
Nominative nouns as address forms in Georgian: Interplay of internal and external changes

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In Georgian (Hewitt 1995), vowel-final nominal stem is used both in reference and in address.

- (1) a. *deda* *k'itxulobs c'ign-s.* (cf. Old G. *deda-j* [mother-NOM])
mother.NOM she.reads.it book-DAT
'The mother reads a book'
- b. *deda,* *male dabrundi!* (cf. Old G. *deda-o* [deda-VOC])
mother.VOC soon return.IMPER
'Mother, come back soon!'

With consonant-final stems, NOM is used in reference only (2). However, spoken Georgian of the late 20th c. illustrates NOM forms used in address as well (3).

- (2) a. *k'ac-i / *k'ac-o* *ašenebs* *saxl-s.*
man-NOM man-VOC he.is.building.it house-DAT
'The man is building a house.'
- b. *k'ac-o / *k. ac-i,* *aašene* *saxl-i!*
man-VOC man-NOM build.it house-NOM
'[Hey,] man, build a house!'
- (3) a. *avališvil-i, /* *avališvil-o,* *dapastan!*
Avalishvili-NOM Avalishvili-VOC to.the.blackboard
(a strict order) (a regular address)
'[Hey,] Avalishvili, to the blackboard!'

On the data collected from online discussion websites it will be argued that using NOM with consonant-final nouns in address in Georgian is a pattern borrowing (Sakel 2007) from Russian. Thus, the use of reference forms in address in Georgian is a result of (A) a language internal change, involving the deletion of NOM and VOC markers with vowel-final stems, and (B) an external, contact-induced change, which made it possible to use NOM-marked consonant-final nouns in address.

References: • Hewitt, B. G. (1995). *Georgian: A structural Reference Grammar*, London Oriental and African Language Library. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. • Sakel, J. (2007). Types of loan: Matter and pattern. In Y. Matras & J. Sakel (eds.), *Grammatical Borrowing in Cross-Linguistic Perspective*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 15-29.