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The Thematic and Journalistic Evolution of the Newspaper "Khma Kartveli Kalisa" (Voice of Georgian Woman, 1917-1918): From Ideological Platform to Political Instrument

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Abstract

This study is dedicated to a comprehensive analysis of the thematic and journalistic evolution of the first Georgian feminist socio-political publication, the newspaper The Voice of Georgian Woman (Khma Kartveli Kalisa, 1917-1918). At the beginning of the 20th century, the complex socio-political context of Georgia exerted a substantial influence on the development of the periodical press. However, an in-depth analysis of the content transformation and methodological shifts within feminist publications themselves remains an important academic undertaking. The primary objective of this paper is to examine the dynamics of the newspaper's content and editorial policy shifts against the historical backdrop that determined national self-determination and the establishment of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia. The research employs the method of chronological sampling. The methodological framework rests upon the direct examination and objective evaluation of archival materials and the periodical press, ensuring academic rigor. The findings demonstrate that the newspaper's development clearly unfolds across three consecutive phases. In the initial stage, the primary focus was on raising educational consciousness, and promoting the philosophical foundations of gender equality. Amid the acute electoral and political crises unfolding in the country (the middle phase), the newspaper underwent a modification in both content and genre. The coverage of regional correspondence and the scope of its information network expanded, transforming the publication into a functional, practical, and visible political instrument. In the final stage, following the declaration of Georgia's independence, the journalism turned strictly analytical and evidence-based, focusing on protecting women's social, labor, and legal guarantees.

Keywords: Chronological Analysis; Feminist Press; Journalistic Evolution; Kato Mikeladze; The First Democratic Republic of Georgia