

Expression of Preverbal Forms in the Georgian and Foreign Languages

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Abstract

In the following work we are going to examine the peçüliarities of Georgian verb and its diversity in çonneçtion with fünçtional variety along with polypersonalism. The work is of a çomparative çaraçter and is basiçally foçused on the following issüe: how the diverse semantiç nüançes of Georgian preverbs are expressed in other langüages, among them in Türkish. The nüanses of Georgian preverbs are being çompared to other Caüçasian Langüages like Armenian as well as non-Caüçasian ones süçh as Rüssian, English e.t.ç. while emphasizing the similarities between Georgian and Rüssian preverbs as they fulfill two functions: lexical and grammatical. The following functions of Georgian proverbs are defined in the following manner: 1. denoting a direction of an action, 2. bringing different conceptual nuances in contents of an action and 3. Origination of a new lexical entry. Also, the nuance of the Georgian proverb of expressing different tenses is being emphasized in comparison with English verbs. As mentioned above, Georgian polypersonal proverbs and their peculiarities are being compared with Turkish verb which is monopersonal. The emphasis is made on a façt that in Türkish diçtionaries verbs are given as masdars, and only their explanation are given, while in Georgian a lot of façtors influençe on the meaning of a word: preverbs and version markers in çertain çases çhange the meaning of a word. Aççordingly, the examination of grammatiçal-semantiç meanings of the Georgian proverbs gains importançe while being translated into other langüages.

Keywords: Georgian proverbs; polypersonal proverbs; fünçtional variety; Türkish monopersonal verbs

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A preverb represents one of the most important problems of linguistics. The peculiarities of Georgian verb and its diversity is caused not only by its numerous but also functional variety along with polypersonalism (which is not the same in other languages). Respectively, the question arises: how the diverse semantic nuances of Georgian preverbs are expressed in other languages, among them in Turkish?

The study of Georgian preverbs has a long history (this condition was essentially caused by the fact that a preverb occupies an important place in Georgian grammar). In spite of the fact that there are many issues in need of specification and reviewing in this respect, the distribution of preverbs and semantic nuances are to be researched in a systematic way.

Many Georgian and foreign researchers dedicated their works to a preverb. This was essentially conditioned by the fact, that preverbs are contextually rich, on the one hand, it can be said, that it is not still completely opened grammatical morpheme. This is also proved by the fact, that a preverb is in the center of many scholars' attraction even today.

Though historically a preverb is the newest morpheme of a verbal stem, its functions are defined. In the modern Georgian literary language a preverb has four basic functions: to show orientation, direction, to express future tense and a perfective aspect, to form a verb with a new lexical meaning (A. Shanidze, Arn. Chikobava, I. Veshapidze, L. Kvachadze, A. Kiria, P. Jajanidze, Z. Chumburidze...). Occasionally, a preverb expresses all these functions simultaneously. Thus, it can be said, that a preverb is a poly-semantic phenomenon in the modern Georgian. It is possible to express a variety of meanings simultaneously within one verb (B. Jorbenadze, G. Gogolashvili, A. Arabuli).

In the modern Georgian a preverb is a derivative morpheme, that changes a verb's lexical meaning, but a preverb's function is not limited by a word-building purpose. It takes part in form-building of a verb, as well.

According to the data of *Georgian Explanatory Dictionary* a preverb is added to 15313 verbs (Manjgaladze, 1999:7).

A preverb is not characteristic of all languages. Georgian has numerous preverbs, but some languages have only one row of preverbs (and not two), some have a small number within the row, some have none. E.g it is rare in Armenian, Arabic has no preverb (A. Shanidze 1980: 951).

As Ar. Martirosov notes, in some mountainous Iberian-Caucasian languages a preverb is not used owing to poly-function of cases and frequent using of prepositional cases. Old Armenian, which had no preverb, expressed a preverb's function through other means; e. g.: for denoting a direction it used the verbs of different stems or pronouns, adverbs and nominal prepositions (Martirosov 1953: 74:75).

