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FACULTY OF ARTS

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NINO OKRESHIDZE

**THE COMPOSITIONAL AND STYLISTIC FUNCTIONS
OF THE PAST TENSE IN ENGLISH AND GEORGIAN
LANGUAGES**

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AN ABSTRACT

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Research Supervisor: - **Madonna Megrelishvili**
Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor

Opponents: - **1. Maia Chkheidze**
Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor

2. Rusudan Gociridze
Doctor of Philology, Professor

The defense of the dissertation will take place on ----- 2010, at ----- at the meeting of dissertation board of the Faculty of Arts at Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli State University.

Address: Room 1114, Block I, 59 Tamar Mepe Str., Kutaisi 4600

The dissertation can be read in the library of the Faculty of Arts at Akaki Tsereteli State University (59 Tamar Mepe Str., Kutaisi 4600)

The Secretary of the Scientific Board.
Doctor of Philology
Associated Professor

Irma Kipiani

INTRODUCTION

The research work deals with the contrastive analysis of the compositional and stylistic functions of the past tense in English and Georgian languages. Such kind of scientific researches show the effectiveness of the contrastive analysis. It makes easy to find out the characteristic features of each language. The contrastive analysis states the functional similarities and differences.

The methods of contrastive analysis are different, as the object of contrasting is the concept category, which has its own means of expression in each language. The concept category is the source of the research, as it can realize the linguistic category. Though, concept categories are not realized by only grammatical forms, but also with the help of lexical, syntactic and contextual means.

The purpose of the research is:

a. To study functional and semantic category of the past tense, also temporal and aspect variant meanings of the given languages (English and Georgian) in order to state the similarities and differences.

b. To realize compositional and stylistic potential of the past tense with the help of functional-systematic method of comparison in order to state the different expressions of the same linguistic event in two structurally different languages.

In accordance with the general purpose of the research the following tasks are settled:

1. The conceptual apparatus is developed to carry out the research.
2. The direction of the research from the content to the form is also determined, taking into consideration the main principles of the contrastive analysis.

3. The functional and semantic category of the past tense is also studied, with the help of morphological, lexical and contextual means of expression which are represented as a general semantic invariant.

4. The contrastive analysis of the compositional and stylistic functions of the past tense is also realized. The different means of realizations are also determined.

5. The contrastive analysis of the empirical material helps us to state the functional-semantic and structural characteristics.

Methodology of the research is based on the contrastive analysis. This method seems to be valuable for solving not only theoretical, but also practical problems.

Research resources are taken from the original work of famous English, American and Georgian writers.

Actuality of the research are conditioned by the following factors:

1. In spite of the fact that many theoretical or practical researches have been performed to study functional and semantic categories, this question is not perfectly studied in linguistic literature. So, each new work in this field is real novelty.

2. Past Tense – as the one sub-category from the functional-semantic category of temporality, is the object of comparison. The given research work is novelty as it studies the functional-semantic category of the given tense in each language, and also states the differences and similarities with the help of contrastive analysis.

3. And finally, the actuality of the research is determined by the fact that it is the first time when the compositional and stylistic functions of the past tense are studied in Georgian and English languages focused on the onomaseology (theory of nomination).

The scientific value and novelty of the research can be determined by the fact that the compositional-stylistic functions of the past tense are studied in accordance with the typological and dynamic aspects of the language. While working on the research it became quite clear that the role of contrastive method is very important for stating the similarities and differences between the languages. The concept system is the main source of the analyses which is realized in the language itself.

The theoretical value of the research is determined by the systemic nature of the research. Without the systemic principle, it's impossible to compare scientifically the systems and subsystems of the non-cognate languages. The systemic way of comparison includes the comparison not only separate facts, but the whole systems of the languages. The given contrastive analysis makes it easy to state the different characteristics of the same linguistic event in two structurally different languages. On the one hand, it has made clear its specifics. On the other hand, it has also represented such items which were not taken into consideration before.

The practical value is determined by the fact that contrastive method is undoubtedly effective way of studying foreign languages. So every work in this field is practically valuable. Besides, the material illustrated in this research can be used at the lecture courses. It is especially useful for the theory of translation, lexicology and the methodology of teaching foreign languages.

The structure of the work is determined by the objectives of the research. It consists of 164 pages and contains an introduction, 3 chapters and general conclusion and bibliography. It also includes specially designed tables and illustrative material.

In the Introduction we give our arguments for the choice of the subject of our study, point out the scientific value and novelty and the significance of the research work, its theoretical and practical value.

In the first Chapter "The Functional-Semantic Category of Temporality"

is given the analyses of functional-semantic category. It includes a wide sphere of the language, where morphological categories are given together with the relating semantic-functional elements, which belong to different level of the language. The grammatical category is also discussed as the dialectical unity of the form and the content. The verb is the main means of expressing the relations in the language. Grammatical verb tense expresses the relation of the action to the moment of speaking, which is the centre of orientation. The relationships between the real and imaginative (fiction) time are also discussed in this chapter. The orientation of time in narration is defined by the feature of the linguistic means used by the author. The main characteristic feature of the real time is the fact that it is one-dimensional. Imaginative or fiction time can be multi-dimensional.

So, time relation problem is one of the most serious. It is conditioned by the fact that category of time is very complex itself and besides, it is defined as multi-aspect category.

In the Second Chapter "The Functional-Semantic Category of the Past Tense in English"

we describe the main grammatical means, which represent the semantic potential of the past tense. To study the semantic of the given tense properly, the method of the research is given from the content to the form direction. After discussing the meanings of the concepts, we study the expressive means of the given semantic value. So, the tense forms are discussed not only on the paradigmatic and syntagmatic level, but also on much more higher level – as the consisting part of the text.

The invariant meaning of the past tense is non-simultaneity to the moment of speaking. As for the temporal-aspect variants of the past tense such as: **past of separate action, iterative, prospective, exclusive, inclusive, consequent**, they are discussed in details in the given part of the dissertation. The variants of the verbal forms are defined according to the temporal-aspect principle. But the functions are defined according to their compositional sign. The meaning of each function is realized by proper grammatical form. The compositional functions of the tense-forms are represented by their ability to be involved in the organization of the narration, such as narrative, descriptive, dramatic functions and etc.

