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"The Category of Aspect in Georgian and Ossetic. Some areal and typological observations".

Typological investigations have shown that the grammatical expression of aspectual meanings - most commonly the opposition perfective-imperfective - by means of verbal prefixes is cross-linguistically not very spread.

This fact makes the comparison of this grammatical and formal category in genetically or directly not related languages very interesting.

The paper aims at analysing and discussing the category of aspect in two languages now spoken in the Caucasus, Georgian and Ossetic, which will be compared with the aspectual systems of the Slavonic languages.

The items to be discussed are the following:

- 1) In Ossetic, as well as in the South Slavonic Languages, the verbal prefixes convey lexical and semantic changes but have no temporal consequences (shift from present to future tense), whereas in Georgian and in the North (West and East) Slavonic languages prefixed verbal forms are always perfective and refer to the future;
- 2) In Ossetic and Georgian with verbs of motion the prefixes preserve their original spatial meaning, and seem to have no relation to the aspectual and temporal system. This is not the case in the Slavonic languages, where prefixation do not distinguish lexically between verbs of motion and other classes of verbs;
- 3) Georgian shares with the East South Slavonic languages a very complex system of tenses, featuring synthetical (imperfect and aorist) and analytical (perfect and derivatives) preterital forms. The surviving of this system has probably favoured the development of evidential values from the old perfect.

Trying to answer to these questions the paper will also tackle more general problems of historical, areal and typological interpretation of the "derivational" aspect.

Key words: Aspect, Prefixes, Georgian, Ossetic, Slavonic Languages.