Poetics

On the Regular System and Regular Diachrony as Exemplified by Georgian Versification

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ABSTRACT. The paper deals with the proposition advanced by the author concerning the regular correlation of a versification system and its development. In order to illustrate the proposition, the process of the development of the basic rule $n \geq k$, working in structural units of Georgian versification, is given at the four stages of development for four hierarchic levels of the system. Another proposition, discussed in the paper, deals with the reconstruction of the initial position for the versification system. To illustrate the proposition, the process of development of the rule $n \geq k$ is considered in a retrospective way – moving downwards from the fourth to the first stage, which allows postulating the position preceding the first stage in the development. © 2010 Bull. Georg. Natl. Acad. Sci.

Key words: versification system, hierarchic level, stage of development.

1. The general proposition on which the present paper is based is the following [1: 71]: a) Versification development/diachrony is regular just as a versification system; b) regularities of development are correlated to the system regularities (cf. the first part of the proposition with the expression of R. Jakobson: «Впервые осознается неразрывность идей закономерной системы и ее изменений, в свою очередь закономерных.» - see [2: XIV]). In the second part of the proposition it is stressed that development is fully correlated with the regularities of the system, reflecting them in its language, i.e. within the frames of its specificity. This in particular may mean, for example, that if a system is a hierarchy of structural units, development is a hierarchy of the stages at which the structural shape of units is formed.

2. Regular character of development may be actually manifested in several ways.

a) In diachrony we have stages, marked by certain features, which in their succession or alteration show a regular picture. E.g. in the development of Georgian versification the succession/alteration of stages of the system realization obeys the following rule – “every two stages, between which there is a third one, are in principle analogous”, which in fact results in four stages according to the following scheme: codification – reform – codification – reform (titles of the stages are conventional) [1: 72].

b) Reflection of system regularities in diachrony is manifested also in the fact that every stage either establishes/develops something or rejects it; what is established (is repeated) is something which agrees with the structural rules of the system; what is rejected (is not repeated any more) is something which does not agree with them.

c) Every element of the system follows a regular path of development which, in particular, is manifested in the fact that at one or another stage, or within the frame of more than one stage, at the time of realization of a given metric form or a given unit, we have first the initial, then – the final stage, when it assumes the shape which corresponds fully to the relevant structural rules.

d) What is most important, the development of a rule or rules working in a system shows a regular picture; namely, every stage of diachrony represents a new stage on the way of formation of structural rules, linked regu-
larly either with particular fragments of these rules or levels of the system units, etc.

The object of our present interest is the latter phenomenon.

3. Let us describe briefly (and in a simplified manner) the system of Georgian versification. It is a system of binary rhythmic units, containing four hierarchic levels: binomial – two-segment unit, line – two-binomial unit, distich – two-line unit, stanza – two-distich unit.

The system of binomial, as the first/lower (basic) unit, is represented by three sub-systems:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Level I</th>
<th>Level II</th>
<th>Level III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5+5</td>
<td>4+4</td>
<td>3+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5+4</td>
<td>4+3</td>
<td>3+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5+3</td>
<td>4+2</td>
<td>3+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5+2</td>
<td>4+1</td>
<td>3+0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5+1</td>
<td>4+0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5+0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ciphers denote the syllabic length of sections (segments) making up a binary structure. “Plus” stands for the rhythmic boundary between two constituent parts; a similar boundary is found in a unit of any other level, as a binary structure (on rhythmic boundary see [3]).

Several rules apply in the formation of the structural shape of a binomial, of which the main one is the following: the second constituent is not longer than the first; in other words: the first constituent part is of the same length or is longer than the second one [4], [5]. Symbolically this rule may be written down as follows: n\(\geq k\).

The second unit, belonging to a higher hierarchic level, is line, which is a binary structure made of two binomials (as differential constituents), e.g. (5+5)+(5+5).

Two lines make up the unit of the next level – a distich, two distichs form a stanza. The structure of a unit of each level is defined by several rules of its own, but they have in common the rule n\(\geq k\), being essential for all of them.

4. As regards diachrony, in the development of Georgian versification, as noted above, four stages of the realization of the system are identifiable (cf. four levels of the hierarchy of units). Each has characteristic features of its own (whereas the complete picture reflects the regular way of development). Thus, at the first stage, for a unit of the first level of the system we have three binomials: 5+5, 5+3 and 4+4; at the second stage the subsystem 4+X is realized fully, in the subsystem 5+X there are only two vacant places, the first representative of the subsystem 3+X appears, etc.

