

#### **International Journal of**

# MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION

ISSN: (Print) ISSN 1987-9601 (Online) E ISSN 1512-3146

Journal homepage: http://multilingualeducation.org/

# Problems of teaching verb categories (contact, version and passive voice) of the Georgian language to non-native speakers

## Nana Saganelidze

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Email: nanasaganelidze@gmail.com

To cite this article: Nana Saganelidze (2021) Problems of teaching verb categories (contact, version and passive voice) of the Georgian language to non-native speakers: International Journal of Multilingual Education, #19, pp. 208-217.

DOI: 10.22333/ijme.2021.190024

To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.22333/ijme.2021.190024

# Nana Saganelidze

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

# Problems of teaching verb categories (contact, version and passive voice) of the Georgian language to non-native speakers

#### ABSTRACT

Teaching Georgian to non-native speakers, it is important to focus on categories students' first languages lack or express them in a different way. The paper discusses the formation of indirect contact, neutral version, and passive voice in verbs.

Infixes -in- and -evin- are used to form forms of indirect contact. They are added to infinitive forms without markers - -in- is used with stems containing vowels, and -evin- with stems without vowels. At the same time, prefix a- is added to verbs at the beginning, and the thematic marker -eb at the end. Like all other thematic markers, the latter disappears in the second series of conjugation.

Deriving version forms is a little more complicated, as there are neutral version forms without markers and with the prefix a-, subjective and objective version forms with the prefix i- for the first and second persons and u- for the third person in both singular and plural forms.

Neutral version is formed with the prefix a- in verbs with *eb*- and *ob*- thematic markers apart from several exceptions and verbs with the *am*- thematic marker, apart from one exception (as version is impossible in the third series of conjugation, examples are in the first and second series of conjugation): *a-šen-eb-s* - *a-a-šena*, *a-tb-ob-s* - *ga-a-tbo*, *a-b-am-s* - *da-a-ba*).

Thematic markers make no difference in forming subjective and objective version forms. If a verb is semantically able to have subjective and/or objective versions, verbs in the first and second series of conjugation take forms of subjective and/or objective version.

Forms of subjective version use prefix i-: c'ers -i-c'ers, dac'era -da-i-c'era.

In forms of objective version, verbs take the prefix *i*- in the first and second person and *u*- in the third person, both singular and plural. Like in the forms of indirect contact, the aforementioned rule of using person markers can be put to use: *m-i-c'ers is me*, *g-i-c'ers is šen*, *u-c'ers is mas/mat*, *gv-i-c'ers is čven*, *g-i-c'ert is tkven*, *u-c'er-en isini mas/mat*.

As for the passive voice, it can be formed with prefixes (*i*- and *e*-), a suffix (-*d*) and without any markers. Thematic markers and the presence/absence of a vowel in the infinitive play a role in forming verbs in the passive voice.

In the passive voice, prefixes are added to verbs with single stems (without thematic markers) and verbs with *-av*, *-am*, *-op*, *-i* thematic markers, those with vowel interchange, and some verbs with the *-ob* thematic marker.

Verbs with a vowel in the infinitive form the passive voice the thematic stems of the second series of conjugation: xat'va - i-xat'eba, e xat'eba; breca - i-briceba, e-briceba, while stems without vowels form the passive voice from the infinitive without markers. There are several such verbs with -av and -eb thematic markers, verbs with -i, -am and -eb thematic markers and some verbs with the -ob thematic marker:  $\dot{s}e-k'vr-a-i-k'vreba$ , e-k'vreba; da-d-eba-i-deba, e-deba;  $\dot{c}'r-a-i-\dot{c}'reba$ ,  $e-\dot{c}'reba$ ; da-deba-i-deba, e-deba;  $\dot{c}'r-a-i-\dot{c}'reba$ ,  $e-\dot{c}'reba$ ; da-deba-i-deba, e-deba; e-de

Verbs with a vowel and the *-eb* thematic marker, apart from two exceptions, form the passive voice with the suffix *-d* from the thematic stem of the second series of conjugation: *šen-eb-a* – *šen-d-eba*.

