

## EKA DADIANI

### ON THE PHONETIC VARIANTS OF THE REPORTED SPEECH FORMING PARTICLE –A IN MEGRELIAN

In Megrelian reported speech –a is presented in different variants. Their distribution depends on the phonetic surrounding on the one hand and on the construction and sentence semantics on the other. –a vowel variants: –a, ia – va occur both in the simple and complex constructions; but their occurrences are different according to the positions:

- *ia* variant is met with final consonant roots;

-*va* – with the roots of final a,e, o), and –a with final /i/, /u/, vowel roots.

-*e* - vowel variants (as –*e*, –*ie*, –*ve*) are used only in the complex constructions, with *in*” (=that) constructions. However, according to the position their distribution is identical with the –a vowel variants. Not infrequently –*e* variants, similar to the *e*-marker of the subjunctive mood. For the reason of their formal resemblance it incorporates both semantics simultaneously, of the reported speech and of the subjunctive mood.

Both –the –*e* variants of the reported speech and –*e* suffix of the subjunctive mood have been originated from the–a variants, which by the influence of the initial *i*- of the *ini* – conjunction turned into *e*.