It is noteworthy to compare Georgian with a language, that has a preverb. Such language is Russian. Like Georgian, Russian is also rich from point of view of preverbs, which can express all these directions what are denoted by Georgian preverbs. According to Zh. Peikrishvili's viewpoint, Georgian and Russian preverbs are the morphemes of same type. They fulfill two functions: lexical and grammatical (Peikrishvili 1992: 146). But there is an essential difference between these two languages: Russian preverbs have only one row, Georgian ones - two. This what is expressed by a complex preverb in Georgian, in Russian it is not expressed by any preverb. Thus, comparatively with Georgian, Russian preverbs are not functionally various. A Georgian preverb is characterized by concreting of attitude with an acting space, a Russian one can denote a direction, but grammatical category of orientation is unfamiliar for it (A. Shanidze 1980: 253).

For comparing these two languages A. Shanidze brought examples: "*petre mivida da werili miutana pavles*" – "Peter came and brought a letter to Paul". Its Russian translation is thus: "*petre movida da werili moutana pavles*". The second sentence: "*Petre movida da cerili moutana Pavles*". The same will be in Russian. The difference that is in Georgian between *mi-vida* and *mi-utana* and *mo-vida* and *mo-utana* Russian could not express, *prishol* means *mi-vida* as well as *mo-vida*. It comes out, that one Russian preverb *pri-* is used instead of two preverbs *mi-* and *mo-*. An analogous situation is in other preverbs expressing direction. To preserve thoroughness, Russian uses other words in similar cases: *mivida – prishol tuda*, *movida – prishol suda*. But a verb itself can not express a direction of an action without other word, as Russian has only one row of preverbs and not two like in Georgian (A. Shanidze 1980: 253).

According to M. Monaselidze's observation, this what is paradigmatically expressed by a Georgian preverb (*SezarxoSda*, *waTvlems*, *Cailaparakebs*, *wakrefs*, *waexmareba*), in Russian it is not expressed by one form. It needs additional means. In the material obtained by him, a scholar

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considers to be the most noteworthy the fact, that occasionally a Georgian-Russian dictionary does not reveal this nuance there, where in GED it is not paid attention. The point is that, quantity contains an evaluating moment and is depended on an individual's will – he/she uses it or not. Owing to this, it is possible that many forms, which have the concept of limited actions will not be entered in a dictionary (Monaselidze 2001: 35).

Noteworthy, researches on a preverb in Georgian and Russian belong to G. Tsibakhashvili, who discusses two functions of a preverb – lexical and grammatical. The researcher divides lexical meaning into three groups: 1. denoting a direction of an action, 2. bringing different conceptual nuances in contents of an action and 3. origination of a new lexical entry. A researcher divides a grammatical functions into three groups, as well: 1. expressing a perfective aspect, 2. transferring an action from present to future tense and transformation of some intransitive verbs into transitive ones (Tsibakhashvili 1960).

N. Vachnadze's work is dedicated to a Russian preverb *po-*. Differently from other preverbs, *po-* does not denote a direction. Its basic function is to determine the verbs. Other semantic nuances of the preverb *po-* follows from this. The preverb *po-* can not change character of a verb's action. Expressing the rules or types of six different actions is connected with it: They are: types of initial, restrictive, softening, discontinuous-softening, distributive and general-resultiveaction.

Mainly, the preverb *po-* corresponds with three Georgian preverbs: *ga-*, *se-*, *da-*. In separate cases it is translated as: *mo-*, *Ca-*, *Camo-*, *a-*, *mi-*, *wa-*, *gamo-* and other preverbs.

