

On the Origin of the Suffix -š°a of the Illusive Mood in Abkhazian

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Annotation

In the Abkhazian language the illusive mood is produced by adding the suffix -š°a to the forms of different screeves, e.g. ო-ზ-ბო - შ°ა "as if I see", დ-ცა-ზ - შ°ა "as if he left", სკ-ყოუ - შ°ა "as if I am".

We think that the suffix -š°a was derived from the Abkhazian lexeme ა- შ°ა "song".

The syntagm აშ°აჰარა "saying a song" and accordingly, the finite form აშ°ა (ა)ჰეოტ "He is saying a song" are established in Abkhazian.

Presumably, the verb part of this syntagm was lost in order to produce the illusive mood, and we got the affix -š°a from the nominal part.

In the paper, there is a parallel with the Georgian particle თთქო /თთქოლ "as if", which is attached to the forms of different screeves and expresses illusiveness.

We think that the Abkhazian -š°a was derived from the syntagm აშ°ა (ა)ჰეოტ "saying a song", like the Georgian particle თთქოლ "as if", which was derived from the verb form with the particle თუ "if", თუ თქვას "if it is said", but in this case, the verb is lost.

Key words: the Abkhazian language, modal element, Ibero-Caucasian