between Armenian and Lazo-Mingrelian languages, Yerevan, 1952 (in Russian).
12. History of Armenian Language (ancient period), Yerevan, 1961 (in Arm.)
- 13.** Historical-linguistic studies, vol.1-2, Yerevan, 1956-1975 (in Russian).