In the Third Chapter "The Contrastive Analysis of the Temporal-aspect variants and Compositional and Stylistic Functions of the Past Tense in English and Georgian Languages" is described the functional-semantic category of the past tense in Georgian. Besides, the contrastive analysis of temporal-aspect variants of the

past tense in both English and Georgian languages is also given in the same chapter.

The discussion of the various compositional-stylistic functions shows that the compositional functions are those variants which exist in the given languages (English and Georgian). On the one hand, these functions are able to participate in the organization of the narration and give a stylistic colour to it. On the other hand, the structural differences between two languages are also represented. **The conclusion** sums up theoretical results of the research.

The main points of the research have been reflected in the papers at different scientific seminars and scientific sessions of the English language department. The research work was discussed at the broaden meeting of the English Studies Department at Akaki Tsereteli State University on July 13, 2010.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE WORK

In **Introduction** the main principle of the contrastive linguistics is discussed. It is stating the object of comparison in the languages. We have chosen the functional-semantic category of the past tense and have tried to represent its different realization in the given languages.

The different morphological structure of English and Georgian languages explains the fact that same linguistic event is variously represented in those languages. The structure of Georgian language is known as synthetic, but the structure of English language is analytic. That's why we use lots of lexical means to express grammatical meanings. In Georgian, inflexion is the main grammatical marker.

The temporal and aspect variants of the past tense is also discussed in this research. Their semantic potential is also stated with the help of contrastive analysis. The compositional and stylistic functions of the past tense are also discussed.

The object of the research in the given dissertation is the functional-semantic category of the past tense. In English this tense-form according to its grammatical semantic differs from other tense-forms. The verb in the past denotes the action which already happened in the past and it has no connection with present. The functional method makes it easy to discuss the linguistic facts according to the function they perform in the process of communication.

Chapter 1 – Functional and Semantic Category of Temporality. Time relations are realized not only by grammatical category, but also by means which belong to different levels of the language.

Functional-semantic category includes the wide sphere of the language with morphological categories and semantic-functional elements. The centre of the functional-semantic category is – morphological category. It is characterized by definite semantic points. Lingual elements are grouped around it, which are in relation with morphological category. (Megrelshvili 1986:43)

Grammatical category is discussed as the dialectal unity of the form and content. The main way of expressing time relations in the language is – the verb. It expresses the relation of the action to the moment of speaking, which is considered to be the axes of orientation.

Our aim is to define the functional-semantic category of the past tense. It is characterized by the priority to the moment of speaking, which is generally expressed by past tense forms. It's very important to define time centre.

The concept – time centre (for the past) and the concept – the moment of speaking

king (for present) are relevant to the phrase. According to Turueva the relevant concept for the text is – "zero vector" (Turueva 1979:11)

Grammatical forms express the events from the reality more generally. Lexical means perform the nominative function. There is a strong relationship between grammatical and lexical meanings, though they belong to the different level of the language. They can't be confused as they differ by means of expression.

Bull first used the term – time vector. This term denotes two directions, in which the events can be placed in relation with the moment of speaking (Bull 1960:51) On the axes of orientation of the past tense the following directions can be given – priority, simultaneity and consequence.

In this part of the dissertation the relationships between the real and imaginative (fiction) time is also given. In the fiction the time orientation of narration defines the lingual characteristics used by the author. The temporal orientation – is one of the characteristic features which differ the first person narration from the third person narration. In the first case the whole text is focused on the narrator's experience. There is no such orientation in the third person narration.

The typological characteristics of the real and imaginative time differ. Real time is one-dimensional, fiction time is multi-dimensional.

Grammatical category is also discussed in the given chapter of my research. The main means of expressing time relationship in the language is – the verb. The verb is the temporal part of the speech. The grammatical order has its content and form. The content is the unity of grammatical meanings. They express different concepts of reality, and the relationship between them. The expressive form of the grammatical category is the systematically organized means.

So, to reflect time relationship in the language is one of the most difficult questions. It depends on two factors: the category of time which is complex itself and besides, it is defined as a multi-aspect category.

In Chapter II – Functional and Semantic Category of the Past Tense in English – is discussed Past tense which differs from other tense forms in English according to its grammatical semantic. The paradigmatic meaning of the past tense is its priority to the moment of speaking. It denotes the action, which had already happened in the past. It's the real fact of the past tense which has no connection with present.

In English Language Past Tense is realized by four aspect-tense forms: Simple Past, Past Continuous, Past Perfect, Past Perfect Continuous. All these aspect-tense forms are the main grammatical means which represent the semantic potential of the above-mentioned tense form.

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wing lexical means: often, each time, sometimes, every day, whenever and etc. For example:

Each time she came to see the doctor the hotel keeper's wife talked a little more freely and after an hour or two in his presence went down feeling renewed and strengthened. (Sh. Anderson, Death)

The rain was constantly slacking and we were moving along. (E. Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms)

Seated on the fallen trunk of a tree, he **had promised for the twentieth time** that if their marriage were not a success, she should be as free as if she had never married him. (J. Galsworthy, The Man of Property)

Hallward shook his head, **he had been thinking** for a moment or two and followed Dorian in the library. There was a bright wood fire blazing in the large open hearth. (O. Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray)

The following semes are relevant to the iterative Simple Past: 1. dissociation to the present time axes of orientation; 2. to involve zero vector of the axes of orientation into time period, when it is possible to repeat the separate action; 3. to express the frequent use of separate or simultaneous actions; 4. action localization or non-localization in time.

Proper context is necessary to realize Iterative Simple Past, i.e. to use lexical means which define the iterative nature of the action. So, the verbs in English can't express the iterative meaning without lexical means which define the context.

The variant meaning of the Iterative Past Continuous tense is based on the combination of signs which show the action localization in time. In this case, lexical means and determiners give iterative meaning to the form, such as: sometimes, often, constantly and etc.

As for Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous, they can also express iterative meaning, but only by means of lexical indicators.