The passive voice is formed without markers from verbs with the *-ob* thematic markers. The thematic stems of the second series of conjugation are used as the roots: *ga-tb-ob-a* – *tb-eb-a*.

The passive voice with suffixes (with the -d suffix) is formed only in verbs with the -eb thematic marker. The passive voice markers is formed only in some verbs with the -ob thematic marker. Other verbs can form the passive voice only with the i- and e-prefixes.

Verbs in the passive voice with the prefix *e*- have only two persons (*emaleba is mas*). Other passive voice forms can have only one person (*imaleba is*, *c'itldeba is*, *idgmeba is*, *iğleba is*, *ig'opa is*, *igrixeba is*, *xmeba is*).

The author hopes that this approach to these problems can help Georgian language learners.

Key words: Georgian, contact, version, passive voice, formation.

When teaching Georgian to non-native speakers, it is important that we focus on teaching such categories that their first languages do not have, or form them in a different way. In this paper we will discuss the formation of contact, version and passive voice in verbs.

Usage of subjective and objective person marks denoted through prefixes is noteworthy while teaching contact and version. Prefixes are used to mark objective person. Prefixes

denote the first subjective person as well; the second subjective person is marked only in two verbs (x-ar and mo-x-val), also with prefixes.

Mark of the subject person - prefix v- is used only when the subject is the first person and object is third person. In all other cases, marks of objective persons are used (except for the verbs of objective conjugation and the third series of subjective conjugation, where inversion takes place). When the object is the first or the second person, it makes no difference whether it is direct or indirect object, as they take the same marks<sup>1</sup>:

- S<sub>1</sub>O<sub>2</sub> g-c'er me šen², g- c'ert me tkven, g- c'ert čven šen (tkven)
- S<sub>1</sub>O<sub>3</sub> v-c'er me mas (mat), v-c'ert čven mas (mat)
- S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>1</sub> m-c'er šen me, m-c'ert tkven me, gv-c'er šen čven, gv-c'ert tkven čven
- S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> s-c'er šen mas (mat), s-c'ert tkven mas (mat)
- S<sub>3</sub>O<sub>1</sub> m-c'ers is me, m-c'eren isini me, gv-c'ers is čven, gv-c'eren isini čven
- S<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> g-c'ers is šen/tkven, g-c'eren isini šen/tkven
- S<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> s-c'ers is mas (mat), s-c'eren isini mas (mat)

Using this rule, those learning the language will easily conjugate verbs and make forms for any person and any type of causative forms and version (this goal was easily reached as I worked with non-Georgian students at Iv. Javakhishvili State University Kartvelology Summer School).

#### Contact

It is not enough to tell those learning Georgian than indirect contact form can be generated with the held of *-in-* and *-evin-* infixes. They should be told that these infixes are added to infinitives (without the ending mark *-a*). *-in-* is added to infinitive forms that contain vowels, while *-evin-* is added to infinitives that do not contain vowels.

Apart of this, infixes *-in-* and *-evin-* only are not sufficient for forming indirect contact. Verbs are added prefix a-, and thematic marker *-eb* at the end, which is not used

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Examples are given for indirect object marks only, as indirect objects take person mark for the third person as well, unlike direct objects. Pronouns for direct objects are not given here for the sake of clarity of the use of person marks.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pronouns corresponding with direct objects are not given here for the reason of more clarity.

