



Typological Classification of Threat and the Explicit and Implicit Forms of its Expression; Linguistic Markers of Stance

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Abstract

The need to study one of the manifestations of a speech act and a form of communication is caused by the interest that has arisen in various fields, for instance, Sociology (Tedeschi, 1994), Theory of Power / Management, (Kellermann, 1996), Theory of Speech Acts (Salgueiro, 2010), The Art of Negotiation (Shapiro, D. L., & Kulik, Carol T., 2004), Workplace Violence (Elliott, R., & Jarrett, D., 1994) Political Linguistics (Sechser, 2010). Against this background, the English and Georgian linguistics contain a very little theoretical material about the study of the semantic function of the stance and the discourse of threats. The need for a thorough study of the nature of threat is also due to the fact that, as a result, it will become possible to determine the reality of the threat and predict the likely consequences of its execution. The present article deals with the typological classification of threats, used in the statements of Georgian and foreign politicians; it discusses how the threat is expressed - explicitly or implicitly, and which linguistic markers of stance affect its credibility.

Keywords: *threat, political speech, linguistic markers of stance*

Introduction

According to the theory of speech acts, a threat is traditionally classified as a speech act, which is the part of a group of commissives. With its help, the interlocutor expresses an intention for future actions, which is unfavorable and undesirable for the addressee. However, the threat may even be considered a crime, if such a future action is aimed at harming the health, life or personal freedom of the addressee. Based on the fact that a threat can be considered a criminal, punitive action, it is often expressed in a disguised form. In this case, the addresser refrains from adding more expressiveness to his statement and allows the addressee to decode the information himself, so that, if necessary, s/he (the addresser) can refute the charges against her/him. It should also be noted that a threat is effective only if the addressee can recognize it and understand the expected danger, otherwise a communication act will not be successful. Thus, the expression of threat should be as effective as possible, or at least indirect, but at the

same time definable. This, in turn, includes the development of a robust and sustainable strategy to create a successful unit that includes common background baseline data, both linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

One of the earliest works, written on the study of the threat language, is the work of the researcher Kent (1967) “*The effects of threats*”, which determines the influence of a conditional threat on the outcome of a situation. Kent argues that convention, whether explicit or implicit, is a defining feature of a threat. For example, the expression “I will hit you” is not a threat if it does not contain an additional conditional “If”- sentence, which may be implicit. According to the article, explicitness compared to implicitness reduces the misunderstanding between the two interlocutors. The more complete the conditional threat is linguistically (*e.g.*, if you don't do X, then I will do Y), the more likely it is for the recipient of the threat and the greater the possibility of fulfilling the threat is (*Ibid*). An explicitly expressed version of a conditional threat as a classic form of threat is considered by Millburn and Watman (1981). According to the researchers, any threat, expressed either explicitly or implicitly, is conditional. However, according to Kent, considering the explicitness and implicitness from the viewpoint of the power of reconciliation, the most important thing is the goal of the communicant, who threatens (Kent, 1967).

In order to solve the set tasks the research methods used in the given paper are as follow: descriptive, functional-semantic and comparative analysis.

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Theory of Typological Classification of Threat

Many scientists have discussed the existence of various types of threat. However, one of the most comprehensive and accurate categorizations can be found in Gale's research (2010). There are presented the following three main categories of threat:

Direct threat: when the type of action, time, place and identity of the victim are specified (although, the existence of all the components listed here is not necessary; at least two of them are considered sufficient);

e.g. a) „Stop interfering with us. I would be happy to hang you. If it were up to me, I would hang you all. “ -Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte. (Mansfield et al., 2017)

b) ირმა ინაშვილი ვიგლა აგულაშვილს: „ნუ გეუბნებათ იმედი, რომ ასე იჯდებით და მშვიდად მიყურებთ, ისევე როგორც მიშა გიორგაძე, თქვენც აგებთ პასუხს, დრო მოვა! უბრალოდ გეუბნებით, რომ პასუხს აგებთ, გესმით?!“ (Irma Inashvili to Gigla Agulashvili: Don't hope you'll sit still and watch us calm! You will have to bear the responsibility for your deeds just like Misha Giorgadze! I'm telling you, the time will come and you will have to answer, do you understand me?!) (EPN ექსპრესნიუსი, 2016)

Conditional threat: a threat arising from the actions of the listener;

e.g. a) "If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!" (Trump, 2017)

b) ისლამის სახელმწიფოს ხალიფატის მუქარა საქართველოს მიმართ: თუ ჩვენ სამი დაკარგავთ, თქვენ 1000 დაკარგავთ. (Islamic state caliphate threatens Georgia: If we lose three, you will lose 1000). (Info 9, 2017)

Hidden / indirect threat: neither the type of action, nor the time, place, the identity of the victim is indicated; at the same time, the addressee is required to perform / not to perform any action in order to avoid an undesirable result.

e.g. a) Politician Kirby Delauter: "Your rights stop where mine start." (Simpson, 2015)

b) რეზო ამაშუკელი: "ჩემი სამშობლოს გაუბედურებას მე არავის შევარჩენ!" (Rezo Amashukeli: "I won't let anybody make my homeland miserable!") (NewsRoom Reporter, 2015)

In addition to the above terms, which represent the three main threat groups, there are other points that can be found in various research papers. However, it should be noted that a contextual difference is either nonexistent or negligible. For illustrations, see **Table 1** for a comparison of terms.

