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ON THE HISTORY OF NEGATIVE “ARA”, “AR” PARTICLES IN GEORGIAN

Negation as a linguistic category is represented in Georgian through specific linguistic means.

Affirmation and negation are opposite categories.

There are three groups of negative particles in Georgian, namely: “*ar*”, “*ver*”, “*nu*”. Three groups of negative particles occur also in Megrelian and Svan.

“*ar*” expresses categorical negation. It also forms negative imperative forms.

“*ara*” is a full form of *ar* negative particle. “*ar//ara*” is applied according to certain regularity. “*ara*” is mainly used as an answer to an interrogative sentence, while in all other cases negation is expressed by “*ar*” form.

In modern Georgian *ara* is mainly used as a particle having a responsive function. It often serves as a whole sentence. *ar* does not have the same function in modern Georgian.

ar is applied when giving negative commands. In addition, it makes sentences negative. Sometimes, the same function is assigned to *ara* as well that could be explained by stylistic function.

In other cases, *ar//ara* forms are easily interchangeable.