in the second series of conjugation. Here, we use the above-mentioned rule of the usage of subject and object person marks:  $xat'v-a \rightarrow m-a-xat'v-in-eb-s$ , da-m-a-xat'v-in-a, dauxat'v-in-eb-ia;  $se-k'vr-a \rightarrow m-a-k'vr-evin-eb-s$ , se-m-a-k'vr-evin-a, seuk'vr-evin-eb-ia;  $ga-sxvl-a \rightarrow m-a-sxvl-evin-eb-s$ , ga-m-a-sxvl-evin-a, gausxvl-evin-eb-ia;  $da-c'vn-a \rightarrow m-a-c'vn-evin-eb-s$ , da-m-a-c'vn-evin-a, dauc'vn-evin-eb-ia;  $seneba \rightarrow m-a-seneb-in-eb-s$ , a-m-a-seneb-in-eb-s, a-m-a-teb-in-eb-s, a-m-a-nteb-in-a, aunteb-in-eb-ia;  $txr-a \rightarrow m-a-txr-evin-eb-s$ , ga-m-a-txr-evin-a, gautxr-evin-eb-ia;  $t'k'epn-a \rightarrow m-a-t'k'epn-in-eb-s$ , da-m-a-t'k'epn-in-a, daut'k'epn-in-eb-ia;  $da-sxm-a \rightarrow m-a-sxm-evin-eb-s$ , da-m-a-sxm-evin-a, dausxm-evin-eb-ia;  $ga-q'op-a \rightarrow m-a-q'op-in-eb-s$ , ga-m-a-q'op-in-a, gauq'op-in-eb-ia;  $ga-tbob-a \rightarrow m-a-tbob-in-eb-s$ , ga-m-a-tbob-in-a, gautbob-in-eb-ia;  $grex-a \rightarrow m-a-grex-in-eb-s$ , da-m-a-grex-in-a, daugrex-in-eb-ia (If we had not generated indirect contact forms from infinitives, we would have damaxat'ina instead of damaxat'vina, gamasxlevina instead of gamasxvlevina, damac'nevina instead of damac'vnevina, damagrixina instead of damagri

#### Version

Of the verb categories, version and the active and passive forms are especially noteworthy.

Armenian (and other Indo-European languages that I am aware of) have no notion of version. That is why my Armenian neighbor used to tell me: "Nana, švilo, iseti k argi cxeli borši makvs, ar ginda, *dagasxa*?" ["Nana, we have some nice hot broth, would you like me to pour it on you?"] Armenian does not differentiate between *davasxa*, *davisxa*, *davusxa*, *dagasxa*, *dagisxa* forms. For all of these forms it uses a single form.

Language-learners should be explained the notion of version: *mxat'vari xat'avs surats* (a painter is drawing a picture), we do not know who the picture is for and who is going to buy it; *mxat'vari ixat'avs surats* (it means that the painter does not intend to sell or give it to somebody, he/she wants it for himself/herself); *mxat'vari uxat'avs surats* (the form *uxat'avs* means that the painter wants the picture for somebody else and intends to sell it or give it as a present to someone else). In the first case, the verb is of neutral version, in the second it is of subjective version and in the third case it is of objective version.

Understanding the meaning of version is easy. As for deriving version forms, it is a little more complicated, as there are neutral version forms without markers and with the prefix a-, subjective version with the prefix i- for all persons, and objective version forms with the prefix i- for the first and second persons and u- for the third person in both singular and plural forms.

Neutral version is formed with the prefix **a**- in verbs with **eb**-, **ob**- and **am**-thematic markers.

Verbs with —eb thematic marks, except for several exceptions, form neutral version with a- prefix (as version is impossible in the third series of conjugation, examples are in the first and second series of conjugation): šen-eb-a → a-šen-eb-s, a-a-šena; k'et-eb-a → a-k'et-eb-s, ga-a-k'et-a; ga-čer-eb-a → a-čer-eb-s, ga-a-čer-a; ga-xun-eb-a → a-xun-eb-s, ga-a-xun-a; qeb-a → a-k-eb-s, a-k-o; a-geb-a → a-g-eb-s, a-a-g-o and so on. There are several exceptions – dabadeba, dak'ideba, dadeba, brʒaneba, dat'oveba that derive version without a marker a- prefix: badebs – dabada, k'idebs – dak'ida, brʒanebs – brʒana, t'ovebs – dat'ova.

Of verbs with —am thematic marker, a- prefix is used for forming neutral version in dabma, dart'q'ma and dasxma: a-b-am-s, da-a-ba; a-rt'q'-am-s, da-a-rt'q'a; a-sx-am-s, da-a-sxa.

*Dadgma* derives neutral version without *a*- prefix: *dg-am-s*, *da-dga*.

