

New findings in Middle Iranian-Armenian-Kartvelian language contacts

The paper deals with areal features of the Kartvelian vocabulary. It is well known that the vocabulary of the Kartvelian languages and especially of Georgian have been influenced by Middle and New Iranian languages as well as by Armenian. The Iranian loans came into Kartvelian either via Armenian or directly without Armenian mediation. The paper aims to sketch the different layers of loans in Kartvelian and to enrich our knowledge by presenting new findings showing that there are direct Parthian loans in Georgian documenting the direct linguistic and cultural contacts of the Georgian people with the Parthian empire. This includes the claim that some loans attributed by some scholars to proto-Indo-European or to ancient languages of the Near East are in fact younger loans from Middle Iranian or proto-Armenian and that some etyma considered as of inherited Kartvelian origin are in fact Iranian or Armenian loans as well.