Table 1

Types of threat

Types of threat according to Gales	Types of threat according to various authors
Veiled	Implied (Meloy et al., 2011)
Conditional	Contingent (Geiwitz, 1967)
	Incentive (Scanlon, 2008)
Direct	Noncontingent (Geiwitz, 1967)
	Nonincentive (Scanlon, 2008)

According to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (*Threat Assessment Procedures Manual*, 2017), in addition to the above, there is another type of threat, known as **an indirect threat**. In this case, the threat is vague, ambiguous or devoid of specificity. An indirect threat explicitly implies violence, although the threat is formulated very carefully, with thoroughly selected vocabulary, that seems to indicate that the violent acts "can be committed" and not that "they will necessarily be committed. However, it should be noted that this type of threat, separately identified by the FBI, is by definition nothing more than the same veiled threat that we find in Gale's classification.

Any form of threat deserves attention and requires a serious attitude, although, one of them - **a direct threat** - is the most serious and requires an immediate response. That is why in each case it is necessary to go through all stages of the threat assessment in detail in order to accurately determine the nature of the threat and develop an intervention plan to prevent fatal consequences.

In addition to identifying threat types, an important factor is also determining threat levels. According to the recommendations of the FBI (*Ibid*) there are three levels of threat:

low-level threat, that poses minimal risk to the victim and public safety; it is vague and indirect; information is incompatible, contradictory and inconclusive, or lacks details; based on

the content of the threat, it becomes clear that the person, who is threatening, will not actually fulfill the intention (*Ibid*).

medium-level threat can be realized, although, it is less realistic; it contains much more details and is expressed in a more direct form than a low-level threat; the wording of the text contains some hints regarding the means by which the person, who threatens, intends to fulfill his plan; there is a general hint of time and place, although, the details of the action are still unclear; there are no hints of any preparatory actions; the statement contains phrases that will convince the addressee that these are not just words and the intention is serious (for example: “I’m serious!” “I really mean it!”) (*Ibid*).

high-level threat is direct, concrete and compelling; there can be felt a high level of imminent and serious danger; it describes in detail the steps that have been taken to implement the plan (for example, the purchase / preparation of weapon); there is almost always required law enforcement intervention (*Ibid*).

It should be noted that there is no exact and scientifically proven method for identifying threat levels, and sometimes it is possible to observe the transition between levels (*ibid.*, p. 8).

Linguistic Markers of Stance

When discussing the phenomenon of threat, it is impossible to avoid such an important issue as the concept of stance. According to Biber (2006), a particular stance, personal feelings, thoughts, and the attitude of a speaker or writer to a person or a question, as a rule, can be expressed using lexical and grammatical means, which the person chooses.

Stance is a strong construction, expressed in various ways. It allows both the speaker and the author not only to express their attitude, feelings and appreciation in relation to a person or a subject (Biber et al., 1999; Conrad et al., 2000), but also to redistribute their own forces and gain the favor of the interlocutors (Martin et al., 2005).

According to Biber (Biber et al., 1999), the text has three main forms of stance expression: paralinguistic, lexical and grammatical. Each of them, in our case, can be examined using practical examples, containing a threat.

The paralinguistic way of expressing a stance includes the timbre, pitch and duration of speech; the extralinguistic means involve a facial expression, gestures and body language, used to express feelings, an author’s attitude to the recipient and / or the problem being discussed. In addition to the above, extralinguistic elements include acronyms, symbols expressing emotions, the so-called “emoticons”, capital letters, multiple use of punctuation marks, emphasis and italics of the text.

There are two other ways of expressing a stance in the text - lexical and grammatical, which Biber calls explicit stance expressions (Biber et al., 1999).

According to V. Shakhovsky (2009) vocabulary expressing emotions can be divided into three groups: 1) vocabulary that **names** or denotes emotions; 2) vocabulary that **describes** emotions; 3) vocabulary that **expresses** emotions.

Vocabulary units of the first group denote emotional states and can be called logical-objective ones. The vocabulary describing emotions can be a verb, a noun, an adjective, etc.

The second group includes a lexical description of so called kinematics of emotions, when there are nominated the parts of body (eyes, lips, face) that express emotions, and there is given a lexical designation of emotion.

The vocabulary of the third group is emotive and serves to express emotions (*Ibid*).

In accordance with the above classification, we can create a table of vocabulary, expressing the threat:

The first group mainly consists of nouns nominating action.

The second group is represented by adjectives and adverbs that describe the action or characterize the state of interlocutor.

The third group contains verbs and expresses the intention that the interlocutor is going to fulfill. According to Austin's classification, this group is a list of performative verbs. (See Table 2)

Table 2

Threat language classification

Function of the lexical unit	Georgian	English
Names	მუქარა, ქადილი, რისხვა, ძალადობა, ხელყოფა, შეურაცხყოფა, აგრესია...	menace, intimidate, scare, abuse, admonish, blackmail, bully, enforce, forebode, terrorize...
Describes	გააფთრებული, გაცოფებით, მრისხანედ, მუშტმოღერებული, გაჯავრებით, გაბრაზებული...	Furious - furiously, angry - angrily, mad - madly, violent -violently...
Depicts	მოგკლავ, დაისჯებით, პასუხს აგებთ, ინანებთ, არ შეგერჩებათ, გაგაქრობთ...	I'll kill you, You'll be punished, You'll be sorry for this...

