

TARIEL PUTKARADZE

ON METHODOLOGICAL BASIS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF GEORGIAN *VERB FORMS*

Adoption of a certain grammatical category in the analysis of verbs should serve for relevant comprehension of a paradigm of verb forms.

Classification of Georgian verb patterns still follows the model of Latin grammars (a main classifier is a category of voice); that is why it is impossible to identify logical groups of different kinds of verb forms as conjugatory units.

It would be better to identify a verb form with vowel prefix rather than any of the morphological-syntactic, morphological or semantic categories as a main classificatory unit of verb forms.

Therefore, when modeling machine translation of the Georgian language a formal paradigm, constructed according to morphological patterns, must confront a semantic paradigm; a complete paradigm of verb should involve not only the relevant forms of conjugation categories (tense, aspect, mood, person and number) but also those of the so-called formation categories (voice, version and contact).

Georgian verb forms may be represented as a three-level *hierarchical paradigm* where each pattern of the first level theoretically integrates all patterns of the second level, while each pattern of the second level integrates all patterns of the third level.

The first level forms differ from each other by vowel prefixes, *causative*, and *-d suffix*, semantic valency of a verb stem and direction of action/state expressed by verb. Five main patterns are identified: 1. a stem without a vowel prefix; 2. i+ stem; 3. u+ stem; 4. a+ stem; 5. e+ stem. The term *screeve* could be applied as a common term for these patterns.

The second level forms differ from each other in form by preverbs, stem markers and in some cases by some other additional markers, while semantically they differ from each other by tense, mood and aspect. The term *screeve* is logical to remain as a common term for the second level forms.

The third level forms differ from each other by person and number, while semantically they differ by orientation towards acting and perceiving individual(s). In total twenty-eight forms are available.