

PATTERN OF VERSION MARKERS IN GEORGIAN ETYMOLOGICAL-DIACHRONIC STUDY

ABSTRACT

Version is one of the main features, though one of the disputed categories of the Georgian language. Its essence is unclear; the distribution of version markers seems rather illogical. We argue that upon its emergence, such distribution was completely natural. Version is a verbal form-semantic category that expresses functional relation, showing to whom the verbal action/state is intended (regardless of the acting subject).

The emergence of the forms of version were determined by:

- The marking of verbal forms by means of specific vowel prefixal morphs in order to express intention of action/state – to which person the action/state is intended. This is the way the non-neutral version forms - the tri-personal verbs were constructed

- Identification of to whom the action/state is intended in a non-neutral form: whether it is intended to a principal/important person (with i- prefixal morph) or to another person (with u- prefixal morph). principal/important persons are: I and II persons (all) and active III person, while a passive III person is not principal/important.

Thus, along with their neutral forms, a vast majority of verbs have developed two morphologically marked forms: 1) those with i- prefixal morph - possessing, acting in the interest of the main person ; 2) those with u- prefixal morph - possessing, acting in the interest of the other person.

This pattern occurs in all non-neutral forms of any verbs (less rare exceptions). Later, however, the function of the category of version and its connection with other categories have been altered. Version markers are very old. The language has applied them also for other purposes which complicated the current situation and provided exceptions. Neutral version does not have a marker. The a- prefixal morph is not a version marker. The very prefixal morph had emerged long before the category of version was formed.

Keywords: Georgian language, verb structure, category of version.