The following linguistic peculiarities are characteristic of a threat language:

1) Offensive and derogatory vocabulary (including racist and gender vocabulary), abnormal vocabulary.

e.g. a) "We'll get to the nut of your neck, you bastard" (Pastor, 2018)

b) ალუკო ელისაშვილი სოსო მანჯავიძეს: „შე არაკაცო, შე პარტიიდან გაგდებულო მათხოვარო! “ (Aleko Elisashvili to Soso Manjavidze: “You scoundrel, you schnorrer, kicked out from the party!”) (ქართული გადაცემები / Kartuli Gadacemebi, 2016)

2) Vocabulary expressing a desire to cause harm or cause injury, the purpose of which is to concretize the action and exacerbate the situation;

e.g. a) "One night I'm going to come to you inside of your house or wherever you're sleeping and I'm going to cut your throat.." (Anderson, 2008)

*b) გივი ივანიშვილი დავით ნებიერიძეს (საზოგადოება „ივერია“): „გადაგივლი კატოკივით, შენ ვინმეში არ შეგეშალო, შე ნ***ო შენა, შენნაირებს*

ვმარხავდი, დაგჭრი ბიჭო, მოშორდი აქედან, სტუდიიდან გაეთრიე... გეუბნები გაგატყავებ, გადი ეხლა აქედან!“ (Givi Ivanishvili to David Nebieridze: “I’ll go over you like a roller, don’t mess up with me, you son of a b***h! I used to bury people like you! I’ll cut you into pieces! Get out of here! Get out of the studio! I tell you, I’ll skin you alive, get out of here, now!”) (FoxNews.ge, 2017)

3) A specific or general time frame that justifies the seriousness of the decision and / or threat;

e.g. a) *"I'm going to count to three. There will not be a four."* (McTiernan, 1988).

b) *ისის მუქარა საქართველოს: „მალე დადგება თქვენი თავების დაჭრის დროც.“* (ISIS threatens Georgia: “Time of your beheading is close!”) (New Posts, 2015)

4) Behavior for which the victim is punished;

e.g. a) *Donald Trump: “Kevin Corke, @FoxNews “Don’t forget, Michael Cohen has already been convicted of perjury and fraud, and as recently as this week, the Wall Street Journal has suggested that he may have stolen tens of thousands of dollars....” Lying to reduce his jail time! Watch father-in-law!”* (Trump, 2019)

b) *სოსო მანჯავიძე ალექო ელისაშვილს: „მაგ სისულელეების ლაპარაკისთვის პასუხს მოგთხოვ.“* (Soso Manjavidze to Aleko Elisashvili: “You’ll have to answer for your stupid words!”) (ქართული გადაცემები / Kartuli Gadacemebi, 2016)

Grammatical Markers of Stance

Grammatical markers of stance consist of two linguistic elements — one representing a stance and the other - a sentence formed by a stance (Biber et al., 1999). For example, in the expression - “I hope that you will take care of this matter immediately” - the stance is expressed by a combination of a main verb - *hope* and an additional subordinate sentence *you will take care of this matter immediately*, and the expression is created by the encouraging mood of the speaker.

In the English language the grammatical markers of stance can be classified in the following main categories: adverbs, pronouns, modal and semi-modal verbs, nouns, phrases with prepositions and adverbs that define the stance (*Ibid*).

Among the grammatical categories denoting the stance, communications, containing a threat, usually include modal verbs, objective clauses and adverbs (*Ibid*).

Grammatical markers of stance are also carriers of certain linguistic functions. Most of them are presented in the same form, both in Georgian and English languages, and therefore, there is a functional consistency. The table below is a good example of this. (See Table 3)

Table 3

Grammatical markers of stance and their linguistic functions

Similar grammatical markers of threat language in English and Georgian	Linguistic function	Examples
1. Conditional sentences	1. conditionality	I'll do A if you do B თუ დანაპირებს არ შეასრულებ, შენ თავს დააბრალე!
2. Modality	2. Demonstration of the intention	I must destroy her! ჩვენ ის უნდა კუთხეში მივიმწყვდიოთ და ვაიძულოთ აღიაროს!
3. Second person personal pronouns	3. Pointing out of the object	I will punish you no matter what you do რაც არ უნდა გააკეთო, შენ მაინც დაისჯები!
4. Adverbs	4. Showing seriousness of the decision.	I'm being absolutely really serious! You'll be sorry for this! ნამდვილად არ გეხუმრები! განანებ ამ საქციელს!
5. Negative constructions	5. Overcoming the barriers, negation.	You never know when and where I will show up. არც კი იცი, სად და როდის შეიძლება დაგატყდე თავს
6. Rhetorical questions	6. Indicating aggression and personal intervention	Do we not deserve better? ჩვენ რა, უკეთესს არ ვიმსახურებთ?

Similar grammatical markers of threat language in English and Georgian	Linguistic function	Examples
7. Imperatives	7. Command	Do it as I said! ოსე მოიქეცი, როგორც გიბრძანებს!
8. Future tense	8. Stating the fixed time for the action	You'll be punished for that! ამისთვის დაისჯები!

It should be noted, however, that there can be found a lot of differences along with similarities.