In comparing the means of translating the forms with *po-* preverb into Georgian N. Vachnadze uses Russian-Georgian dictionaries and notes: 1. first of all the preverb *po-* expresses the beginning and this nuance is mostly expressed by a *ga-* preverb, e. g.: *pobegat – gakceva* "to run away": *deti pobezhali vpered – bavshvebi cin gaikcnen* "Children run forward"... It is noted in the Georgian grammatical literature, that the preverb *ga-* mostly denotes a direction from outside to inside and expresses separation, parting without a direction. But *ga-* does not express only separation and parting – at the verbs denoting displacing in the space it can express the beginning of an action. It is sometime fulfilled by a *wa-* preverb: *pobresti – cachanchaleba, caqialeba; poplestis, potashitcya –*

cachanchaleba, catreva, in some cases – by a *da-* preverb: *poveyat – sios daberva*; 2. a large group of verbs with the preverb `po-` expresses a type of restrictive action and in translating of the verbs of this type dictionaries use the words of concrete contents: *cota xans, cota xniT, ramdenJerme*, etc.: e. g. *povorchat – cota xans buzGuni, poigrat – cota xans dakvra...*, so called the verbs with restrictive meaning are translated in the dictionaries through the verbs with the preverb *wa-*, e. g.: *porobotat – wamuSaveba; pocpat – waZineba; posudachit – wayoraveba...* 3. a number of the group of the verbs with a *po-* preverb which express a type of softening action is small. In translating of these verbs of this type dictionaries use (who??? Where is subject??? Might be ; is used/ has been used) the word: *cota, odnav, cotaoden* and others; e. g.: *pokachnut – odnav, cota SerKeva, Serxeva*; 4. the verbs of imperfective aspect with Russian *po-* and *-iva, -va* suffixes express discontinuousness of an action, non-regular repetition of an action (*zogjer* (sometime), *drodadro* - occasionally) and incomplete revealing of an action (*cota, odnav*), e. g.: *pobaltivat – drodadro gaqneva*; 5. expressing a type of distributing action of a Russian verb is connected with a *po-* preverb, e. g.: *pobit – daxocva...* (Vachnadze 1979: 276-288).

As it was mentioned, some languages have no preverb – for example, Arabic. For comparing with Arabic A. Shanidze brought a form *vida-*, to which all preverbs are added in Georgian: *Semo-vida, ga-vida, Camo-vida...* Arabic uses different stems instead of mentioned forms: *daxala (Semovida, Sevida), xaraja (gamovida, gavida), nazala (Camolvida, Cavida)*... Georgian can form several verbs from one stem by adding of different preverbs. Arabic has to use different stems to denote the same action directed towards different directions owing to non-having of a preverb. Hence, the number of stems in Arabic is much more than in Georgian. Accordingly, for any man, for whom Georgian and Arabic are foreign languages, it is easier to overcome a Georgian dictionary material than Arabic (A. Shanidze 1980: 252-253).

Taking into account the English data is noteworthy from the viewpoint of translating and comparing the preverbal forms. English has no preverbs; e. g.:

vwer – I am writing smth.

da-vwer – I'll write smth.

vwere – I wrote smth (but didn't finish it)

da-vwere – I have written smth (and finished it).

It is noteworthy, that for two classes of verbs (I and II conjugation), the

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difference between past and future, if it exists, is marked by a preverb. In most cases a preverb is not separated from a stem in present, that results similar forms in past as well as future, e. g.:

aG-vwer – "I'm describing" or "I'll describe" (lit. "write up").

gada-vwer – "I'm copying" or "I'll copy" (lit. "write over").

Preverbs are derived from adverbs of place, which lexically combined with a verb structure. Choice of a preverb is semantically inflexible for the verbs expressing movement (*mo* – "toward here", *Se* – 'in', *Ca* – "down"). Mostly stems of verbs and their corresponding preverbs should be studied separately. Though it does not mean, that a system and using of preverbs is chaotic. Semantic structure of a Georgian verb (*preverb + combinations of verbs*) is similar with an English verb structure (*verb + adverbs of place*; 'eat up', 'put off', 'tire out'...). Each preverb is semantically firm by pure spatial meaning, that moves in non-spatial metaphoric forms. As it is seen, the principles of metaphoric continuousness are universal. Many analogous situations are noticeable in Georgian and English semantic fields (*ga* – *out/off* – from inside outside).

