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## **TRADITIONAL CHILDREN'S GAME OF DICE AMONG THE GAGAUZ**

*Jocul tradițional al copiilor în arșice la găgăuzi*

The article discusses in a descriptive way the traditional dice game of Gagauz children, on the following points: a) variations of the name of the game in various settlements (*aşık, arşık, beşka*), b) variants of the names of the dice, as well as individual sides of the dice (*tok / düz / sol-pa, lenk / fit / saa-pa, çık, hıçıp*), c) options for the names of the bat when playing dice (*atak*), d) the number of participants, e) who exactly plays it (mostly girls), f) where the game is played and how the game space is organized, g) the leading player and how he is chosen, h) whether the players are divided into parties and how this is done, i) what kind of equipment is used in the game, j) whether the game has strictly defined rules and which ones, and also describes in detail and consistently all the actions in the game, for example, the winning positions of the dice (*fit-hıçıp*), the position of the dice on its side (*fit düşmäü*).

The historiography of the problem and the comparative aspect are presented here as separate issues. The topic we are considering finds a fairly wide place both in publications and in handwritten materials of the famous Russian ethnographer V.A. Moshkov, in the studies of Moldavian Gagauz scholars S.S. Kuroglo and L.S. Cimpoeş, in the journal article by M.N. Karamilya, in folklore collections published by the same V.A. Moshkov, D.N. Tanasoglu, N.I. Baboglu, S.Z. Kodzha, G.A. Gaydarzhi, in handwritten dictionary materials compiled by E.K. Kolța. In a comparative sense, an analysis is made of a similar game among

such peoples as the Turks, Bulgarians, Moldavians, Romanians, Russians, Udmurt, and Georgians.