Thus, in the Georgian language, the threat is not characterized by the frequent use of second-person pronouns, since the Georgian language belongs to the group of synthetic languages, and the addressee is also indicated in the verbs expressing the threat, for instance, “განანებ იცოდე!” (You know, you will regret it!). In the English language, not a single sentence can be made up without mentioning the object of threat, since the grammatical categories of person and number are not fully represented in English verb. Therefore, the sentence with the same content have the following form in English: *You will be sorry for this!*

Most phrases, containing a threat in the Georgian language, are used in active voice, for example, გაგანადგურებ! (I will destroy you!), while in English, phrases containing a threat to a large extent take the form of passive voice, for example, *e.g. You'll be destroyed!*

Typological Classification of Threats in English and Georgian Languages

The practical, research part of the article, based on the analyzed examples, presents a typological classification of language statements, containing a threat in terms of form / type and level of threat in the Georgian and English languages. It also deals with the verbal expression of threat in both languages.

As already mentioned, scientific sources provide many different points of view on the existence of various types of threats. Although, in our opinion, one of the most complete and accurate classifications is presented in Gale's studies (2010), who distinguishes three main categories of threats:

1. Direct;
2. Conditional;
3. Indirect / Veiled.

We also classified our examples into these categories, although, when analyzing the examples, we came across one interesting fact; it turned out that in the Georgian and the English Languages, any conditional threats contain elements that are characteristic of a direct threat (exact time and / or place of action, fixation of the victim, action due to which the victim is punished, etc.). Therefore, in our case, the category of **conditional** threat of Gale's classification is replaced by the category of **direct-conditional** threat. It should also be noted

that not all direct threats are conditional, while all conditional threats, as we can see from the analyzed examples, are direct.

The research has shown that the speech of Georgian politicians is characterized by the use of a high dose of direct threat - 71.5%; it is followed by a direct conditional threat - 15%, from which an indirect threat lags behind only by 1.25% and its rate is 13.75%. A completely different picture emerges in the English language, where almost half (46.25%) of the statements of politicians, containing a threat, are direct-conditional threats; the second place belongs to a direct threat - 32.5%, and an indirect threat is in the third place by 21.25% .

Each type of threat is a carrier of various threat level. Direct threats are serious, since they clearly and unambiguously indicate the purpose, time, type of threat and / or the method used to eliminate it.

Direct threats in both research languages are performed through using commands.

Direct threats in the Georgian language imply the use of different forms of addressing. In particular, in 14 out of 57 examples containing a threat, there are used proper nouns (Example 1), pronouns and common nouns in the vocative case (example 2).

e.g. 1. ირმა ინაშვილი ირაკლი სესიაშვილს: „**ბატონო ირაკლი, არ ჩამომიყვანოთ ეხლა სტუდიაში!**“ (Irma Inashvili to Irakli Sesiashvili: “Mr. Irakli, you’ll be sorry if I come down there, in the studio to you!”) (პირველი არხი Georgian Public Broadcaster, 2014)

2. გია კორკოტაშვილი იაგო ხვიჩიას: “**შენ ეხლა, მომისმინე აქეთ, ... ყური დამივდე კარგად, ... ზრდილობა იქონიე შენ, ბიჭო! მოგახევე მაგ თავს, შე უზრდელო, შენა რა!**“ (Gia Korkotashvili to Iago Khvichia: “You, listen to me!... Listen carefully!... Be a little more polite, YOU BOY! I’ll tear your head off, you lowbred!”) (Australia, 2017)

As a rule, the Georgian language is not characterized by the use of second person pronoun in the imperative sentence. In this case, the fixation of the addressee, with direct appeal, can be considered as a form of emotional pressure from the side of the intimidator. Thus, the author of the threat adds more specificity to his statement, convincing the opposite side in the seriousness of his words and increasing the degree of influence on him. The use of the first person pronoun in case of a direct threat serves the same purpose, even though the subject sign in the Georgian verb clearly indicates who is the author of the statement and there is no need to specify it.

e.g. 3. ირმა ინაშვილი გუგული მაღრაძეს: „**თუ ხელისუფლებას ჰგონია რომ იგნორირების გზით ჩაახშობს ამ პროტესტს, არ გამოვა ეს. ჩვენ შიმშილობას არ ვწყვეტთ. გადავდივართ, პერმანენტულ, ჯაჭვურ შიმშილობაზე.**“ (Irma Inashvili To Guguli Maghradze: “If the government believes that they will surpass our protest by ignoring it, they are far beyond mistaken. We are not going to stop starvation! Even more, we are going to move on to a permanent chained-up starvation!”) (საქართველოს პატრიოტთა ალიანსი (Georgia’s Patriot Alliance), 2015)

All the above, concerning the reflection of the subject-object in the sentence, as well as being an alternative to the expression of opinion in the Georgian language, and in the particular case, used for an emphatic purpose, is an unavoidable reality in the English language. In English, a verb is not able to express the subject and object independently, since here we have a limited representation of the grammatical categories of person and number. That is why in most cases the subject is in the position of the first person (example 4) as the author of the threat, and the object can be expressed by the second- (example 6) or the third-person pronoun

(example 5), or by the form of proper (example 6) or common (example 4) noun.

e.g. 4. Mike Pompeo: **"We will not let Iran get away with using a proxy force to attack an American interest; Iran will be held accountable for those incidents."** (Gaouette, 2018)

5. **"We'll fight him in the Congress, we'll fight him in the courts and we'll fight him in the court of public opinion," Pelosi told reporters in Texas on Monday, CNN reported. "What he's doing is wrong, and the Republicans know it."** (Croucher, 2019)

