Pseudo incorrect use of"singularetantum"formsin social media Georgian

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2021

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ABSTRACT

In language teaching, the standard language is the basis of the teaching content and offers learners a limited perspective of use in communication. The semi-spontaneous use of language in the web, on the other hand, generates grammatically unconventional forms that are simply declared wrong from the perspective of standard language. Dealing with such forms in second language teaching requires a linguistically based description of quasi "wrong" morphological forms and the consideration of a scientific explanation of such phenomena. The focus in the following is on the use of singular tantum (proper nouns) in the plural. Regular expressions can be used to search for the proper nouns in plural form in Georgian reference corpus in a focused way. In the Internet language, the use of place names (toponyms) in the plural form is increasing, which is simply grammatically incorrect from the perspective of standard language. If the authors of this incorrect use are considered, then it is very probable that there is an intention behind the incorrectness. That is the reason why there is a pseudo incorrectness here. The semi-spontaneous language on the internet creates a specific pragmatic environment in which the expressivity of language is additionally pushed out. Presumably, this increasing expressivity in most cases also affects proper names, more precisely - place names. This intentional grammatical error suggests a pragmatically based justification for the apparent mistakes. This deliberate grammatical error points to a pragmatically based justification of the apparent mistakes. The speakers put the place names in the plural in order to focus them and intensify the relevance of the meaning. This is a quasi-modal use with the help of the plural. The described pragmatic aspects of the phenomenon give reason to include it in language teaching and to point out that rigid grammatical rules can weaken in certain socio-cultural contexts.

Keywords: *Standard Language, Social Media Language, "singulare tantum", Superlative, Second Language learning.*

Introduction

In language teaching, the standard language is the basis of the teaching content and offers learners a limited perspective of use in communication. The semi-spontaneous use of language in the web, on the other hand, generates grammatically unconventional forms that are simply declared wrong from the perspective of standard language. Dealing with such forms in second language teaching requires a linguistically based description of quasi "wrong" morphological forms and the consideration of a scientific explanation of such phenomena.

The focus in the following is on the use of singular tantum (proper nouns) in the plural. The definition of "Singulare tantum" by language can be narrow. Thus, "Singulare tantum" is defined as those nouns that occur only in the singular and cannot form a plural. They are predominantly represented among the continuatives (substance names of the type *snow*, *milk*), abstracts (*education, rest*) and collectives (*foliage*, *branches*). Apart from such determinations, there are some Natural Entities exist in the natural way either always in mono or in poly. To the unique phenomena belong, for example, the celestial bodies. Also for this reason, the planets and star names are used as a rule in singular. However, there is the possibility to circumvent this rule and to establish a linguistic construction, in which the naturally singular entities are represented as plural. The reasons for this are manifold and include stylistic as well as semantic and pragmatic aspects.

In the following article, the morphological properties of the plural usage of "Singulare tantum" in Georgian are shown, which forms a basis for semantic analysis. On the basis of this analysis, the considerations on the pragmatic determination of the use of such forms are made. The corresponding linguistic data are taken from the Georgian Reference Corpus and from the Georgian-language Social media.

The plural form as collective term

It is not uncommon, that when a person represents a particular character quality in a particularly striking way, his proper name becomes a kind of collective designation for all persons displaying the same quality. For stylistic reasons, such linguistic figures are used in literature, but also in reporting.

In example (1), the well-known biblical story of the transformation of Saul into the apostle Paul is presupposed. Based on the presupposition, the transformation described in the Bible is taken up as a frame and transferred to the current situation, in which the politicians are depicted as "Sauls" who will not reach the status of "Pauls".

(1)[1]

ეჭვი მეპარება, რომ სავლეები პავლეებად გადაიქცნენ.

[ečvi	meṗareba,	rom	savleebi	ṗavleebad	gadaikcnen.]
doubt	have1Sg.Pr	Rel	SaulPl.Nom	PaulPl.Adv	transformingPass.Opt3Pl

I doubt it that the Sauls will become Pauls.

This example already shows the stylistic power of proper names in the plural: the biblical story is not discussed in detail, but a discourse is triggered in the first step with the help of the names "Paul"/"Saul". In the second step, the presupposed story is projected onto the current

case, thus including all such or similar cases. A plurality of prototypical cases arises and exactly this plurality is expressed by the plurality of proper names "Paul"/"Saul".

In the Second Example, the proper name of the main protagonist from Mikheil Javakhishvili's novel (1925) "Jaqo's Dispossessed" (ჯაყოს ხიზნები) is rendered in plural. Here it is also pragmatically assumed, that the communicating participants have a common knowledge of the history around Jaqo.

(2)

ჯაყოები ამ კლანჭებით და კბილებით უძლურ ჭიაყელებს დაიპყრობენ.

[ǯaq̇o-eb-I am ḳlančebit da ḳbilebit uʒlur čiaq̇elebs daiṗq̇roben.]

