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# From the history of teaching the theory and practice of rhetoric - about the "theory of orality"

# **Abstract**

"Theory of Verbality" - this is the name of the textbook that was widespread in Georgia at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. We will find many editions of "theory of verbality". The subject of the present study is the book "Theory of Verbality" compiled by Archimandrite Kirioni and Grigol Kipshidze. There has been no scholarly interest in the book so far, so the textbook is effectively unstudied. The main goals and objectives of the research are to analyze the content of the textbook, what subjects were taught in it, to find out the place of the mentioned naming subject among other educational subjects, to reveal a number of changes that occurred in the Georgian educational system at that time, and to show how a new subject was introduced in the form of the theory of verbalization and which subject was preceded by its removal. Ahead of this process, in particular, we will focus on rhetoric as a precursor to the theory of orality.

# Introduction

As is known, we have found the first Georgian textbooks of rhetoric, both translated and original, which belong to the XVIII-XIX centuries. Among them is Mkhitar Sebastasi's "Rhetorika", which was translated from Armenian, around 1761, by Anton Bagrationi, Filipe Kaitmazishvili and Dositeoz Cherkezishvili, and still exists in the form of manuscripts; The next textbook is "Rhetorika" by Solomon Dodashvili, which was written in 1828, although the author was unable to finish the book and print it. This is

followed by the "Short Rhetoric Gina Mchevr-Gorteba za khal gazda kmatschili katsat" published in 1879, in Constantinople, in the printing house of Antoine Gwizalian, which is the first Georgian-language printed textbook of rhetoric (Short Rhetoric, 1879). Apart from these three books, neither earlier nor later textbooks of rhetoric can be found.

First of all, it is necessary to take into account the fact that some changes took place in the Georgian educational system after the 18th-19th centuries, as a result of which some old subjects were removed from the study subjects <sup>1</sup>, and some new subjects were added. Rhetoric, the same as eloquence, as a subject, was an integral part of Georgian educational institutions of the XVIII -XIX centuries. For example, the earliest textbook "Rhetorika" by Mkhitar Sebastasi was translated in 1761-1764 based on the educational needs of the seminaries of Tbilisi and Telavi. The next Georgian textbook, Solomon Dodashvili's "Rhetorika" was written in 1828, and although it was not printed, its creation was due to educational purposes; Finally, "A Brief Rhetoric for the Benefit of Young Men" published in 1879 also served educational purposes. This is the limit of the list of Georgian textbooks of rhetoric known to us today.

However, the situation changed dramatically in the following period - rhetoric as a subject is actually no longer found among other academic subjects of the period after the 19th century. From this period, it became a constituent part of the new subject "theory of verbality", which was built according to Russian textbooks (Kenchiashvili, 2021: 163-164). Thus, the history of teaching the theory and practice of rhetoric in 19th century Georgia ends with "Short Rhetoric". The issue seems to be certain at first glance, but the fact is that the learning and teaching of theoretical and practical issues related to eloquence did not end there, because this function was combined with another subject under the name of "Theory of Eloquence" . Below we discuss the various editions of this handbook in chronological order, starting with the first edition and ending with the latest edition.

It should be said that in the 30s of the 19th century, Solomon Dodashvili (1805-1836) published an article entitled "A short review of Georgian literature (ie verbalism)". "Literary parts of Tiflis office" - this was the name of the literary magazine in which its publication was printed in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Cf.: It should also be noted that rhetoric, that is, eloquence, was one of the integral subjects in the ancient educational tradition, which was known as the "seven liberal arts".

two parts, in numbers I and II of 1832 (Dodashvili, 1832a: 19-24; 1832b: 25-34). In his review, the term "orality" is used to refer to "Georgian literature".

As for the first printed textbook of "Theory of Verbality", we find the 1898 edition. The full title of the book is "The theory of verbality, with the addition of literary samples, a guide book for the reference of noble schools, theological and master's schools, seminaries and diocesan women's schools", compiled by Archimandrite Kirioni and Grigol Kipshidze (Archimandrite Kirioni, Kipshidze (next), 1898 : III). This guide uses the term "verbality" in an even broader sense (discussed below). We will also find other editions compiled by the same authors, for example, "Theory of Verbality and Christomatia", which was published in 1908 (Kirion Episkopozi, Kipshidze (next), 1908) and the 1920 edition of "Theory of Verbality: A Textbook" (Kirion Kathalikozi, Kipshidze (following), 1920).

Another textbook entitled "Fundamentals of rhetoric (rhetoric)" belongs to the same period, which was translated from Russian (Karichashvili, 1905: 260), where the term "rhetoric" refers to "rhetoric". There are many other editions of similar topics, for example, M. Kelengeridze of 1919 (Kelengeridze, 1919), I. Vartagawa of 1922 (Vartagawa, 1922) and V. Bokeria's 1928 editions (Bokeria, 1928).