4. Prospective – the nearest future action is realized by Past Continuous. It is quite common in English. For example:

It was nearly bedtime and when they awoke next morning land would be in sight. Since some of the passengers **were leaving the ship next day** at Pago-Pago they had had a little dance that evening and in his ears hammered still the harsh notes of the mechanical piano. (W.S. Maugham, Theatre)

The semantic of prospective past consists of the following semes: 1. dissociation to the present time axes of orientation; 2. to denote forthcoming action; 3. to express non-iterative action; 4. action localization in time; 5. duration of the action.

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The temporal-aspect variants of the past tense, each of them is discussed in details in the given chapter.

1. Past Tense of a Separate Action. The meaning of separate action of Simple Past is one of the variant meanings. Its role is to involve the zero vector of the axes of orientation into the process. It is realized by two tense-forms in English: Simple Past and Past Continuous. For example:

Yesterday afternoon, a tall, thin old man with a wooden leg and only one eye **came across** the garden from Melanie's house. (M. Mitchell, Gone With the Wind)

We were talking softly out on the balcony. The moon was supposed to rise but there was a mist over the town and it didn't come up and a little while it started to drizzle and we came in. (E. Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms)

The following semes are relevant to the simple past of the separate action: 1. dissociation to the present time axes of orientation; 2. to involve the zero vector of the past tense axes of orientation into the process; 3. infrequency; 4. action localization into the time. The first, second and fourth semes are realized in neutral context, though lexical means, such as yesterday, last week are freely combined with them. As for the third seme, it can't functionally combine with such kind of lexical means which express the repetition of the action.

As for Past Continuous of separate action, it is based on the aspect-temporal sign of time localization. This grammatical form expresses separate, specific action in process.

So, separate action of the past tense is the variant meaning, which expresses the process of duration. In English it is realized by two aspect-tense forms: Simple Past and Past Continuous.

2. Correlative Past – The form of correlative Simple Past tense is used in narration. It is one of the leading forms which is used in the fiction. For example:

Then one morning, jogging from the mess to stop along the dark tunnel, he **heard** the music and **saw** the woman and the sea. He **stopped** so abruptly that several men **banged** into him. **That was that** for the morning. (J. Cheever, Falconer)

The following semes are relevant to correlative Simple Past: 1. dissociation to the present time axes of orientation; 2. to involve the zero vector of the past tense into the process; 3. action localization/non-localization in time; 4. to express simultaneous action; 5. to express frequent/infrequent action.

3. Iterative Past – is the variant meaning of Simple Past, Past Continuous, Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous. It denotes the frequency of the action. While using this variant meaning, the grammatical form is usually combined with the follo-

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So, prospective past is realized only by one aspect-tense form – Past Continuous. It's one of the important characteristic features of the above mentioned tense.

5. Exclusiveness – is the main temporal-aspect variant of Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous. For example:

As soon as they **had regained** strength, they stood up, joined hands again and continued slowly on their way. (Th. Hardy, Tess of the D'Urbervilles)

When the last bell rang, the last class ended, I let out my breath. It seemed **I had been holding** it for all that time. (J. Baldwin, Sonny's Blues)

Its categorical mark is priority to the Past Tense zero vector of the axes of orientation. The priority is given in the grammatical form itself. The following semes are relevant to the exclusive past perfect tense: 1. priority to the zero vector of the axes of orientation; 2. contact retrospective to the past tense axes of orientation; 3. finished action; 4. non-iterative action; 5. action localization or non-localization in time. As for Past Perfect Continuous, it includes one more additional seme – duration of the action.

6. Inclusive meaning of the Past Tense is used quite rarely. It denotes the action, which began before the past moment and includes this moment itself. For example:

For the first time since I met him I noticed that life **had deepened** the distant illness in which he had always moved. (ibid.)

I had been dreaming about wrapping bread in colored paroblendium Filmex. I had dreamed a full page soared in a national magazine. Bring Some Color into Your Bread box. (ibid.)

It is realized by the following semes: 1. priority to the past tense axes of orientation; 2. it involves past tense zero vector of the axes of orientation in the action; 3. non-iterative action; 4. contact retrospective to the past tense zero vector of the axes of orientation; 5. action localization in time.

Past Perfect Continuous differ from Past Perfect by one more seme – duration of the action. For realization inclusive past perfect, proper context is necessary: 1. the verbs of double aspect nature; 2. such kind of adverbial words and phrases which express the duration of the action. For example: for the first time, since, since Monday and etc.

7. Consequent meaning of the Past Tense is realized by perfect tense forms. For example:

No one knew better than I what you **had gone** through and I wanted to stop fighting and let me fight for you. I wanted you to play, play like a child – for you always

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had been a child. (M. Mitchell, *Gone With the Wind*)

Margaret Stafford was still in London with Catherine. Catherine **had been having** insulin treatment and was continually under the influence of drugs. (I. Murdoch, *An Unofficial Rose*)

Past Perfect tense contains the following senses: 1. priority to the axes of orientation; 2. contact retrospective to the zero vector; 3. finished action; 4. consequent action; 5. the result of the action. Consequent Past Perfect-Continuous includes one more sense – duration of the action.

These variant meanings of the past tense are represented by the following field of the functional and semantic category of the past tense in English. (see table 1)

In the same chapter of the dissertation we discuss the compositional and stylistic functions and their characteristics. The variants of the verbal forms are defined according to the aspect-temporal principle. As for the compositional-stylistic functions, they are defined according to their compositional mark. Compositional-stylistic functions, such as: narrative, descriptive, dramatic, retrospective, consequent – are characteristic features of the texts which are given in the past tense.

1. Narrative Function. Is one of the important functions of the past tense. It is characterized by the coherence of the action. It's realized by two aspect-tense forms in English: Simple Past and Past Continuous. For example:

Ashley bent his head to her face and **as** he bent, at first touch of his lips on hers, he **felt** a sudden tensing of all muscles. Swiftly **dropped** the hat to the floor and, reaching up, detached his arms from her neck. (M. Mitchell, *Gone With the Wind*)

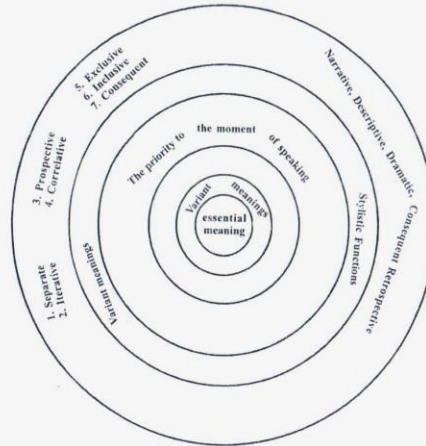
Rosalind's life in Chicago **had changed**. First it **had run** forward, **had turned**, **had twisted** and then stopped changing. It had been like a stream that apparently turns back toward its source. (Sh. Anderson, *Death*)

In the examples which reflect the narrative function of the past tense, the action is dynamic.