6. **"Governor Wolf, let me tell you what, between now and Nov. 6, you'd better put a catcher's mask on your face because I'm going to stomp all over your face with golf spikes"** - Scott Wagner, the Republican. (Stableford, 2018)

The use of performative verbs in direct threat is characteristic of both languages, for example: „გეუბნებით, გაფრთხილებთ...“; "Promise, tell ...". The construction - the first-person pronoun + performative verb - gives us an expressive-performative statement (Austin, 1962: 6), where the performative verb emphasizes the seriousness of the speaker's intention and at the same time convinces the addressee of the threat that the statement is likely to be executed.

e.g. 7. Far-right Britain First leader threatens politicians & journalists with 'day of reckoning': **"I can promise you, from the very depths of my being, you will all meet your miserable ends at the hands of the British First movement. Every last one of you."** (RT QUESTION MORE, 2017)

8. რეზო ამაშუკელის მუქარა თენგიზ გოგოტიშვილს: **„მე ვაფრთხილებ მაგ ნატოს ოფისის „დვარნიაშკას“ ცოტა ჭკვიანად იყოს, თორემ მე ხელს რომ არ გავისვრი ცხადია! მაგას თავის დროზე მოუწევს პასუხისგება“** (Rezo Amashukeli threatens Tengiz Gogotishvili: **"I warn that stray dog of the NATO office to act a bit more clever, otherwise I will not shoot myself! But he will have to answer in due time."**) (New Posts, 2014)

It should also be noted that these verbs are mainly presented together with modal verbs in the English language, what gives a more rigorous tone to the statement containing the threat, and emphasizes the fact that these performative verbs carry the connotation of the threat, regardless of their lexical meanings (see example 7 above).

To express a direct threat in English, Future Simple (example 9) and the grammatical construction "to be going to" are mainly used (example 10).

e.g. 9. Trump speaks out after bomb threat saying: - **"The full weight of our government is being deployed to conduct this investigation and bring those responsible for these despicable acts to justice. We will spare no resources or expense in this effort."** (Tobin, 2018)

10. President Donald Trump says he expects **"to do a very big number"** regarding an anticipated executive order on free speech on college campuses potentially next week: **"When they don't allow free speech, we're going to do a very big number"** **"You know we give billions of dollars to these universities and they won't allow free speech? That's not what our country's all about."** (BREITBART, 2019)

The direct threat in the Georgian language is mainly expressed by the verbs in the grammatical form equivalent to the simple future tense in English (example 11).

e.g. 11. ნუგზარ წიკლაური ოპოზიციურ ფრაქციას **„ერთობა სამართლიანობისთვის“**: **“ელოდეთ, რომ ოქტომბერში ქართველი ხალხი განაჩენს გამოგიტანთ.“** (Nugzar Tsiklauri to the opposition faction "Unity for Justice":

"Wait for the Georgian people to judge you in October.") (FOR.GE, 2012)

Examples of direct threats have shown that in both languages grammatical stance markers of tense, verb and syntactic order are presented in different amounts, but in the same form.

A statement with **the indirect threat** clearly contains elements of a threat, although, they lack specificity; in particular, in some cases there may be a hint at the addressee of the threat, and sometimes even deliberate actions can be named, but the time frame and / or other technical details of the action (*where, what, how ...*) may not be fully presented. That is why indirect threats, in contrast to the other two types of threats, are characterized by the use of indefinite pronouns and adverbs, which creates an overall picture without revealing specific details.

e.g. 12. რეზო ამაშუკელი კოტე გაბაშვილს: „ვაფრთხილებ კიდევ მაგის [კოტე გაბაშვილი] გარშემო **ზოგ-ზოგიერთებს**, რომ მეზობლის კურდღლებივით ფეხებში ნუ გამიწვებინან თორემ... მე არ ვიცი მაგრამ **მთელმა საქართველომ** იცის ძალიან ბევრი რამე... დაეტონ თავიანთ ტყავში და შეირგონ ის რაც თქვლიფეს აქამდე და თუ ლაპარაკია, მერე ვილაპარაკოთ კიდევ!“ (Rezo Amashukeli about Kote Gabashvili: “I warn some people around him [Kote Gabashvili] not to lick my boots, or else... Even though I don't know, the whole Georgia is aware of a lot what's going on ... Let them stay put and fix what they have done so far! And if there is another talk to go, let's talk more after that!") (Iampacafe, 2011)

13. Nelson Marwa threatens to arrest politicians: “We have information that **some** of the drug dealers are attempting to escape but their days are numbered. “He said. (Baraka FM Team, 2017)

In English, expressions containing an indirect threat have two different forms of expression:

1) The first form can be called the "position of an offended author", where the author of the threat expresses dissatisfaction with the current situation and announces a future decision.

e.g. 14. “I am not afraid of an arrest but **I won't go down alone, it's time some politicians are exposed. Biting the same hands that fed them.**” (Nana, 2019)

The statements of this type are characterized by the use of the first-person pronouns, since the situation is presented from the perspective of the subject.

