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Merab DATUASHVILI, Maia GRDZELIDZE  
Akaki Tsereteli State University, Georgia

### **THE INFLUENCE OF OTTOMAN TRADITIONS IN THE FORMATION OF TRADITIONAL CLOTHES IN REGIONS OF GEORGIA**

**Keywords:** *clothes; traditional clothes; formation of clothes.*

The relevance of the presented study lies in the study of the influence of the culture of the peoples living in the Ottoman Empire in the processes of forming traditional clothing in the southern regions of Georgia.

In the 16th-18th centuries, during the prosperous period of the Ottoman Empire, its territory stretched from Central Asia to the Balkans. From the end of the 16th century, the empire included certain parts of Georgia, and for almost 300 years, it considered the southern and southwestern regions as its own province. Akhaltsikhe Sapasho was formed by the Ottomans in the eastern part of Samtskhe-Saatabago under the name of Childirin province, and it included a part of Meskheti, which was called "Adjara Kekana" ("Adjara Gorge", "Adjara Valley") [1].

The peoples living in this immense empire: Greeks and Albanians, Bulgarians and Bosnians, Armenians and Georgians, Syrians, Kurds, and Egyptians, were in the constant exchange of goods and traditions with the Turks, within the framework of the current legislation. The regulations covered all societal areas and clothing was no exception. Dressing regulation covered the entire territory of the Ottoman Empire based on legislation enforced from the rule of Mehmed Sultan [2].

Before the emergence of Ottomans, based on the scarce information on the traditional clothes of the southern regions of Georgia, we may assume the dominance of Byzantine traditions [3].

The object of research presented in the paper is the forms of traditional men's clothes in the mentioned regions of Georgia.

If we explore the samples of the "Meskhetian Turks" men depicted in Tilke's pictures and the modern traditional clothes of the mentioned society, we will certainly find the similarity of their forms (Fig. 1) [4].

The styles of Lazuri, Adjarian and "Meskhetian Turks" clothes of the 18th-19th centuries are almost identical.



**Fig. 1.** A- Meskhetian Turks and B-Adjarian man from Tilke's paintings; C- Guruli men (sketch) and D- Lazy men (picture)



**Fig. 2.** A - The traditional costume of a ceremonial head in Ottoman (Chepken); B - modern Turkish traditional costume

Consequently, in terms of comparative analysis, we studied the samples of traditional clothes in the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey (Fig. 2) [5]. The Ottoman men's chepken (Fig. 2A) consists of a double-skirted, long-sleeved, waist-length upper garment, wide woollen trousers (Dzagshin), and a wide belt around the waist. Thus, the structural analysis of the Ottoman traditional men's Chepken indicated that the overall dimensions, arrangement of details, constructions and cutting (except for the colour) of

the traditional clothes of Meskhetian Turks, Adjarian, Gurian and Lazi men are almost identical and significantly different from other parts of Georgia.

Hence, we can conclude that the traditions spread in the Ottoman Empire played a vital role in the existence of the society living in the southern regions of Georgia, including the formation of clothes.

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