2. Descriptive Function gives the qualitative description of the subject. In this function linking verbs play very important role, especially the verb-to be. For example:

There was an old two-storey yellow house on Fielding Avenue that year. We used to go there and sit on the front porch steps and watch the automobiles go by and act as if we lived in the house. (W. Saroyan, *Three, Four, Shut the Door*)

Table 1
The Field of the Functional and Semantic Category of the Past Tense in English



He was thin and rather stooping, with sandy hair; except when **he was being pedantic**, he could not be called bad looking... but he was being pedantic a good deal of the time. (J. Wain, A Travelling Woman)

Simple Past tense uses a special structure when it is used in descriptive function – they are adverbial phrases of place, which are space indicators.

Past Continuous tense in this function maintains the grammatical semantic of the form and represents its stylistic potential.

Linking verbs, which denote the existence of the feature, are used in this function. The verb **to be** should be noted among them.

3. Dramatic Function is realized only by one aspect-tense form – Simple Past. The means of expressing dramatic function is the group of semes of the past tense. For example:

Iwelei was on the edge of the city. You went down side streets by the harbour in the darkness, across a rickety bridge, till you came to a deserted road, all ruts and holes, and then suddenly you came out into the light. There was parking room for motors on each side of the room, and there were saloons, tawdry and bright, each one noisy with its mechanical piano, and there were barbers shops and tobacconists (S. Maugham, A Friend in Need)

4. Consequent Function is the next compositional-stylistic function of the past tense. The purpose of this function is to show the result of the action. Grammatical forms can be freely combined with different kinds of lexical means. Past Perfect Continuous form gives the meaning of duration to this function. It denotes the action which is in progress. For example:

It was generally known that he was incompetent resident manager at the mines that he seldom showed up there before eleven. As a father he **had certainly failed** in the rearing of two of his three children. George was held to be a "rowdy" and a "terror". Anne was a winning child who won by tantrums and rudeness. (Th. Wilder, The Eighth Day)

Everything in their old world had changed but the forms. They **had been holding tightly** to the things they knew best and loved best, but all these belonged to the old days. (M. Mitchell, Gone With the Wind)

5. Retrospective Function is also one of the characteristic features of the past tense. It is mainly realized by perfect forms. Its purpose is to create specific associations. Semantic complex, where Past Perfect is the centre, changes the reality in order to widen it. For example:

Mildred... She was not a figure to pity: Mildred, whom Hugh **had kissed** passi-

onately once, he remembered, on a summer evening over twenty-five years ago, when they were both already sensible middle-aged married people. He wondered, as he watched her dab eyes with small handkerchief, whether she still recalled that curious incident... Fanny **had not lived out** her appointed span. The cancer came sooner. (I. Murdoch, An Unofficial Rose)

So, according to the discussed material, we can conclude that each variant meaning has its specific role to frame the content and helps to state the inner linguistic relations inside the text.

According to the classification of Simple Past, Past Continuous, Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous, we can state their compositional and stylistic potential. The qualitative description of the subject, the creation of the additional time sphere, representation of consequent, retrospective and prospective functions.

In Chapter III – Contrastive Analysis of the compositional-stylistic functions of the past tense in English and Georgia is discussed, on the one hand, the functional-semantic category of the past tense in Georgian, on the other hand, the contrastive analysis of temporal-aspect variants and compositional-stylistic functions in English and Georgian languages are given in the same chapter.

In spite of the fact, that past tense is a strong grammatical category in Georgia, it hasn't been a question of special discussion yet. All the point of views connected with it, doesn't give enough information. So, that's why we have chosen this question and tried to state the potential of functional-semantic category of the past tense.

The invariant meaning of the past tense in both English and Georgian languages is the priority to the moment of speaking. In Georgian language past tense is realized by five aspect-tense forms: Aorist, Imperfect, Iterative, Unseen Action I and Unseen Action II. The grammatical category of the past tense is also characterized by variant meanings. Each meaning is realized by the proper tense-form. We've discussed each of them in details.

1. The purpose of **Separate Action** is to express the duration of the action. In Georgian this variant meaning is realized by three aspect-tense forms: aorist, unseen action I and imperfect. For example:

სამხატვრო აკადემიაში შეხვედის განცხადებაზე ხელი **მოაწერა** და **შეიტანა**. კონკურსშიც **გაფიდა** და მამის ნაცნობებმაც ხელი **მოუშართეს**. (დ. გოთუა, ღუკუი ლომისა)

ბარათი კი **მიმოდოდა**, მადლსა და სიკეთეს ავრქვევდა, ხან ბობოქერებს და აბებს ხეცვლიდა ხეს, ხან მრუფე ნახარდს შესწორებდა. (იქვე)

შეინდგე ბატონო! ხმალი კარგა ხანია არ გამიძვრია, ქარქაშია-
ნად ვვრდები მომდურებს. აბა დახედე და ქარქაშზე მრავალი ნაბ-
დვეი აქვია. (იქვე)

2. Correlative meaning is one of the variant meanings of the past tense, which has its own means of expression in Georgian. Correlative past is mainly realized by the following past tense forms: aorist, imperfect and unseem action I. For example:

ერთმანეთს ჰკოცნიდნენ აბრაბაცხელი სტუმრები, კველა მღერო-
და თითქმის, ვისაც როგორ შეეძლო და გაღლის კედლებს აწვდებოდ-
ნენ მასობა არიანდნს დამფრთხალი იადონები. (გ. დონანაშვილი, სამო-
სელი პირველი)

ადამიანებს ხანე აღარ უჩანო. მათ ტანისამოსს ფერს დაუკარგავს.
თავის დანებები დაღასდასხვებდნენ ნისლში ჩაბრულ ქალაქის ქუჩებ-
ში. (კ. გამსახურდია, დიონისეს დიმილი)

3. Iterative meaning – is the next variant meaning. It denotes the periodic, repeated action. According to the specific nature, its means of expression is quite various in given languages.