The regular picture of development according to stages is especially clearly demonstrated by the process of formation of the rule n\(\geq k\). This is a two-part rule: equality of constituents and the first longer constituent. This rule in this form at the first stage of development occurs only for a unit of the first level, in every other unit the rule n=k works. After this in the development the rule n\(\geq k\) at each next stage takes shape in a unit of every next level: at the second stage n\(\geq k\) is realized in a unit of the second level as well; at the third stage – in a unit of the third level as well; at the fourth stage – in a unit of the fourth level as well. The development in this case is based on the mechanism “plus one”: at the first stage n\(\geq k\) is found on one level; at the second stage, according to the “plus one” principle, it occurs on two levels: 1+1=2; at the third stage we have it on 2+1=3 levels; at the final, fourth, stage it occurs on the 3+1=4 levels.

Ultimately: in the formation of the rule n\(\geq k\) every stage is a transition from the principle of equality of constituents (n=k) in one given unit of the four units to the principle of equality of constituents and the first, longer constituent (n\(\geq k\)) [1:96-99].

So, we have a fully harmonious relation of the development and the system. 1) In the development there is the hierarchy of regular stages – in the system there is the hierarchy of levels of structural units: four stages in the development – four levels in the system of units. 2) The hierarchy of development is correlated to the hierarchy of the system: the rule n\(\geq k\) is consistently realized at four stages for the four levels of the system.

We can formulate one more proposition: reconstruction/postulating of the initial position in the system development is possible due to the existence of a complete correspondence of regularities of the system and the development.

This proposition may be illustrated well with the example of Georgian verse.

If we consider the above-described picture contra-rivis – going backwards through stages – the situation will be the following: at the final, fourth stage the rule n\(\geq k\) is realized on all the four levels, i.e. the rule n=k is not found anywhere; at the third stage the rule n\(\geq k\) is realized in a unit of three levels, – in one place, in a unit of the fourth level, n=k is found; at the second stage the rule is realized in units of two levels, – in two places,
in units of the fourth and the third levels \( n=k \) occurs; at the first stage the rule is realized only in the unit of the first level, – in the other three we have \( n=k \). It is natural to reconstruct the pre-first stage, in which the rule \( n=k \) applies in the unit of the first level as well, i.e. the structure of units of all levels is defined only by the rule \( n=k \). Reconstruction in this case is based on the “minus one” mechanism (cf. above “plus one”), which defines the regularity of downwards movement in the realization of the rule \( n\geq k \) according to stages: at the fourth, final stage this rule is realized at all the four levels of the system; at the penultimate stage (third in the development) by the principle “minus one”, \( n\geq k \) occurs on three levels: 4-1=3; at the next stage in the downwards movement (being the second stage in the development) this rule is realized on the 3-1=2 level; at the next stage (the first one in the development) \( n\geq k \) is realized on the 2-1=1 level. Reconstruction: at the pre-first stage the rule \( n\geq k \) is realized on the 1-1=0 level, i.e. is not realized on any level. In other words: the pre-first, reconstructed stage is the situation when the rule of the equality of constituent parts \( n=k \) works in binary units of all levels (in time this stage is assumed before the 4th-5th cc.).

Taking into account the regularities, this entire picture (including the reconstructed stage) may be characterized in different ways.

a) Four stages are defined by the introduction of the principle of division into inequal constituents into a unit of four levels: the first stage – on the first level, the second stage – on the second level, the third stage – on the third level, the fourth stage – on the fourth level (in other words: at each stage the formation of the rule \( n\geq k \) in a unit of the given level is preceded by a previous stage, in which in the same unit this rule is not realized and only the rule of equality occurs).

b) A unit of every higher level in the staged development structurally repeats the unit of the respective lower level: the principle of inequality at the first stage occurs in a unit of the first level, then at the second stage it is repeated by a unit of the second level, and so on.

c) Within every stage we are dealing with the “violation” of the principle of equality in a unit (or units) of a low level, whereas on the respective high level (or levels) this principle is observed.

d) The interrelation of stages and levels results in the following regular picture: at the final stage in units on all levels the rule \( n\geq k \) applies, whereas at the initial (reconstructed) stage – everywhere only the rule \( n=k \) is found (between these two, initial and final, positions there are stages in which \( n=k \) is transformed into the rule \( n\geq k \) beginning from the unit of the first level to the unit of the fourth level.)

### საერთო

**ქართული სახელწოდებები და ქართული ლიტერატურის ქართული ლიტერატურის განვითარება**

s. ხარაგაძე

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