

# Dynamic Conceptual Model of the Linguistic Structuring of Space: the Georgian Preverbs

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## I. Introduction: The structure of the Georgian verb

The Georgian language offers us interesting examples of polysynthesis. Agglutination of verb morphology mirrors the system of very complex and complicated verb categories. Structurally a Georgian verb may incorporate the following elements:

(1) PREVEB(S) – (2) S/O AGREEMENT PREFIX (-*v*-/*m*-/*g*-/*gv*-/*h*-/*s*-/*0*-) – (3) VERSION VOWEL (-*a*-/*i*-/*u*-/*e*-) – (4) ROOT – (5) PASSIVE FORMANT (-*d*-) or CAUSATIVE SUFFIX (-*in*-/*evin*-) – (6) THEMATIC SUFFIX (-*eb*-/*ob*-/*av*-/*am*-/*op*-/*i*-/*0*-) – (7) IMPERFECT MARKER (-*d*-/*od*-) – (8) TENSE/MOOD VOWEL (-*a*-/*i*-/*o*-/*e*-) – (9) SIII AGREEMENT SUFFIX (-*s*-/*a*-/*o*-) – (10) PLURAL SUFFIX (-*t*)

E.g. *da – g – a – c'er – in – eb – d – e – s*  
prev – OII– vers. – write – cause – them – imp. – mood – SIII

*da – g – a – c'er – in – eb – d – a – t*  
prev – OII – vers. – write – cause – them – imp. – SIII – pl(O)

Although, the maximal positions for a theoretically possible string of morphemes in the structural formula for one verb root are 10 (3 for prefixes and 6 for suffixes), the verb form can consist of no more than 9 morphemes. There are some implicational and/or restrictive rules:

1. Imperfect Marker (7) implies existence of Thematic Markers (6);
2. Plural Suffix (10) phonetically excludes appearance of the SIII suffix -*s* (9); it can co-occur only with the SIII suffixes: -*a* or -*o* (9);
3. The SIII suffixes (-*a* or -*o*) phonetically exclude the appearance of Tense-Mood vowel suffixes (8).

Thus, the allowed combinations are either (8)-(10), or (9)-(10) and the string (8)-(9)-(10) is excluded. All other combinations of positions are possible and a concrete verb form is defined by the various combinations of verb categories.

## II. Georgian preverbs

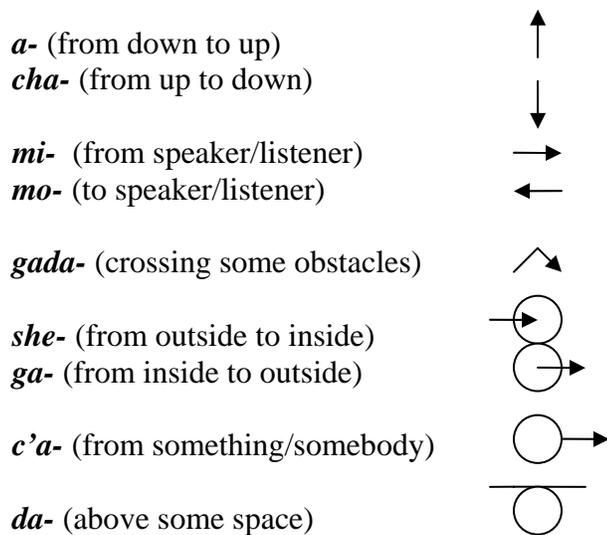
Preverbs originally indicate direction. There are 9 simple and 7 complex preverbs. Simple preverbs (SP) show different directions of an action: *a-* (from down to up), *cha-* (from up to down), *ga-* (from inside to outside), *she-* (from outside to inside), *gada-* (crossing some obstacles), *mi-* (from speaker and listener), *mo-* (to speaker and listener), *c'a-* (from something

or somebody) and *da-* (above some space). Simple preverb *mo-* may be added to other simple preverbs for indicating the ‘hitherness’. As a result complex preverbs (CP) arise: *a+mo-* (up to us), *cha+mo-* (down to us), *ga+mo-* (out to us) and so on. (As *da-* shows rather ‘location’ than ‘direction’, the combination *da+mo-* is logically excluded.)

Preverbs have an additional functions of grammaticalization of Perfective (+Prev): Imperfective (-Prev) aspect and Future tense (+Prev). They often also combine the root to change the overall meaning of the verb (Compare with the prepositional elements in English – look up/back/down/at/into etc.).

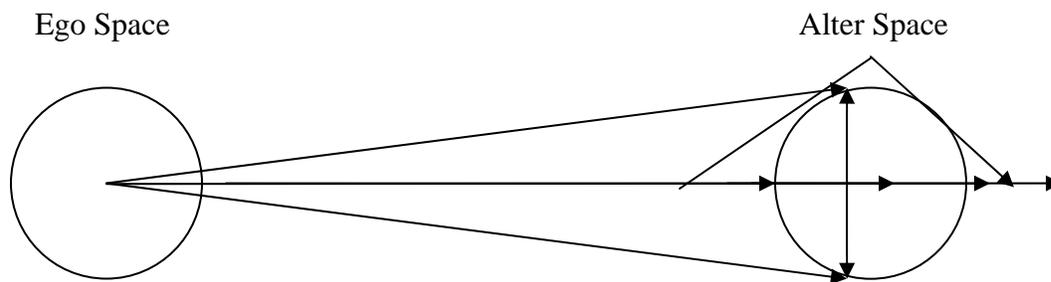
### III. Conceptual representation of space structuring in Georgian