Iterative past is realized by the following aspect-tense forms in Georgian: aorist, imperfect and unseem action I. Aorist, imperfect and unseem action I express this meaning only with the help of lexical indicators. As for iterative, it can realize the above-mentioned meaning without lexical means. For example:

იმის ერთადერთი იმედი მე ვიყავი: თავს შევლებოდა, ჩემზე ღო-
ცულობდა, მოკვალაბო მასხენებდა და ყოველ ჩემს ახორბულ სურ-
ველსა და ბავშვურ კნის სიტყვის შემოუბრუნებლად ახრულებდა. (მ.
ჯავახიშვილი, ვეკა)

ბანანა ბევრჯერ დაკიდებულა დერძე ბეშუბაში თავდაიორა,
ფიხკულტრის მასწავლებლის მოწონება და აღტაცებაც კი დაუმსახუ-
რებია. (ნ. დუმბაძე, მარადისობის კანონი)

ფერაოსს გულში ათასჯერ აქონდა გამიფრებული, რაც აქ უნდა
ეოქა, რასაც მისი წარმოდგენით შეიფუთა მალალოც უნდა აღვლევუ-
ბინა, გაეხარებინა. (ო. ჭილაძე, გზაზე ერთი კაცი მიდიოდა)

Besides the above-mentioned special grammatical forms, which realize iterati-
ve meaning in Georgian, there is also one construction “iterative+imperfect”, which
can express the same meaning. For example:

მარტო დათას ცხოვრების ექო მიწვდებოდა ხოლმე ჩანამომეშე-
ბით: ცოცხლობდა, დაუნდობლად ებრძოდა თავს და იყო მუდამ მართა-
ლი კაცი. (ჭ. ამირჯანი, დათა თეთაშხია)

4. Exclusive meaning is realized by three aspect-tense forms in Georgian: im-
perfect, aorist and unseem action II. For example:

მას შემდეგ რაც პირველად დაგინახე, მე ვადიარე აბსოლუტური
ქცეშპირტება მშენებრებისა. (ნ. დუმბაძე, მე, ბებია, ილიკო და ილარი-
ნი)

იმათ სოფელში უცნაური დღეხასწაულები იცოდნენ, რასა რ
ვედრებოდნენ ბუნებას: წვიმას, მზესა და ნაყოფიერებას. ცისკენ თავა-
წუღნი ღრიალით ითხოვდნენ ყოველივე ამას. (გ. დონანაშვილი, სამო-
სელი პირველი)

თქვენისთანა მუშტარი ჩემს კანტორას წინათ მართლაც არ ჰყო-
ლია და ამიტომ მაგ წინადადებას მით უფრო დამინტერესა. (ჭ. ამირ-
ჯანი, დათა თეთაშხია)

5. Inclusive form of the Past Tense also represents the contact with the zero
vector on the axes of orientation. It denotes the action which began before the past
moment and includes this moment itself. Inclusive past is represented in Georgian by
the following aspect-tense forms: aorist, imperfect and unseem action II. For example:

თავადმა ხაბით მოველო თვალი ძამს ხეობას. ფერდობზე მკე-
ლები შეტყფნოდნენ მოწვეულ ვახტებს. სოფლებში აქა-იქ უკვე დღუწა იყო
გახურებული. (დ. გოთუა, ნისლი ნახატარის ტყეში)

გააწყო თაბაგარას სურფა, მოიტანა ყველაფერი და ფესზე იდგა.
სანამ შეთაურმა არ უთხრა, დაჯექი ახლად. (ჭ. ამირჯანი, დათა თე-
თაშხია)

გუშინ ხარკში ჩაიხედა და ხარკე მიწაზე დაანარცხა. ხარკემ
უთხრა, რომ ირის მოფრინობა დიდი ხანია ჩაქტობოდა, ბროლის ნა-
თელი, დღელს ბრდელიაო გაახურებოდა, შექსამდგარ ხაღამის მისეა-
და. მისი ყვეთიანი ხაშუო დალეულიყო. წყაღმა წაიღო ხიღამსზე
და თავინისცემაც. (გ. ლეონიძე, ფუფუღა)

6. Consequent Past represents the cause and result relations of the subject and
the object, which is the result of the finished action. In Georgian it is realized by two
aspect-tense forms: unseem action II and imperfect. For example:

თურმე ერთი იხის ქალი შეტყვარებოდა, ქართველი კაცის ქერივი,
როსტომასნი გომურებს ეტყოდნენ, ერთ დამეს იქ დაბარებინა “შაღ-
ბაშუღს თავისი ხაყვარელი. (ჭ. ამირჯანი, დათა თეთაშხია)

გაღიდა დღეები და კვირები. წამლები და ახალგაზრდა ჯანსა-
დი ხეული თავისას აკეთებდნენ, მუფე ძალდონის მომტარებას და ენერ-
გეის მობრუნებას გრძნობდა. (გ. აბაშიძე, ლაშარელა)

მოგზაურ სოფლაგარს განურჩევლად შევიდნა, რაც კი ხელში მოხ-
ვედროდა. (კ. გამსახურდია, მოგარის მოტაცება)

As the examples show, unseem action II can represent the “unseem action”
with the help of the particle „თურმე”, and also without it. The same – unseem action
denotes that the speaker wasn’t the participant of the action. He had heard about it
from other person only. For example:

So, as the discussed material shows, past tense is a strong grammatical cate-
gory in Georgian. It is realized by five aspect-tense forms: aorist, imperfect, unseem
action I and unseem action II. These grammatical forms are the means which realize
the content of the past tense in the language together with the lexical units.

All the above-mentioned shows that past tense is a complex grammatical cate-
gory, but great linguistic potential of Georgian language makes it possible to realize
the semantic of the past tense perfectly. (see table2)

In the same chapter of the dissertation, we give the contrastive analysis of com-
positional and stylistic content of the past tense in English and Georgian languages.

