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TO THE ISSUE OF MASDAR IN THE MODERN GEORGIAN LANGUAGE

The represented work deals with some issues related to the terminological and functional problems associated with the verbal noun in synchronic and diachronic views. Similarities and differences between *masdar* in Georgian and *infinitive* in the European languages are revealed through their comparison that is important and interesting from the theoretical and practical usage viewpoints.

Primarily, the issue concerning the Arab term "**masdar**" and the term "**infinitive**" demands peculiar attention as their differentiation reveals absolutely necessary. It is conditioned by the fact that in Georgian both these terms exist and they denote separate phenomena. **Masdar** is an action name, derived from the verb and it is of secondary derivation (e.g. *ḳitxva* – reading; *ḳerva* – sewing; *ceḳva* – dancing); and **Infinitive** is so called "primary masdar", from which the verb is derived and which functionally corresponds to the Infinitive in European languages (e.g. *ḳikḳiki* – chirp; *ciḳciḳi* – tick; *ḳaḳuni* – knock; *ḣriali* – rustle). Most of those words are sound imitating, simple-stem or doubled-stem words.

It is well known that masdar can express some verbal categories (aspect, direction, orientation, causative) and differs from the verb by not having such categories as person, tense, mood, voice, version, act, situation and successivity. Infinitive in the European languages do not have such categories as person, number, absolute tense and mood, but it can produce passive voice forms, express aspect (perfective or imperfective form), relative tense or reflexivity.

Like a noun, masdar in Georgian is declinable (the same cannot be said about infinitive in the European languages) and it functions as a main or subordinate member of the sentence. It can be a subject, objects (direct, indirect or simple), nominal part of the compound predicate, and more rarely - as an attribute or *adverbial modifier*. Masdar is capable to govern another noun (e.g. a simple object) in the possessive (genitive), instrumental or adverbial cases. By means of that syntactic capability it is closely associated with a verb. The governing ability of the infinitive is the same as of the finite form of verb.

The European infinitive is expressed in Georgian by masdar or by a finite form, sometimes even through the subordinate clause. As for Georgian masdar it can be translated by a verbal noun, infinitive itself, or an infinitive construction.