

**DELAYED FEEDBACK ON ONE  
OF THE VIEWPOINTS OF GERHARD DEETERS  
CONCERNING THE KARTVELIAN VERB**

**ABSTRACT**

Several problems (solved or unsolved) presented by Gerhard Deeters in his monograph entitled *Das kharthwelische Verbum* (Leipzig, 1930) remain a subject of much debate among Kartvelologists both in Georgia and abroad. This time we will consider only one specific issue that is the essence and the origin of prefix markers of a specific category of the Kartvelian verbs, i.e. version. In this respect, there are several monographs and certain studies authored by scholars from different countries. We believe, one of the viewpoints proposed in G.Deeters's book under discussion requires examination. According to the scholar, the Common Kartvelian **u-** prefix transformed in Svan into the **o-** vowel which again reduced to **u-**.

It could be stated that the **u-** prefix with the semantic of objective version that occurs here and there in the 1939 edition of ancient prose texts, seems to indicate the archaic phase of the development of the Svan language, rather than the result of reduction or impact of any other morphonological processes. We fully agree with Givi Machavariani who stated that “**the similarity of version markers in all three Kartvelian languages suggests that these formants originate from the Common Kartvelian language**” (2002: 99). In this respect, further investigation is necessary to be pursued with reference to the language of both ancient Svan folk poetry and proverbs. The materials of all dialects, and especially traditional idiomatic expressions, deserve special examination.

**Keywords:** Kartvelian verb, Svan verb, verbal prefixes, category of version, Gerhard Deeters.