I. Simple Past of Separate is realized by two aspect-tense forms in English –
Simple Past and Past Continuous. In Georgian it is realized by three aspect-tense
forms: imperfect, preterite and unseem action I. For example:

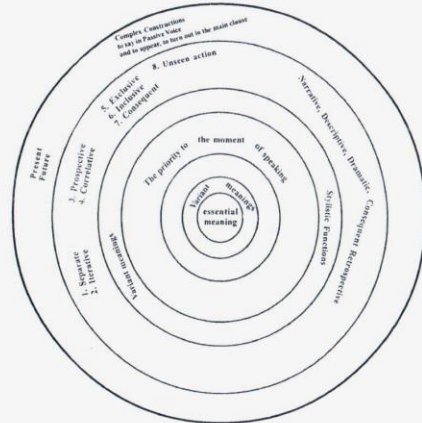
I had dinner with Gorwin and Hunt last night; They feel that the sooner I get
to work the better. (H. Robbins, Where Love Has Gone)

დიღხანს დავეყვებოდი ტყის აღმდგენელს და თითქმის მის დად-
ლილ თვალითა და ჩამხმარ ხელთა შუა ნახატარის ახალი ტყე იხრდებო-
და, მადლდებოდა, უღრან ტყედად იქცეოდა. (დ. გოთუა, ნისლი ნა-
ხატარის ტყეში)

He was sitting on the grass with Melanie Hamilton, talking quietly and smiling
the slow, lazy smile that Scarlett loved. Melanie had dark hair and a heart-shaped fa-
ce. She was small, but seemed older than her seventeen years. (M. Mitchell, Gone
with the Wind)

თოფი ხაფანით გაებრუნე და მშრალ ხეგს აეყვი, ნეტავ, მტყუანი
და ფუტკუკიანი გამომგდაროთყე – ხმა ჩაეკარგა ბარათას, მისა მო-
ხიქნა და დიღხანს ახვედა. (დ. გოთუა, ნისლი ნახატარის ტყეში)

Table 2
The Field of Functional and Semantic Category of the Past Tense in Georgian Language



The typological characteristic of Georgian language is that unseen action II, like unseen action I represents the meaning of the unseen action. But it represents such kind of unseen action, which is prior to the second action in the past.

Unseen action II with this meaning expresses the action which is not separated from the axes of orientation. It includes the same "unseen action", it means that the speaker had not been the participant of the action himself. For example:

მეორე ცოლი მოუყვანია ერთ გლეხს, სამი შვილის პატრონს, **შესწენია თურმე** დედაკაცი, თუ შენი შვილები არ მომაცვილე, გაგვერეზები და თავს მოგტროი. (კ. გამსახურდია, დათვი)

There is no relevant grammatical form in English. It is realized by the construction with the verb to say in Passive Voice and the verbs to appear, to turn out in the main clause when past perfect tense is used in the subordinate clause. For example:

Only it **turned out** he **had been married** already. (N. Mailer, An American Dream)

It appeared that the present box **had been made** with some pieces of the box that had preceded it, the one that **had been constructed** when the first people settled down to make a village here. (Sh. Jackson, The Lottery) (see table3)

In the same chapter of the dissertation the contrastive analysis of the compositional and stylistic functions (narrative, descriptive, dramatic) of the past tense is also given.

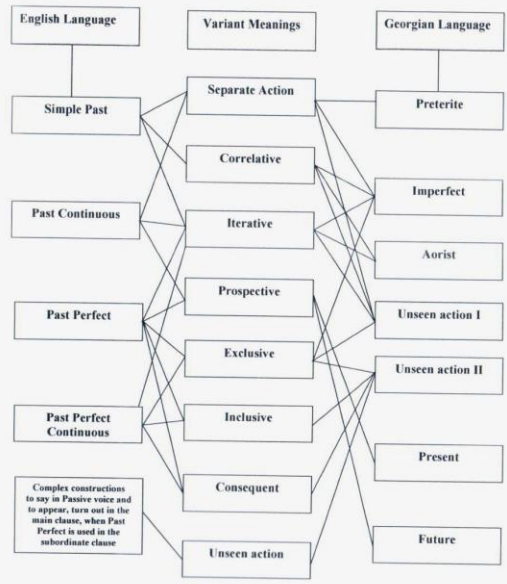
1. **Narrative Function** in both languages gives one direction to the action. In English it is realized by two aspect-tense forms: Simple Past and Past Perfect. In Georgian it is realized by three aspect-tense forms: aorist, imperfect and unseen action I. For example:

The living-room ceiling of the house next door **collapsed** at four o'clock one morning, fell with an earthquake thump into the room below, breaking an arm and cutting a face of those still dead upon the brass bed of sleep. (A. Sillitoe, Key to the Door)

სანამ კაცი დაბრუნდებოდა, დტილივიდმა ხანთელს **მოუშვირა** დამზრალი თითები და გაუკვირდა – საოცრად გამჭირვალე, ღამისი ფერის თითებს **ხედავდა** მერე ღოჯა მოუშვირა, შუბლიც **შეთბა** და მადლიანი ზმირება **აუტყვდა**, კედელთან **დაჯდა**. (გ. დონანაშვილი, სამოსელი პირველი)

Fanny **had lived**, she **had married** a distinguished man, she **had borne** children. She **had loved** her children and her husband and her grandchildren and her cats and dogs. She **had been**, he supposed happy. She **had not been** all together cheated. (I. Murdoch, An Official Rose)

Table 3
The Diagram of Temporal and Aspect Variants of the Past Tense in English and Georgian Languages



მოელი კაცობრიობა მისწერებოდა მხეს შვიი სათვალეებითა და გამურული შუშებით. იგი, როგორც ყველა მოსაკვდავი სიკვდილის წინ ათავსის დამშვენებულყო, გათვალწარმტაცებულყო, ნათელი აგხილო და მის ავინაში მისი ცქერა წვეულებრთი თვალით თითქმის შეუხლებელი იყო. (ნ. დუმბაძე, მარადისობის კანონი)

So, narrative function is perfectly realized in Georgian language. There are much more grammatical means to express the above-mentioned function in Georgian than in English. The lack of grammatical forms are filled with various lexical and contextual means to realize the narrative function in English.