All verbs without thematic markers (single-theme), verbs with -av, -i, -op thematic markers and verbs with vowel interchange form neutral version without a- prefix: c'er- $a \rightarrow c'er$ -s, da-c'era; xat'v- $a \rightarrow xat'$ -av-s, da-xat'a; se-k'vr- $a \rightarrow k'r$ -av-s, se-k'ra; da- $c'vna \rightarrow c'n$ -av-s, da-c'na; ga-sxlv- $a \rightarrow sxl$ -av-s, ga-sxla; txr- $a \rightarrow txr$ -i-s, ga-txara; ga-q'-op- $a \rightarrow q'$ -op-s, ga-q'o; grex- $a \rightarrow grexs$ , dagrixa.

Forming subjective and objective version is simple. Thematic markers make no difference in forming subjective and objective version forms. If a verb is semantically able to have subjective and/or objective versions, verbs in the first and second series of conjugation take markers of subjective and/or objective version.

In forms of objective version, verbs take the prefix *i*- in the first and second person and *u*- in the third person. Like in the forms of indirect contact, the aforementioned rule of using person markers can be put to use: *m-i-c'er is me*, *g-i-c'ers is šen*, *u-c'ers is mas/mat*, *gv-i-c'ers is čven*, *g-i-c'ert is tkven*, *u-c'er-s is mas/mat*, *m-i-xat'avs is me*, *g-i- xat'avs is mas/mat*, *gv-i- xat'avs is mas/mat*, *gv-i- xat'avs is mas/mat*, *gv-i- šenebs is me*, *g-i- šenebs is me*, *g-i- šenebs is me*, *g-i- šenebs is mas/mat*, *gv-i- šenebs is čven*, *g-i- šenebt is tkven*, *u- šenebens is mas/mat*; *m-i-cxobs is me*, *g-i-cxobs is šen*, *u-cxobs is mas/mat*, *gv-i-cxobs is čven*, *g-i-dgams is šen*, *u-dgams is me*, *g-i-dgams is šen*, *u-dgams is mas/mat*, *gv-i-dgams is čven*, *g-i-dgams is mas/mat*; *m-i-q'ops is me*, *g-i-q'ops is šen*, *u-q'ops is mas/mat*, *gv-i-g'ops is čven*, *g-i-q'opt is tkven*, *u-q'ops is mas/mat*; *m-i-zrdis is me*, *g-i-zrdis is šen*, *u-zrdis is mas/mat*, *gv-i-zrdis is čven*, *g-i-zrdit is tkven*, *u-zrdis is mas/mat*; *m-i-zrdis is me*, *g-i-zrdit is me*, *g-i-k'reps is me*, *g-i-k'reps is mas/mat*, *gv-i-k'reps is mas/mat*, *gv-i-k'reps is mas/mat*, *gv-i-k'reps is mas/mat*, *gv-i-k'reps is mas/mat*.

### Passive Voice

As for the passive voice, it can be formed with prefixes (i- and e-), a suffix (-d) and without any markers. Thematic markers and the presence/absence of a vowel in the infinitive play a role in forming verbs in the passive voice.

In the passive voice, prefixes are added to verbs with single stems (without thematic markers) and verbs with *-av*, *-am*, *-op*, *-i* thematic markers, those with vowel interchange.

Verbs with a vowel in the infinitive form the passive voice the thematic stems of the second series of conjugation, while stems without vowels form the passive voice from the infinitive without markers. (There are several such verbs with -av and -eb thematic markers, verbs with -i, -am and -eb thematic markers.)

