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AGAIN ON EVIDENTIALITY OF VERB IN SVAN

In the Svan language the category of evidentiality is expressed more widely and thoroughly compared to the Georgian literary language. Verbs are the main source for this. In terms of the number of screeves the Svan verbs significantly differ from the conjugation paradigms of Georgian verbs.

According to traditional considerations, the so-called "extra" screeves (A. Shanidze) include only imperfective future and inferential screeves of the 1st series. Our research has confirmed that the modern Georgian language lacks equivalents of the forms of those distinctive screeves or screeve sub-types which are represented in the Svan language. Generally, occurrence of screeve elements is the basis for a large number of screeves in a language; evidentiality appears to be such distinctive screeve element in Svan, unlike Georgian.