

Zaza Shatirishvili

Platonic Spirituality: Contemplative Politics and Active Philosophy

The classical Greek spiritual tradition begins in the times of pre-Socratic philosophers. This article examines the problematic relationship between the contemplative (philosophical) life and the active (political) life in the Greek and Roman civilization. The author argues that Platonic spirituality attempts to overcome this dichotomy and create a new entity – contemplative politics as active philosophy.

Ekvtime Kochlamazashvili

On the Origin of the Georgian Folk Song *Mumli Mukhasa* (the Oak and the Midges)

Quite different versions of the folk ritual song *Mumli Mukhasa* (the Oak and the Midges) have been recorded in different regions of Georgia. The majority of researchers consider it a hymn conveying national optimism. The oak tree is believed to be the symbol of homeland, while the midges swarming around it and afflicting it are the symbol of multiple enemies. According to the lyrics of the song, the midges drown in water, while the oak tree survives.

The Meskhian version of the song, which must be closest to the archetype, starts by mentioning God and All Saints. The following passages too indicate the religious import of the song. The analysis of the refrain at the end of each stanza reveals that the song used to perpetuate the story of the Biblical patriarch, Abraham entertaining Angels at the Oak of Mamre (Gen. 18).

Eldar Mamistvalishvili

Georgians at the Council of Ferrara-Florence (13th-15th Centuries)

The difference in the interests of Georgia and Rome became especially obvious from the 15th century. In the period preceding the disintegration of the unified Georgian state, the Council of Ferrara-Florence witnessed the first powerful manifestation of the ardent struggle of the Georgian church and state

authorities for the protection of the independence and individual nature of the Georgian Orthodox Church.

This article describes the resistance of the Georgian royal and church authorities not only to the Council members supporting the Unia, but to the Pope as well, over a number of dogmatic issues including the Filioque clause. Georgians did not sign the Act of Unia.

Liana Gogvadze

Facing the Class

III

The article is part of a larger research project which promotes an accuracy-based approach to teaching productive skills in a monolingual class of university students majoring in English language and literature.

The two preceding publications dealt with grammar and vocabulary. However, idiomatic use of English remained beyond the scope of either of them. The given article with its main focus on lexis is intended as an attempt to partly fill this gap.

The key concepts which capture the very essence of idioms are metaphoricality and invariableness. They respectively relate to content and structure and account for basic difficulties foreign learners encounter in dealing with this most sophisticated layer of English vocabulary. To address them, learners need to be more knowledgeable about the problem in question.

The present study offers a structural analysis of lexical idioms and views them as ready-made chunks to be necessarily learned by heart and memorized in their immediate context. This is equally true of one-word, phrase and sentence idioms – they all establish close intra- and intersentential links and largely determine the structure and coherence of the text they are embedded in.