Prop.Pl-Nom	DemPron	Claw.Pl.Instr	Cj	TeethPl.Instr	powerless	wormPl.Dat	V Act Fut Pv SV S:3Pl DO:3

The ǯaq̇o-s will capture the powerless worms with these claws and teeth.

The "ǯaq̇o-eb-I" in this context stands for all persons who bear the same characteristics as the protagonist in the novel: Deceitful, Unscrupulous, Shameless, Aggressive and Unprincipled. In both examples a kind of indirectness arises, which is justified by the fact that the knowledge of the corresponding backgrounds is presupposed. It should be noted that it cannot be excluded that first names are used in the plural, without the collective semantics being involved. In such cases, the semantic generalization remains absent and the designation actually refers to a multiple appearance of persons with the same name.

The use of language typical of social media has expanded the field of the use of plural forms. The toponyms referring to the singular facts (a city, a village, a continent etc.) are represented as plurals.

Toponyms in plural

In the internet language, the use of place names (toponyms) in the plural form is increasing, which is simply grammatically incorrect from the perspective of standard language. The reason for the prescriptive rule in grammar results from the natural fact that places and their names are in the majority of cases unique. There is a Paris, a Boston, an Ottava and a Munich.

(3)

ვინც ადრე მოსკოვსა და ლენინგრადს ეტანებოდა, ვითომ სასწავლებლად და

სამსახურად, [...] **მიუნჰენებსა** *და* **პარიზებ**ს, **ბოსტონებსა** *და* **ოტავებს** *უსინჯავს*

კბილს–ენაცვალოთ დედები– მშვიდობით, მშვიდობით, მშვიდობით.

[vinc adre mosḳovsa da leningrads eṭaneboda, vitom sascavleblad da samoġvaceod, […]

axla **miunhenebsa** da **ṗarizeb**s, **bosṭonebsa** da **oṭavebs** usinǯavs ḳbils – enacvalot dedebi

– mšvidobit, mšvidobit, mšvidobit.]

those who were once attracted to Moscow and Leningrad ostensibly for study or work are

*currently trying to find pleasure in **Munich**PL and **Paris**PL, **Boston**PL and **Ottawa**PL.*

In this example (3) from social media, the toponyms can be divided into two groups: (1) those in the singular (Moscow and Leningrad) and (2) those in the plural (MunichPL and ParisPL, BostonPL and OttawaPL). The contextual meaning of the example can also be interpreted as the juxtaposition or contrast of the two groups (1) vs. (2). The question is what the contrasting is based on. The toponyms from group (1) can be interpreted as neutral referring to places, whereas the toponyms from group (2) represent an additional function besides the place reference, namely the intensification by "erroneous" plural form. The semi-spontaneous language on the internet creates a specific pragmatic environment in which the expressivity of language is additionally pushed out. Presumably, this increasing expressivity in most cases also affects proper names, more precisely - place names.

In example (4), all toponyms are shown in plural form.

(4)

კაროჩე **მოკოვებში** *ვარ...ვაიმეე! რაის* **მოსკოვები** *ირმა ვარ ინაშვილი? ხოდა*

მოსკოვებში *კი არა* **ლონდონებში** *ვარ ასე ვზივარ სახში ლუისთან ერთად კინოს*

ვუყურებთ. აკრობატებზეა.

[ḳaroče **moḳovebši** var...vaimee! rais **mosḳovebi** irma var inašvili? xoda **mosḳovebši** ḳi ara **londonebši** var ase vzivar saxši luistan ertad ḳinos vuq̇ urebt. aḳrobaṭebzea.]

*I'm in **Moscow**PL... What **Moscow**PL, I'm Irma Inashvili? and I'm not in **Moscow**PL, I'm in **London**PL, sitting at home with Luis, shying away from a film. It's about acrobatics.*

The contextual meanings reveal another detail of the semantic significance behind the plural form of toponyms. The lists are dominated by the well-known metropolises of the world, which represent preferred travel destinations. Therefore, it is not just any place anywhere in

the world, but the prestigious names. The prestigiousness is increased by plural form and thus conotes all the benefits that these cities can ask the visitors (highlife, etc.).

The other example from the social media are (5), (6) and (7).

(5)

აშშ-ში მცხოვრები იუნა შაფათავა სოციალურ ქსელში წერს:

"და კიდევ ერთი, არაქალების ბრბოვ ("ელიტას" ვგულისხმობ, თქვენ რომ თვითმარქვი
ხართ): რატომ არის ის კაცი "ხიხო"?
რომ არ გადაგ**ნათ იმ იმპოტენტივით, ქოხები ლონდონებში არ გიყიდათ და პარიზებში
არ დაგაბინავათ და არ წველით, თქვენი გოიმი უტ**ო იმპოტენტი საყვარლებივით, წრე
რიგრიგობით ლოკავთ და blow jobs უკეთებთ?