2. **Descriptive Function** is realized by two aspect-tense forms in English: Simple Past and Past Continuous. In Georgian the following aspect-tense forms are relevant: aorist, imperfect and unseen action I. For example:

He lay flat on the brown pine-needled floor of the forest, his chin on his folded arms, and high overhead the wind **blew** in the tops of the pine trees. The mountainside **sloped** gently where he lay, but below it was steep and he could see the dark of the oiled road winding through the pass. (E. Hemingway, Far from the Bell Tolls)

შენ **წერებში გახეული იყავი**, სახე გაგაღურებოდა და კაცმა არ იცოდა, გადაწებოდი თუ არა, ტირილის თავიც აღარ გქონდა. წყაროს წყალს **გასმეიდნენ** ქალები, წლას რომ შესრული ძლივს გამოიხედა. (გ. დონანაშვილი, სამოსელი პირველი)

He was thin and rather stooping with sandy hair; and except when he was **being pedantic**, he could not be badlooking... but he was being pedantic a **good deal of the time**. (J. Wain, A Travelling Woman)

თუთაშხიას ტყეია იახებურის იღლის ქვეშ **გაივდა**, ბოდლო ყვალთავს გასწვრივ **გაიარა**, თუმნანებს **გებურა**, მავიდის წბო იდნავ **გადაკაწრა** და მოპირდაპირე კედელში **შეიჭრა**. (კ. ამირჯანიძე, დათა თუთაშხია)

ცოტა ხნის შემდეგ ოთახიდან მერი გამოვიდა, მოდიოდა თავჩაღურული, დაფიქრებული, გათოშილ ხელებს აღარ მალავდა, თავშალი მხრებზე დაცურებოდა, თმა საფეთქელთან ჩამოშლიდა, რომელიღაც სახელდებიანი მხატურის ნახატს გავა, სადღაც რომ შენახა და სახელი რომ არ ვიცოდი. ისე ჩამოარა ჩემსკენ **არ გამოუხედა**. (ნ. დუმბაძე, მე, ბებია, ილიკო და ილარიონი)

Despite some structural differences the purpose of the given lexical and grammatical means is the same – to create colourful and emotional description.

3. **Dramatic Function** is the next compositional-stylistic function of the past

tense, its purpose is to separate one specific episode from the context. In English this function is realized just by one aspect-tense form – Simple Past. In Georgian this meaning is realized by two aspect-tense forms: aorist and imperfect. For example:

It was pretty nice to get back to my room, after I left old Spencer, because **everybody was down** at the game, and the **heat was on** in our room, for a change. (J.D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye)

ხათუთა თითქოს ამას ელოდებოდა. ფერხითი მომივდა, ილაყვი მუხლზე მოვიღო, თავი ხელის გულზე დაიბჯინა, თვალი თვალში გამიყარა, ხელის რხევით აქანავდა და წუმი ხმით ნანასავით დაიწყო. (მ. ჯავახიშვილი, თუთი საყვლო)

შე ჩასავალს იყო. აქა-იქ ღურჯ-ხაღათიანი მუშები, დედაკაცები, ბავშვები **ირეოდნენ**, ზოგნი ჯგუფ-ჯგუფად **მიდიოდნენ**, ზოგნი – კინტად, ზოგნი სახლების კარებთან **იდგნენ** და **ლაპარაკობდნენ**. სადღაც თუბს ყველანი ცერად **უწურებდნენ** და **უბღვეროდნენ**. (მ. ჯავახიშვილი, ჯიღლი)

So, it is clear that the above-mentioned function plays important role in the given languages, though grammatical means which are mainly used to realize this function differ greatly.

4. **Consequent Function** is generally realized by perfect tense forms in English. Past Tense in consequent function gains one more sense – expressing the result. It is the leading meaning for realization of the consequent function. For example:

It was generally known that he was incompetent resident manager at the mines and that he seldom showed up there before eleven. As a father **he had certainly failed** in the rearing of two of his three children. (Th. Wilder, The Eighth Day)

შხიანი დარი იყო, ილარიონს ეზოში სკამი **გაეტანა**, თუთის ძირას **დამჯდარიყო**, კალთაში სოფიო ყვდა, პაპიროსს აბოლებდა და სადღაც მალდა, ღურჯ ცაში იფურებოდა. (ნ. დუმბაძე, მე, ბებია, ილიკო და ილარიონი)

That had been an accident too. She **had been acting** for a long time without a rest and she badly needed one. The play she was in was ceasing to attract and they were about to start rehearsing a new one when Michael got the chance of letting the theatre to a French company for six weeks. (W.S. Maugham, Theatre)

დიდი ამლით მოვიდა გიორგი მეფე, მხოლოდ დედოფალი და ზვიად სახალარი უფლისციხეში **წახულიყვნენ**. (კ. გამსახურდია, დი-ლოხტაბის კონსტანტინეს მარჯვენა)

So, consequent function is realized by two aspect – tense forms in English:

Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous. As for Georgian, two aspect-tense forms are used also to represent the above-mentioned function: imperfect and unseen action II.

