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## **Towards Peculiarities of Reported Speech in the Svan Language**

The specific form of Reported Speech in Svan attracts great attention both in Georgia (I. Chantladze) and abroad (W. Boeder).

In Georgian, particles of Direct Speech (DS) –**metki**, **-tko**, **-o** designate the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person speech, respectively. In Svan, Reported Speech (RS) is different. The corresponding particles are **-iž /-ē ž** (1st, 2nd), **eser**, **rokʻwʻ** (3rd), and the reference to person in finite forms is neutralized for all three persons: only third person forms occur. To determine the underlying person, the context has to be taken into account. (The following terms are used for clear illustration: **author** – the actual speaker; **speaker** – the reported speaker; **addressee** – the listener in the actual dialogue). Due to the third person construction, DS resembles indirect speech rather than direct speech of the European languages, if it were not for RS particles and tense assignment.

In dialogues, the determining factor for **constructions rests not on the speaker's or the addressee's position but on their relationship to the author** (i.e. who is the speaker or the addressee of the conversation for the author).

Due to the ambiguity of the constructions in terms of real grammatical person, RS utilizes the same (**-iž /-ē ž**) particle for the 1st and 2nd persons where the speaker is the author himself!

Even in Svan poetry the 1st and 2nd person construction of RS (where a 3rd person construction is also possible) is a later, secondary development caused by language contact with Georgian. **It also occurs in the speech of the Kodori Valley (resp. Dali) population (especially among young speakers) where the forms of the Georgian type RS outnumber the specific Svan III person construction.**