The formation of passive voice for verbs with single stems:

c'er-a 
ightarrow i-c'er-eb-a, e-c'er-eb-a; ban-a 
ightarrow i-ban-eb-a, e-ban-eb-a; ksov-a 
ightarrow i-ksov-eb-a, e-ksov-eb-a; k'vec-a 
ightarrow i-k'vec-eb-a, e-k'vec-eb-a; k'vec-a 
ightarrow i-k'vec-eb-a; e-k'vec-eb-a; e-k'vec-e

The formation of passive form in verbs with *-av* thematic marker:

mal-v-a 
ightharpoonup i-mal-eb-a, e-mal-eb-a; xat'va 
ightharpoonup i-xat'ateba, e-xat'eba; k'umšva 
ightharpoonup i-k'umš-eb-a, e-k'umš-eb-a; kargva 
ightharpoonup i-karg-eb-a, e-karg-eb-a; p'ranc'va 
ightharpoonup i-p'ranc'-eb-a, e-c'ur-eb-a; e-c'ur-e

The formation of passive voice for verbs without a vowel in stem with *-av* thematic marker from the infinitive:

da-rg-v- $a \rightarrow i$ -rgv-eb-a, e-rgv-eb-a; da-pkv- $a \rightarrow i$ -pkv-eb-a, e-pkv-eb-a; mo-rc'q'v-eb-a, e-rc'q'v-eb-a; da-rtva  $\rightarrow i$ -rtv-eb-a, e-rtv-eb-a; txzva  $\rightarrow i$ -txzv-eb-a, e-txzv-eb-a.

Verbs with —av thematic markers without a vowel in the stem, the infinitives of which end on —vra, -vla and —vna (with thematic markers in the stem), form the passive voice from the infinitive:

 $da-k'-v-l-a \rightarrow i-k'-v-l-eb-a$ , e-k'-v-l-eb-a;  $ga-sx-v-l-a \rightarrow i-sx-v-l-eb-a$ , e-sx-v-l-eb-a;  $x-v-n-a \rightarrow i-x-v-n-eb-a$ , e-x-v-n-eb-a;  $da-c'-v-n-a \rightarrow i-c'-v-n-eb-a$ , e-c'-v-n-eb-a.

Verbs with the same ending, but with a vowel in the stem derive passive voice forms from the second series of conjugation:  $\check{c}ag-v-r-a \rightarrow i-\check{c}agr-eb-a$ ,  $e-\check{c}agr-eb-a$ ;  $mo-xib-v-l-a \rightarrow i-xibl-eb-a$ , e-xibl-eb-a;  $ga-sap'-v-n-a \rightarrow i-sap'n-eb-a$ , e-sap'n-eb-a.

Verbs with —*i* thematic markers form passive voice from the infinitive trimmed off the marker, as other stems without vowels:

tl- $a \rightarrow i$ -tl-eb-a; ga-zrd- $a \rightarrow i$ -zrd-eb-a; ezrd-eb-a; tvl- $a \rightarrow i$ -tvl-eb-a; ezrd-eb-a; ezrd-eb-exrd-eb-exrd-exrd-exrd-exrd-eb-exrd-

Verbs with vowel interchange form passive voice from the stem of the second series of conjugation:

 $grex-a \rightarrow i-grix-eb-a$ , e-grix-eb-a;  $brec-a \rightarrow i-bric-eb-a$ , e-bric-eb-a;  $gle\mathbf{\check{3}}-a \rightarrow i-gli\mathbf{\check{3}}-eb-a$ ,  $e-gli\mathbf{\check{3}}-eb-a$ ;  $dyveb-a \rightarrow i-dyvib-eb-a$ , e-dyvib-eb-a;  $znek-a \rightarrow i-znik-eb-a$ , e-znik-eb-a;  $k'rep-a \rightarrow i-k'rip-eb-a$ , e-k'rip-eb-a;  $kree'-a \rightarrow i-krie'-eb-a$ , e-krie'-eb-a.

The formation of passive forms for verbs with *-am* thematic markers from the infinitive:

da-bm-a o i-bm-eb-a, e-bm-eb-a; da-sxm-a o i-sxm-eb-a, e-sxm-eb-a; da-dgm-a o i-dgm-eb-a, e-dgm-eb-a.

