
Evidentiality and its Semantic Modifications in the Georgian Language

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Abstract

Evidentiality is strongly revealed category in the Georgian language. It uses both grammatical and lexical strategies and shows firsthand and non-firsthand distinction. Based on grammatical strategies non-firsthand evidentiality interacts mostly with the present perfect tense and rarely with pluperfect. It carries reportive and inferential meanings. Evidentiality is the secondary semantics of present perfect screeves in the Georgian Language, Thus it uses synthetic verbal forms in this regard.

The paper aims to discuss the following topics:

Semantic modifications of indirect evidentiality based on synthetic present perfect verbal forms. Main conclusion is that Georgian synthetic verbal forms show not only reportive, inferential, but also mirative meanings. The novelty of the research is discussing mirativity based on present perfect screeve forms.

The same verbal form might have the meaning of both the present perfect and evidentiality. It is important to consider main referentials which restrict the free distribution of these meanings and which distinguish and control pragmatic realization of these forms.

The paper assumes that wide context, category of grammatical person, sentence types and syntactic environment play a main role in pragmatic motivation of speaker.

The feature of non-firsthand speech can be mostly employed within indicative sentence, meanwhile negative and interrogative sentences keep the meaning of present perfect tense. Narration builds up appropriate environment to modify perfects into evidential.

Evidentiality interlinked with non-firsthand knowledge is connected with III person forms. In opposite, I and II forms mainly remain the meaning of present perfect tense.

Thus, we may conclude that Synthetic evidential forms are the part of TAM system, but on the other hand there are different possible semantic modifications of the category.

The research is conducted by analytical, corpus and statistical methods. Main conclusions are based on data of modern Georgian language.

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