

The Semantic Classification of the Phoneme *ts*

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Annotation

In colloquial speech, the semantic classification of the phoneme *ts* is clearly manifested, as evidenced by the rich and varied lexical inventory containing this phoneme. Within this inventory, a close and organic relationship between word meaning and the phonetic element **ts** can be distinctly observed. Particularly abundant and diverse material in this regard is preserved in the dialects of the Georgian language. The present paper examines lexico-semantic groups containing the phoneme **ts** as attested in various Georgian dialects, including words denoting liquids, expressions of small quantity and diminutiveness, names of thin or slender objects, vocabulary expressing fineness or minuteness, and related categories.