[ašš-ši mcxovrebi iuna šapatava socialur ḳselši c̣ers:

"da ḳidev erti, arakalebis brbov ("eliṭas" vgulisxmob, tkven rom tvitmarkvia eliṭa xart):

raṭom aris is ḳaci "xixo"? rom ar gadag**nat im imṭoṭenṭivit, koxebi **londonebši** ar

giქidat da **ṗarizebši**: manheṭenze ar dagabinavat da ar c̣velit. tkveni goimuri imṗoṭenṭi

saქvarlebivi, c̣reze rom rigrigibit loḳavt da blow jobs uḳetebt?]

In the USA living Iuna Shapatava writes in social media:
"and one more thing, a pack of bitches, (I mean the "elite", you guys are a would like to
be "elite") why is this Man a hillbilly?
*Because he didn't f**ck you like this impotent, (and) in **London**Pl and **Paris**Pl didn't buy*
you shacks: didn't bunk you on Manhattan and can't pull off like your stupid impotent
*lovers you lick in circles one by one and do a blow job? "*

Curiously, the microtoponym "Manhattan" in this example is in the singular. It is clear that Manhattan here has nothing to do with Paris or London. It can be assumed that the microtoponym Manhattan is established as a kind of *pars pro toto* for the macrotoponym New York and is used here as a proxy.

In example (6) Kharkiv appears for the first time next to the world capitals. However, considering that in the general context it is about "soccer", it seems that the city belongs next to the major football capitals of the world.

The Spanish capital Madrid is still in singular form. The reason may be the same as in example (3): the singular form of "Madrid" is supposed to express low intensity compared to Moscow, Kharkiv and London, at least it would be assumed that the contract in Madrid is less

desirable. However, it must be emphasized that the whole expression forms the sarcastic frame and it is apparently not meant seriously.

(6)
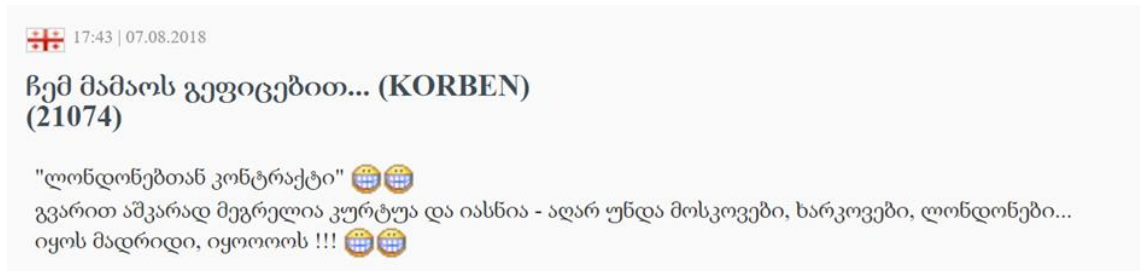
[čemi mamaos pegicebit

"**londonebtan** ḳonṭrakṭi"

gvarit ašḳarad megrelia ḳurṭua da iasnia - aġar unda **mosḳovebi**, **xarḳovebi**, **londonebi**... iġos madridi, iġoooos!!!]

I swear on my priest

*A contract with **London**Pl*

*Judging by the names, he must be a Megrelier Kurtua and it is clear he does not want a **Moskow**Pl, **Charkiv**Pl, **London**Pl more.... Madrid it should beeeee!!!*

The example (7) shows that the author of the post comes from the academic field. It can be excluded that the knowledge of correct grammatical rules in relation to the numerus form of toponyms is not present.

(7)

lublianebši ro davdiodit. ḳorṗusisṭṭa da leksiḳograpta varsḳvlavtcvenaze.

The time when we had traveled in the **Ljubljana**Pl... with the such luminaries of corpus linguistics and lexicography.

Considering all the originators of these incorrect uses, it is very likely that there is an intent behind the incorrectness. That is the reason why there is a pseudo incorrectness here.

Conclusions

This intentional grammatical error suggests a pragmatically based justification for the apparent mistakes. This deliberate grammatical error points to a pragmatically based

justification of the apparent mistakes. The speakers put the place names in the plural in order to focus them and intensify the relevance of the meaning. This is a quasi-modal use with the help of the plural. The described pragmatic aspects of the phenomenon give reason to include it in language teaching and to point out that rigid grammatical rules can weaken in certain socio-cultural contexts.

Pragmatic analysis of such usage requires consideration of the speaker. Here, it can be asserted with a higher degree of certainty that the speakers know the grammatical rules, but intentionally do not follow them. The possible explanation of such motivation is the increase of content expressivity by plural "singular tantum". The apparent (pseudo) ungrammatical forms serve as a means of attracting the listener's (or reader's) attention.

The relatively high frequency of such forms especially in social media language justifies the consideration that a modal function is currently being established in Georgian to generate the superlative modes of proper nouns.

NOTES

1. Regular expressions can be used to search for the proper nouns in plural form in Georgian reference corpus in a focused way, ([features = ("N" "Pl" "Prop")]).

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