2) In the second form of indirect threat, only the addressee of the threat is mentioned, and the statement is formulated as advice, or a situation is presented, what causes the speaker's irritation.

e.g. 15. Sarah Palin: **They'd better be on their toes. Cheaters will not win.** (Reed, 2016)

16. D. Trump “The World Trade Organization finds that the European Union subsidies to Airbus has adversely impacted the United States, which will now put Tariffs on \$11 Billion of EU products! **The EU has taken advantage of the U.S. on trade for many years. It will soon stop!**” (Trump, 2019)

In Georgian, an indirect threat is characterized by the use of imperative sentences in the form of an appeal to the second and the third persons.

e.g. 17. ზუკა პაპუაშვილი: „**კულტურის სამინისტროს, თეატრის მმართველებს, სამხატვრო ხელმძღვანელებს, დირექტორებს - ყველამ ყველაფერი**

კარგად ვიცით! გონს მოგვით სანამ დრო გაქვთ! გამიფრთხილებიხართ!“ (Zuka Papuashvili: “**Ministry of Culture, theater directors, art directors, directors** - we all know everything! Wake up to reality before you still have time! I warn you!”) (არტიფო (ArtInfo), 2017)

Indirect threat represents one of the most complex types of threats in terms of assessment and identification, since speech, containing such threats, is usually characterized by ambiguity, and the execution of the threat does not depend on other conditions being met. Indirect threats often have a tone of warning or discontent, and in most cases the element of the threat is left to the discretion of the recipient. (Napier et al., 2003)

A conditional, and in our case, a **direct-conditional threat** is such an act of speech that can be used as a means of controlling the behavior of other people.

As the analysis of examples has shown, the main distinguishing linguistic characteristic of the direct-conditional threat is the same grammatical marker for both languages. This is a conditional sentence, which is expressed in the form of the future tense in the Georgian language, while in English the condition is in the present tense, and the result is in the future (See examples 18, 19).

e.g. 18. ირმა ინაშვილი თინა ხიდაშელს: “ეს ხელისუფლება თუ არ დაგსჯით, სხვა ხელისუფლება მოვა, ჩვენ მოვალთ და მიგაბრძანებთ ციხეში, როგორც არჩევნების გამყალბებელს, როგორც იარლიყების მიმკერებელს და სხვა უამრავი დანაშაულის ჩამდენს”. (Irma Inashvili to Tina Khidasheli: “If this government does not punish you, another government will come, we will come and take you to jail, since you are the ones to be blamed in falsification of elections in and many other perpetrations.”) (საქართველოს პატრიოტთა ალიანსი (Georgia’s Patriot Alliance), 2015)

19. Donald Trump: “**If for any reason Mexico stops apprehending and bringing the illegals back to where they came from, the U.S. will be forced to Tariff at 25% all cars made in Mexico and shipped over the Border to us.**” (Lobosco, 2019)

The expression of a condition in a threat is not always represented by a conditional sentence. In rare cases it can be represented by a time clause or an imperative sentence, which sometimes sounds like a warning, although, the context clearly shows that we are dealing with a threat. In such sentences, the conjunction “or” is used in the English language, and a conjunction “თორემ” (or, otherwise) is used in the Georgian one. (See examples 20, 21).

e.g. 20. ალექო ელისაშვილი: „გააჩერეთ ეს პროცესი! ნუ აჯანჯლარებთ ამ ქვეყანას, **თორემ** აჯანჯლარს გაჩვენებთ მართლა, არ გამოგვიყვანოთ ასიათასობით ადამიანი!“ (Aleko Elisashvili: “Stop this process! Do not shake this country, or else I will show you the true shake, do not make hundreds of thousands of people speak up!”) (საინფორმაციო სააგენტო (Information Agency), 2015)

21. “Bernie Sanders is lying when he says his disruptors aren't told to go to my events. Be careful Bernie, **or** my supporters will go to yours!” (Trump, 2016)

In a direct-conditional threat, a subordinate clause is connected with the main one by the following prepositions:

1. Georgian: თუ (if) (example 18), ან...ან/ან არა და (either ... or / or else), and (example, 22), თორემ (otherwise) (example 20), როგორც კი (as soon as) (example 23);

e.g. 22. ალექო ელისაშვილი „**მოეშვით ამ ყველაფერს და საქმე აკეთეთ ან არა**

და გაგიშვებთ მაგ თანამდებობებიდან!“ (Aleko Elisashvili “Leave all this stuff and do what you have to do or else you will be kicked off your positions!”). (საინფორმაციო სააგენტო (Information Agency), 2015)

23. სააკაშვილი: „როგორც კი დავამხობთ ივანიშვილს, დავბრუნდები საქართველოში.“ (Saakashvili: "As soon as we overthrow Ivanishvili, I will be back in Georgia.") (NEWS.GE, 2018)

English: if (ex. 19), or (ex. 21), unless (ex. 24), in case (ex. 25);

e.g. 24. The president [Trump]said: "Tehran can expect further actions **unless** it fundamentally alters its conduct." (Marcus, 2019)

25. "In case there is a threat to the lives of our military, the Russian Armed Force will take retaliatory measures both over the missiles and carriers that will use them". (Ellyat, 2018)

Among the above mentioned conjunctions the most common for both languages is the conjunction „თუ“ – “if”. The frequency of use of other conjunctions in threat is graphically presented in the figures 1 and 2 below.