It is also known that Al. The book published by Khakhanashvili is called: "History of Georgian oratory: (from ancient times to the end of the 18th century)" (Khakhanashvili, 1904; 1913a; 1919) and "History of Georgian oratory: (nineteenth century)" (Khakhanashvili, 1913b). Textbooks were also used in Georgian schools.

# About the guide

The term "orality" in some cases refers to the Georgian language and literature, in some cases to Georgian folk orality, and in some cases to rhetoric and was used as synonymous terms. However, it should be noted here that verbality includes all three of the above-mentioned terms - language and literature, folk oral speech and rhetoric - at the same time and is presented as a word with a wider meaning. Judging by the example of the "Theory of Eloquence" compiled by Archimandrite Kirioni and Grigol Kipshidze, the book deals with the stylistics of the Georgian language, the theory and practice of eloquence, etc. Below we will touch on this guide in more detail.

The purpose of the book was to learn and teach the Georgian language and literature, more generally speaking, in different types of schools in Georgia. In the foreword, the authors of the book review both the schools and the reasons for creating the textbook: "Today, there are two noble schools in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Tiflis. In one, namely, Tbilisi, there are already six high school classes, and its management committee has decided to establish a seventh class this year. There are also two diocesan schools in Tbilisi and Kutaisi with the Shuatana curriculum, master's and theological seminaries and schools: almost every one of these schools has no small place reserved for our mother tongue and the study of Georgian literature and history. Therefore, at this time, there is a need to have such a manual, with the help of which it is possible to study the theory of Georgian literature and vocabulary."

The manual is compiled according to the Russian manuals and it is emphasized that it is a compilation work, in particular, the theoretical rules and definitions are translated, while the practical examples taken from Georgian literature are original: "Our manual is compiled according to the Russian manuals and this is, more or less, a compilation and place - direct translation in place. It is a direct translation from Russian textbooks, for example, applied and general definitions of this or that theoretical rule and the law of verbosity. Only to substantiate this definition and as examples to be easily assimilated by apprentices, of course, the writings of our writers, the writings of our poets" (Archimandriti Kirioni, Kipshidze (following), 1898: III-IV). It should be remembered here that in the same period, a textbook called "Basic Rhetoric" was translated from Russian (Karichashvili, 1905: 260).

Compilers also note which authors and textbooks they relied on when working: "The system and order of material stacking in our textbook is the same as Mr. Belorusov's in his textbook: учебникь теории словесности. And when its definition of this or that law of the theory of verbiage did not seem complete to us, or was not quite clear and understandable, then we sometimes turned to the authors of other textbooks and christomats: Sluchevsky, Smirnovsky, Polivanov, Galakhov, Filonov, etc." (Archimandrite Kirion, Kipshidze (following), 1898: IV).

The book differs from the previous textbooks and is a kind of novelty in that, in addition to rhetoric, it also discusses issues of stylistics. The manual consists of both theoretical and practical parts; The theoretical part, on the other hand, includes an introduction in which such issues as verbality, the theory of verbality, cosmic art and its branches are discussed.

The first chapter, which is the most important, is completely devoted to stylistics and is presented in the form of the following issues: stylistics or the theory of language; What is stylistics and what does it teach us? correctness of language, its purity; Expressing one's opinion clearly, distinctly and meaningfully; figurativeness of language; trope and figure; Goodness of language; period etc.

The second chapter is devoted to prose and the theory of prose, different types of prose are distinguished: narrative, descriptive, argumentative essays, and eloquence or oratorical prose is distinguished separately. When defining eloquence, the compilers list all the goals that oratorical prose has: "An oratorical or oratorical work is a speech that an eloquent man or orator utters in front of his listeners, either to arouse some feeling or to direct their desire to this or that decision. to receive, or also because it arouses the desired feeling and gives the desired decision." (Archimandriti Kirioni, Kipshidze (following), 1898: 50).

Eloquence is presented in the form of four main types in the theory of eloquence: political eloquence, judicial eloquence, social eloquence and religious eloquence. At the end, they added a note, which talks about the emergence of a new branch of academic eloquence: "A kind of other eloquence, called academic eloquence, was recently introduced. The content of an academic word is sometimes some scientific subject." (Archimandrite Kirioni, Kipshidze (following), 1898: 51).

# conclusion

As the study of the issue has shown, the first printed training manuals in "theory of verbality" belong to the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The subject of our study was the earliest known 1898 edition of The Theory of Orality. The textbook was intended for the study of Georgian language and literature, stylistics and rhetoric in different types of schools in Georgia. As a result of getting acquainted with the content of the book, another issue was highlighted, namely, that the purpose of this textbook was to learn and teach a number of issues of rhetoric, stylistics, literary theory and practice. During the study of the issue, the changes in the Georgian educational system were determined , which were connected with the removal of rhetoric as a subject and the

introduction of the theory of orality instead. The future perspectives of the research of the mentioned issue are related to the study of other editions of the theory of orality and their comparison with each other.

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