5. Retrospective Function is one of the compositional-stylistic functions of the past tense. Its purpose is to form specific and different associations. This function is realized by perfect tense-forms in English. In Georgian this function is realized by three aspect-tense forms: imperfect, aorist and unseen action II. For example:

Mildred was not a figure to pity. Mildred whom Hugh **had passionately kissed** once, on a summer evening over twenty-five years ago, when they were both already sensible middle-aged married people. He wondered whether she still recalled that curious incident. (I. Murdoch, An Unofficial Rose)

შორენას მისთვის გადამკრა ამის გაშინეს, საესებო ჩაეფერულა თვალები. მთავრდა: მართლაც რომ **დაგეგარტა** საწმერთული ხობისხედილსფერი ამ ორი კვირის წინად. (კ. გამსახურდია, დედოსტატის მარჯვენა)

New came that Ashley was missing. He **had been missing** for three days, after going on a five-man search to discover where the Yankee army were preparing to fight their next battle. (M. Mitchell, Gone With the Wind)

იქვე მოკვიდელ დედაკაცებს მოუბრუნდა – ხატობაში **დაგენახე** ხუდ პირველად, მეში ატლასურ-ნარინჯისფერი კაბის შესხედვარე **გაოგებულყო**. (ტ. ლეონიძე, ნატერის ხე)

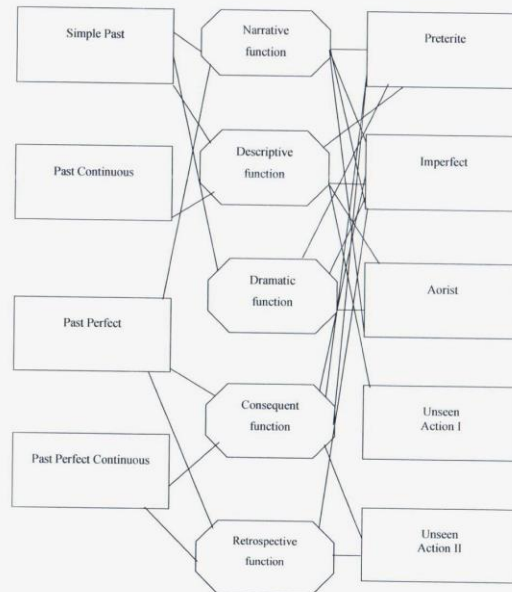
The additional variant meaning of the Georgian aspect-tense forms – unseen action I and II has been marked.

So, with the help of contrastive analysis it has become easier to represent the same characteristics, which the above-mentioned compositional and stylistic functions possess. They play a very important role in the process of narration. The structural differences between the languages has been also denoted while realizing those functions.

According to the conducted research we can represent the functional-semantic field of the past tense in Georgian language by the following table. (see the table4)

Table 4

The Compositional and Stylistic Functions of the Past Tense in English and Georgian Languages

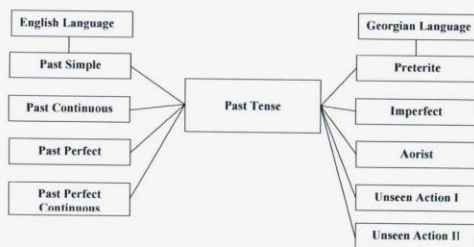


CONCLUSION

Having studied and analysed the temporal and aspect variants and different compositional and stylistic functions of the past tense we have come to the following theoretical conclusions:

1. According to the research we have performed it can be said that the use of functional method, which is connected with the conceptual analysis of the meaning of the past tense, helps to identify the multi-meaning nature of the given forms. The paradigmatic meaning of the past tense is – priority to the moment of speaking. It belongs to the period, which has already happened. Past tense is a strong grammatical category, which is identified more clearly, than non-past tense forms.
2. In English language the categorial form of the past tense is realized by the following aspect-tense forms: Simple Past, Past Continuous, Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous. In Georgian, past tense is realized by five aspect-tense forms: preterite, imperfect, aorist, unseen action I and II. We can represent the categorial form of the past tense in English and Georgian languages by the following table:

The categorial form of the past tense in English and Georgian languages Table 5



3. According to the research we have determined that in both languages the categorial form of the past tense is of high semantic potential and represents great typological similarity. First of all, the mark of priority should be mentioned, which is grammatically expressed in English and Georgian languages. In Georgian, unseen action II is mainly used to express the priority to the axes of orientation of the past tense. But the synonymous use preterite is quite frequent. The tense-form preterite in Georgian like Simple Past in English, is quite often used to express the mark of priority. So, English and Georgian languages are characterized by the variety of meanings while representing the mark of priority in the past tense, which is caused by the synonymous use of Simple Past and Past Perfect tense forms in English and preterite and unseen action II in Georgian.

4. In the semantic of the past tense the main difference between the given languages is represented by use of Iterative meaning and unseen action. In Georgian, there is a special grammatical form – aorist, to express iterative meaning. But in English, there is no grammatical form, which can express iterative meaning without lexical indicators. To represent the repeated action, there is a verb form in English which must be combined with the word, which denotes the repeated action. There are also a special constructions used + infinitive and would + infinitive in English to express the regular actions.

5. The second meaning – unseen action in Georgian language, is one of the variant meanings of the tense forms – unseen action I and II. In English the same “unseen action” isn’t realized by the special verb form. We use complex constructions with the verb to say in passive voice and to appear, to turn out in the main clause, when the perfect tense forms are represented in the subordinate clause. So, the fact that English language doesn’t have the category of unseen action, it’s necessary to use lexical means, which is quite common for this language.

6. The difference between given languages is also given while realizing Prospective Past Continuous. Prospective meaning in English is realized by Past Continuous tense form. It is caused by the characteristics of the English language system, where the strict principles of the time relations work. Georgian language uses present and future tense forms to express the same meaning.

7. The contrastive analysis of the semantic of the past tense gives us an opportunity to speak about the functional unity of the past tense in those structurally different languages. This unity of the functions reflects the closeness of the semantic potential of the past forms in both languages and also denotes the universal features of the categorial forms of the past tense.

THE MAIN CONCEPTS OF THE DISSERTATION ARE GIVEN IN THE
FOLLOWING WORKS:

1. Okreshidze, N. Functional-Semantic Category of the Past Tense in English. "International Conference "Language – Intercultural Mediator", Kutaisi, Akaki Tsereteki State University, 2010, pp.513-516.
2. Okreshidze, N. The Means of Expressing the Semantic of the Past Tense in English. *Science Journal "Language and Culture"*, #1, Kutaisi, 2009, pp.81-84
3. Okreshidze, N. The Means of Expressing Compositional-Stylistic content of the Past Tense in English (Narrative, Descriptive, Dramatic functions), *Periodical Scientific Journal of the Faculty of Arts*. vol.X. Publisher "Akaki Tsereteli State University", 2008-2009, pp177-179.
4. Okreshidze, N. Grammatical Ambiguity. *Periodical Scientific Journal of the Faculty of Arts*. vol.IX, Publisher Akaki Tsereteli State University, pp.359-360.