Figure 1

Frequency of Using Conjunctions in Threats in Georgian

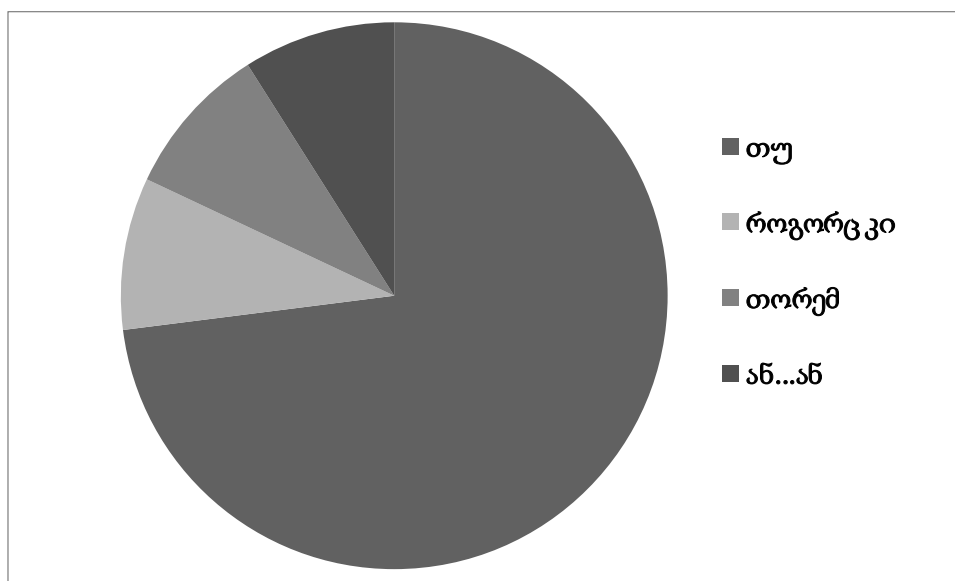
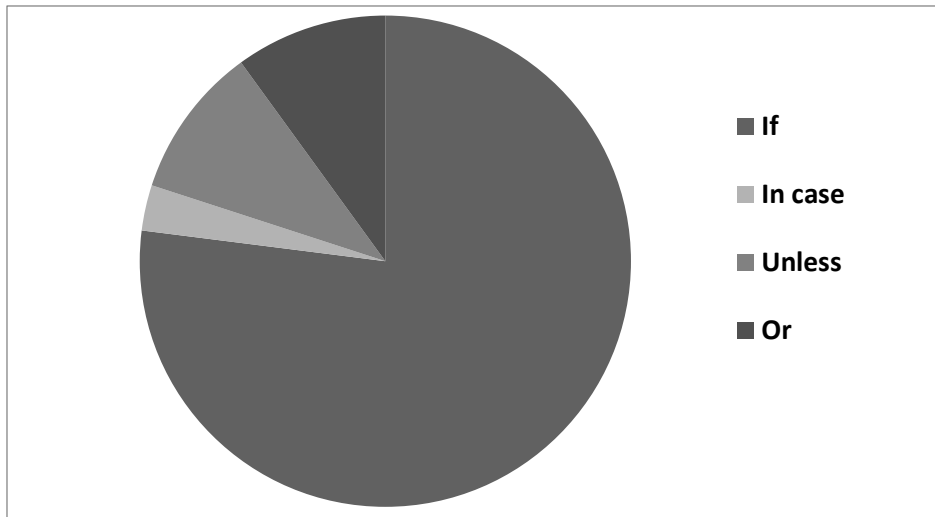


Figure 2

Frequency of Using Conjunctions in Threats in English



A direct-conditional threat can be considered as one of the most dangerous types of threats, since along with all the elements characteristic of a direct threat, it additionally contains a condition, which failure to fulfill can lead to an undesirable result for the addressee of the threat; this result is specifically formulated and identified, what further convinces of the reliability of the threat.

Threat Levels in English and Georgian Languages

After convincing that the threat is real, it is necessary to determine how the threat can be realized.

Over the past two decades, significant advances in threat assessment have led to the creation of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) in 1992 and the Journal of Threat Assessment (ATAP), which was first published in 2001 (Smith, 2006). According to the assessment, depending on the degree of probability of the implementation, the threat can be divided into three categories: threats of high, medium and low level.

Both Georgian and English-language threats are used at all three levels, however, an interesting fact has been revealed in the analysis of the examples of the politicians' speech. It turned out that politicians refrain from using statements containing low-level threats, and in fact, they do not use this type of threat.

Threats voiced by politicians are always more sharply perceived by the public than in the case of ordinary citizens. We believe that keenly aware of this fact, politicians use the language of threats only when the probability of a threat fulfillment is medium or high. The frequency of use of medium and high-level threats radically varies in each language.

High-level threats in the speech of foreign politicians make up 65% of the total, while high-level threats of Georgian politicians make up only about 27.5%, which is almost 2.5 times smaller than threats in the English language (ex. 26 , 27).

e.g. 26. "If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!" (Trump, 2017)

27. ნიკა გვარამიას მუქარა წულუკიანს და მოსამართლეებს: „საფლავის კარამდე ვდევ ყველა მათგანს, ისევე როგორც მოსამართლე ურთმელიძეს, ისევე როგორც, მინისტრ წულუკიანს და ასევე სამივე ამ მოსამართლეს, საფლავის კარამდე ჩავყვები აუცილებლად და მათი პასუხისმგებლობის ზომას აუცილებლად

დავაყენებ! თქვენ დაამთავრებთ თქვენს კარიერას ციხეში!“ (Nika Gvaramia Threatens Tsulukiani and the Judges: “I will follow all of them till the end, Judge Urtmelidze, as well as Minister Tsulukiani and all three of these judges, I will follow them till the last breath and I will institute criminal proceedings against them! You will end your career in prison!”) (saqartvelo07, 2016)

