

## TARIEL PUTKARADZE

### ON THE EXPRESSION OF THE ALLOPHONES OF SONANTS IN THE GEORGIAN CAPITAL SCRIPT

(one specimen of speech code-mixing)

In all the subsystems of the Georgian language (including historically known periods) *v*, *u*, *u* and *j/i* sounds are the allophones of /*u*/ and /*i*/ sonants. With bilabial *u* which is the non-syllabic allophone rarely reveals itself the labio-dental *v* spirant. Extensive use of *V* spirant in some dialects can be explained by the intensive contacts of the dialect with other languages. The two (*i*, *u*) phonemes which are the parts of the phonematic structure of the Georgian language are represented by four letters which correspond to each allophones, the fact being unusual to old script systems such as to Phoenician or Greek alphabets (only Gothic bears the difference in *J* and *i*).

The use of various graphemes of the allophones of /*u*/ sonant in the oldest inscriptions should be the influence of the Greek script of the later periods which might reflect the process of reforms of the Georgian script system.