Semantic and pragmatic analysis of preverbs make clear that for structuring of space in Georgian it is important to distinguish between the Geographic Space (GS) and the Communicational Space (CS). GS is structuralized due to the abstract relations that have concrete meaning only on the base of the Point of View of a ‘teller’. The ‘teller’ usually coincides with the ‘speaker’, but this is not always the case: Sometimes the ‘teller’ differs from the ‘speaker’; e. g. “Nino says that she is going up”. Abstract relations are represented in the linguistic structures by SP and can be described by the following conceptual structures:

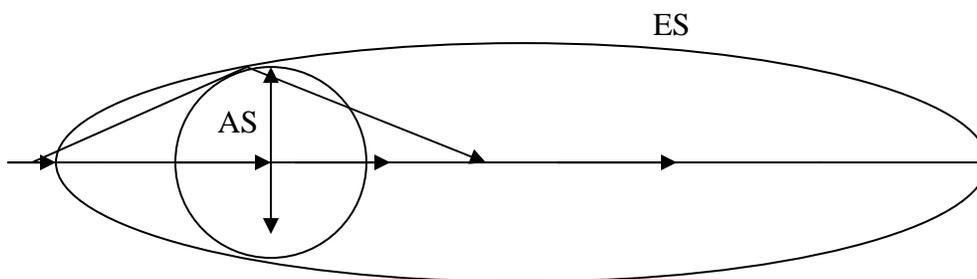


CS is further divided into ‘Ego Space’ and ‘Alter Space’. It is represented by the opposition CP (+*mo-*): SP(- *mo-*) which distinguishes the orientation of the action according to the dichotomy: I/II(action directed/oriented to I/II person (ES)): III(action directed/oriented to III person (AS)).

On the base of ES:AS opposition the dynamic conceptual model of SP can be represented by the following diagram:

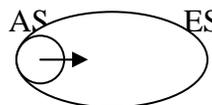


According to the speaker's attitude, ES can be either expanded or compressed and it can include AS. This is the case when CP with *mo-* arises:

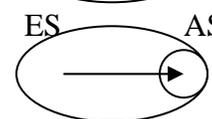


ES does not always confirm with the semantics of 'Nearness': 'Farness', which is an important feature for structuring of GS according to the concept "distance". The 'distance' like the ES is flexible and it is defined by the speaker's or the teller's attitude.

E.g.: *ak mo-vida* ('S/he came to us (I and/or II) here')



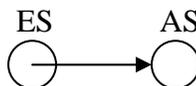
*ik mo-vida* ('S/he came to us (I and/or II) there')



*ak mi-vida* ('S/he came to III here')



*ik mi-vida* ('S/he came to III there')



#### IV. The main dimensions of space structuring and their various combinations

Due to our analysis, the main dimensions for space structuring in Georgian are:

1. Point of view (speaker's and/or teller's);
2. Geographic space (various directions and distance dichotomy);
3. Communicational space (Ego and Alter spaces).

‘Point of view’ and ‘Ego space’ are flexible while abstract relations of ‘Geographic space’ is stable. PV does not always agree with the speaker’s (or the teller’s) position. There are various combinations; e.g.: (1)PV=SP/TP; (2)PV is above the SP/TP; (3)PV is down the SP/TP:

*I am on the fourth floor. My friend is going to the third floor. I can say:*

*My friend is going up to the third floor. (3)*

*My friend is going down to the third floor. (2) or (1)*

*I am on the fourth floor. My friend is going to the sixth floor. I can say:*

*My friend is going up to the sixth floor. (3) or (1)*

*My friend is going down to the sixth floor. (2)*

If during the structuring ‘my friend’s space’ is included into ‘my space’ more complex situation arises and the meaning ‘to me’ is also added. Such situation in Georgian is represented by CP. In general, if ES is somehow included during the structuring of a space, always CP rises.

## V. Preverbs and exceptional ditransitive verb forms in Georgian

Some ditransitive verbs like ‘give’ show recipient person suppletion that is typologically well known phenomenon for some languages. In Georgian such verbs have specific paradigm where distribution of the preverbs *mi-* and *mo-* build the basis for the suppletion. Polypersonal verb forms in Georgian incorporate subject markers as well as the object ones. I or II person recipient is represented by the object markers. As the semantics of the verb ‘give’ (*micema*) implies the meaning of direction preverbs *mo-* or *mi-* are necessarily used with it and their distribution is in accordance with their conceptual meaning: *mo-* is used in case of I/II recipient and *mi-* in case of III recipient. Thus, we have exceptional suppletive paradigm for this verb; e.g.:

<i>mi-v-eci</i>	(I gave to him/her )
<i>mi-eci</i>	(You gave to him/her)
<i>mi-s-ca</i>	((S)he gave to him/her)
<i>mo-m-ca</i>	((S)he gave to me)
<i>mo-g-ca</i>	((S)he gave to you-sg)
<i>mo-gv-ca</i>	((S)he gave to us)
<i>mo-g-ca-t</i>	((S)he gave to you-pl)

The same suppletion according to the preverbs *mi-* and *mo-* is characteristic also for other ditransitive verbs: *mic’odeba* (to send), *mipurtxeba* (to spit to), *mipereba* (to caress), *mikiraveba* (to hire out), *mitxoveba* (to marry to) and so on.