

TAMAR MAMARDASHVILI

PARTS OF SPEECH WITH DECLENSIONS IN ANTON I'S *THE GRAMMAR OF GEORGIAN LANGUAGE*

Anton Bagrationi is the author of the first fundamental linguistic work of the Georgian language. In this context he is founder of the Georgian thought concerning the grammar of the language. His work gives account of the parts of speech that are declined through case forms. Anton's grammar does not distinguish between noun, adjective and numerals; those are unified into one term as 'nominal parts' and only pronouns are ascribed independent existence. However, Anton carries out invaluable work by identifying them and giving meticulous descriptions of nominal categories and observing rules of their inflexion.

The author clearly points out that as different from some other languages Georgian has only one form of declension and nominal parts of speech change according to a single case pattern.

Among many of his observations the introduction of the *narrative case* i.e. *ergative* and determination of its form and function should be regarded as his great finding.

The author also distinguishes five properties (*mdevari*) of the nominal parts: gender (*natesavi*), stem (*nakveTi*), derivation (*sakhe*), number and case.

Anton was the first to indicate degrees of comparison of Georgian adjectives. With more or less precision he coped with the description of pronouns that is particularly difficult among nominal parts of speech. In fact he chiefly managed to provide pronoun inflexion correctly.