

# Posture Verbs in the Kartvelian Languages

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The posture verbs occupy a special place within the class of verbal predicates. Most studies agree on the anthropocentric basis of these verbs: their prototypical meaning pertains to the three typical positions of a human being - vertical state (standing), horizontal state (lying), and middle state (sitting). These verbs can be extended to conceptualize existence and location of inanimate objects.

The focus of this paper is to discuss the basic meanings and extended uses of the posture verbs in Kartvelian Languages.

In modern Georgian these verbs are: **dgas** – a predicate, denoting the vertical position of an object, **Çevs**, **devs** – a predicates denoting the horizontal position. In particular, the predicate **Çevs** denotes the position of an animate object, and **devs** (parallel verb **zevs**) – of an inanimate one. **zevs** is an archaic verb, though we have it in contemporary Georgian too. **Zis** denotes the third, middle state. Together with this we use a predicate **sxedan**, denoting this position of several or many objects.

Distribution of the verbs **Çevs** and **zevs** (**devs**), according to their being animate or inanimate, seems to be secondary. In Old Georgian, we encounter the predicate **zes** with an animate object, namely, human beings too:

q`rmai čemi **zes** saxlsa šina čemsa daxsnili M, 8,6 C

My servant lieth at home sick of the pals / my servant is lying at home paralyzed.

Georgian belongs to the languages which generally use posture verbs in locative construction, such as German, Dutch, Russian and others.

In Georgian locative constructions mainly are used the verbs: **dgas** [stands] and **zevs/devs** [lies]. The verbs denoting the horizontal position of the animate object neither are used in locative construction in other Kartvelian languages, this refers to the verbs – Georgian **čevs**, Megr. **janu (n)**, Laz. **jans** and Svan. **aq`re**.

The range of **dgas** verb usage is particularly wide. In this respect, the data of the Georgian language dialects merit attention. It is noteworthy that **dgas** and **devs** verbs in Georgian may be used to denote the location of the same object.

The verbs, denoting posture, show great proximity in all Kartvelian languages, although there are evidenced also significant differences, which will be discussed in our paper.