Medium-level threat has the highest occurrence rate in the Georgian political threat language. The frequency of its use is about 72.5%. As for the English language, there are only 35% of medium-level threats (ex. 28, 29).

e.g. 28. Al Gore: “Nice global economy you got there. Be a shame if we had to destroy it.” (Metzler, 2013)

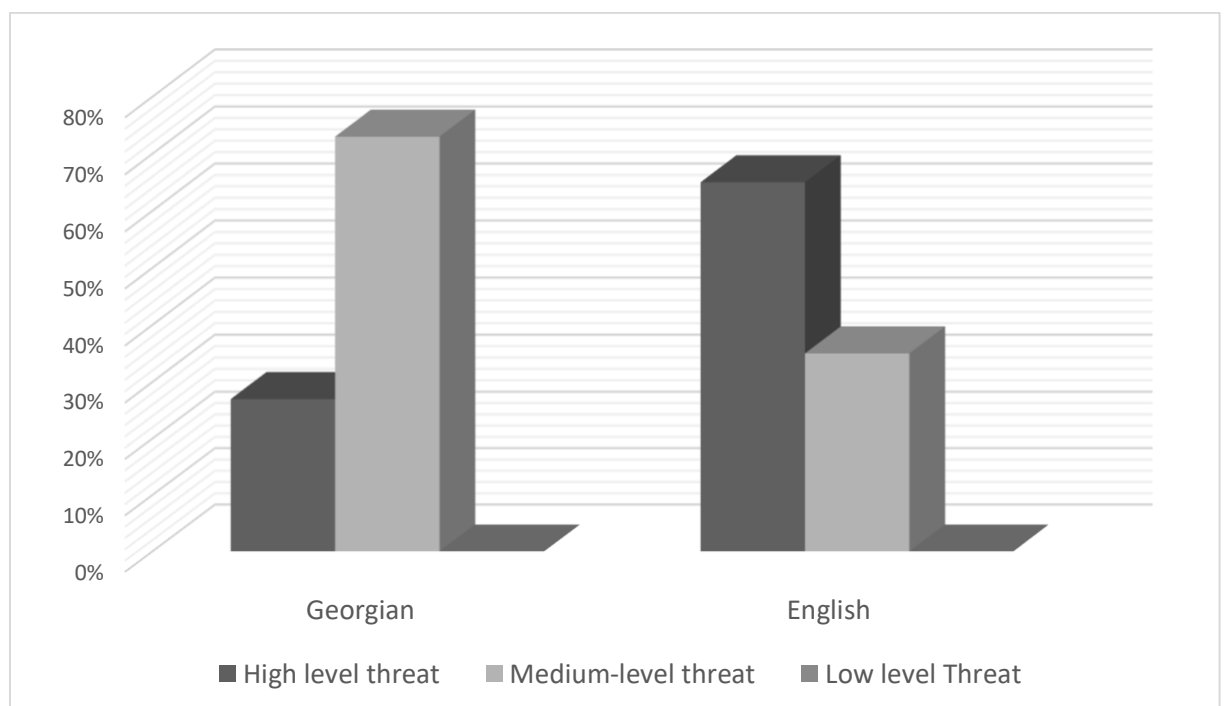
29. გრიშა ონიანი გორის მუნიციპალიტეტის მერობის კანდიდატს რეზო კახნიაშვილს: „ შეიძლება მუქარაში ჩამითვალოთ, მაგრამ გეუბნებით, თქვენ კარგი დღე არ დაგადგებათ.“ (Grisha Oniani, a candidate for mayor of Gori municipality Rezo Kakhniashvili: "You may take it as a threat, but I tell you, you are going to be in a huge trouble.") (MediaMall, 2017)

As we have already mentioned, low-level threats are not found in the speech of politicians in any of the two researched languages.

The classification of threat levels, using examples in Georgian and English, is presented in the figure 3.

Figure 3

Threat Level Classification in English and Georgian



After presenting two directions (in terms of the form of the threat statement (direct, direct-conditional and indirect) and the level of risk content in the threat (high, medium and low) in the typological classification of the threat language used by politicians, we decided to compile another cross-classification for each language.

The cross-classification shows the correlation of three different types of threats with the probability of their implementation.

Conclusion

The analysis of the examples has shown that, despite the fact that the sole purpose of using the threat is to put an addressee in an unenviable position, the means and methods of expressing it, as well as the form and style, are different and in some cases completely inexplicable. That is why the study of the threat problem occupies a very important place in many scientific fields, both in modern reality and in the future perspective.

The analysis of the cross-classification of the threat language has identified the following:

in the Georgian language:

- The vast majority of direct threats, in particular about 77% are medium-level threats, and the remaining 23% are high-level threats.
- About 63% of direct-conditional threats are high-level threats, and the remaining 37% are medium-level threats.
- Only 9% of indirect threats belong to high-risk threats, and 91% to medium-level threats.

in the English language:

- Percentages of direct threats are distributed as follows: high-level threats - about 58%, and low-level threats - 42%.
- The threat of the greatest risk in the English language is a direct-conditional threat with an indicator of 92%; the remaining 8% of direct-conditional threats are medium-level threats.
- The indirect threat can be considered as one of the least dangerous threats, since in both languages the level of its assessment is mainly average, and only a small part of them belong to a high-level threat. In English, this ratio is as follows: about 83% are medium-level threats and 17% are high-level threats.

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