

TAMAR MAMARDASHVILI

UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF VERBAL NOUNS IN OLD GEORGIAN GRAMMARS

The introduction of the term 'saxelzma' in the Georgian linguistics literature is associated with the name of Catholicos Anton, who used it to refer to the present infinitive (masdar). Since Anton's Grammar, the term in question has the same meaning in early Georgian grammars. Grammarians used to refer to its both nominal, and verbal features, and, therefore, a part of scholars grouped it in the verbal system, while others among nouns. It is obvious that, due to a number of reasons, some opinions of the old Georgian grammarians have only the historical value nowadays (with respect to the status of Verbal Nouns, to markers, etc.), though there are some relevant observations from the contemporary standpoint.

The work presents a detailed discussion of the views concerning the formation of Verbal Nouns, expressed by the early Georgian grammarians: Anton Bagrationi, Gaioz Rector, Davit and Ioane Bagrationi, Solomon Dodashvili, Platon Ioseliani, Dimitri Kupiani, Davit Chubinashvili, Tedo Zhordania, Andria Benashvili, Mose Janashvili, Davit Karichashvili, and others.

It is unarguable that Anton I's views concerning Verbal Nouns became a basis and impulse for later grammarians. The Georgian grammatical literature of the first half of the 20th century was mainly based on this principle, and, thus, the foundation was established for a new Georgian grammatical theory which came into being in the 1930s.