Passive voice forms for verbs with -op thematic markers are also derived from infinitive:  $ga-q'op-a \rightarrow i-q'op-a$ , e-q'op-a

As for the verbs with -ob thematic markers, a part of them form the passive voice without markers. The thematic stems of the second series of conjugation are used as the roots:  $ga-tb-ob-a \rightarrow tb-eb-a$ ;  $ga-šr-ob-a \rightarrow šr-eb-a$ ;  $ga-xm-ob-a \rightarrow xm-eb-a$ ;  $da-dn-ob-a \rightarrow dn-eb-a$ ;  $ga-ly-ob-a \rightarrow lyv-eb-a$ ;  $da-t'k'b-ob-a \rightarrow t'k'b-eb-a$ ;  $c'k'n-ob-a \rightarrow c'k'n-eb-a$ ; c'k'n-eb-a; c'k'n-e

A part of verbs with *-ob* thematic markers form passive voice with *i-* and *e-* prefixes like other stems without vowels:

Verbs with a vowel and the *-eb* thematic marker, apart from two exceptions, form the passive voice with the suffix *-d* from the thematic stem of the second series of conjugation:

& sen-eb-a o & sen-d-eb-a; k'et-eb-a o k'et-d-eb-a; ga-t'ar-eb-a o t'ard-eb-a; da-lag-eb-a o lag-d-eb-a; ga-q'u&-eb-a o q'u&-d-eb-a; ga-& er-eb-a o & er-d-eb-a; ga-xun-eb-a o xun-d-eb-a; da-ob-eb-a o ob-d-eb-a; da-& eb-a.

Verbs with *-eb* thematic markers with a vowel in the stem do not form passive voice with *i*- or *e*- prefixes.

The exceptions are *da-bad-eb-a* and *da-k'id-eb-a*, which form the passive voice with *i*- and *e*-prefixes, not with *d*-suffix: *i-bad-eb-a*, *e-bad-eb-a*, *i-k'id-eb-a*, *e-k'id-eb-a*. Verbs that take *eb*- thematic markers without vowels form passive voice with *i*- and *e*- prefixes from infinitives trimmed off the markers, as all stems without vowels:

According to Akaki Shanidze, the formation of passive voice with prefixes is characteristic for denominative verbs: mdidari - mdidr-d-eba, mc'vane - mc'van-d-eba, mc'are - mc'ar-d-eba, mxeci - mxec-d-eba, mt'k'ice - mt'k'ic-d-eba, yveli - yvel-d-eba and so on. (Shanidze, 1953)

I believe that passive voice is formed through prefixes for denominative verbs with -eb thematic marker:  $mdidari \rightarrow gamdidre-eb-a - mdidr-d-eba$ ,  $mc'vane \rightarrow gamc'van-eb-a$  - mc'van-d-eba,  $3veli \rightarrow da-3vel-eb-a$  - 3vel-d-eba.

As for denominative verbs without thematic markers (single-stem) and with -av thematic markers, they form passive voice through prefixes:  $toxi \rightarrow toxn-a - i-toxneba$ , e-toxneba;  $3\gamma veni \rightarrow mi3\gamma vn-a - e-3\gamma vneba$ ;  $bari \rightarrow bar-v-a - i-bareba$ , e-bareba;  $be\check{c}'edi \rightarrow be\check{c}'d-v-a - i-be\check{c}'deba$ ,  $e-be\check{c}'deba$ ;  $santeli \rightarrow gasantl-v-a - i-santleba$ , e-santleba;  $c'amali \rightarrow moc'am-v-l-a - i-c'amleba$ , e-c'amleba.

Denominative verbs with -ob thematic marker form passive voice without markers: tbili  $\rightarrow gatb-ob-a - tbeba$ ;  $t'k'bili \rightarrow dat'k'b-ob-a - t'k'beba$ ;  $prtxili \rightarrow daprtx-ob-a - prtxeba$ ;  $xmeli \rightarrow gaxm-ob-a - xmeba$ .

The above-mentioned once again proves that the type of formation of passive voice depends on thematic markers.

I believe the rules formulated in this article on the usage of prefixal person marks for the formation of contact, version and passive form, derived by me during the process of teaching Georgian to non-native speakers will facilitate Georgian language teachers working with both non-Georgian and Georgian students.

# References

Shanidze, (1953). Akaki Shanidze, "kartuli gramatikis sapuʒvlebi", Tbilisi: Tbilisi State University, 1, 298. 1953.