In Georgian one of the functions of a preverb is the opposition between present and future tenses. In order to transfer a verb from present to future, a relevant preverb should be added to it. Besides this function, preverbs have the functions of denoting a direction. They occur before a verb:

akeTeb ("He/She does it") – *ga-akeTeb* ("He/She will do it").

vwer ("I'm writing") – *da-vwer* ("I'll write").

From these examples it is seen that future tense is formed by adding a preverb. There is no grammatical changes. The following examples show a directing function of a preverb.

mo-dis – "He/She is coming"

mi-dis – "He/She is going"

a-dis – "He/She is going up (the stairs).

"He/She is getting on (a bus)

Semo-dis – "He/She is entering" (Harris, Alice 2003: 71-78).

Turkish data will be thoroughly represented from the viewpoint of translating and comparing the preverbal forms.

The Turkish verb is monopersonal. In its personal form only the person of a subject and number are noted (N. Janashia). Different Georgian preverbal

forms are expressed by various means in Turkish:

A. Grammatical functions: 1. showing the way and direction: in Georgian expressing the direction is one of the oldest and main functions of a preverb, which is expressed in Turkish through different preverbs. E.g. from the bottom to the top [(*a-*, *amo-*) *Baş,ştan aşağı*]: *a-va – yukarı ıkaçak* (“will go upstairs”); from inside to outside [(*ga-*, *gamo-*) *içeriden dışarıya*]: *ga-va – dışarı ıkaçak* (“will go out”); 2. Producing future tense: in Turkish future is expressed by the special markers: *açak- eçek-*. 3. Expressing perfect aspect: as a grammatical category aspect is not characteristic of Turkish language, however, the content of a past tense is the same in Turkish. All tenses have markers in Turkish. Respectively, past tense has its markers: *dı-, di, dü-, d -*. e.g.: *Hazırlamak – “to get ready”* and *Hazırladı – “got ready”*.

B. Semantic functions: expressed by adverbs (place and time...), indefinite noun with infinitive (*-ma, -me*), adverbial absolutivisms *-ıp (-ip, -üp, -p)*, indefinite pronouns (*Tamamen, hepsi*), cardinal numerals (*iki, Üç, Dört...*), spatial names (*Yanında, Etrafında*), postpositions (*-e kadar, -a kadar*), markers of interrelations (*-ş, -ış, -iş, -uş, -üş*) and attributive words.

Turkish explanatory dictionaries are different from the viewpoint of expressing verbal forms from Georgian by means of expressing them as given in Georgian explanatory dictionaries, in particular, in Turkish dictionaries verbs are given as infinitive, and only their explanation are given there, in Georgian it is arranged in a different way. We mean those forms which are explained according to the tense and version markers, which is unfamiliar for Turkish. It can be explained as thus: in Georgian a lot of factors influence on the meaning of a word. It should be taken into account that preverbs and version markers in certain cases change the meaning of a word.

Apart from the other fields for expressing the *beginning* of something (inchoative) (*Başlamak, Başlatmak*) Turkish language uses infinitive by adding *maya-, -meye* markers to a verb root as well as the names along with the verb personality... e.g. *Se-frTxialeba* (“ ırpınmaya başlayacak” – “will start moving”); *Se-ekamateba* (“Tartışmaya başlayacak” – “will start quarrelling”)...

In analysing the Georgian-Turkish material it can be concluded that the Georgian preverbal forms are expressed in Turkish also by the verbs which as a result of adding *-arak, -erek* have a function of an adverb. Similar is the case with

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the verbs expressing *going* and *taking*: *wa-barbaZdeba* (“Sendeleyerek gidecek” – “will go swaying”); *wa-irbens* (“Koşarak ileri gidecek” – “will advance in running”)...

Taking into account the data of foreign languages, in particular, comparing the materials from Georgian-Turkish languages is methodologically important to specify a Georgian preverb. They should be translated to reveal grammatical-semantic meanings.

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