

On the traces of **i / i* and **i- / i-*

One of the differences among the two varieties of Ossetic, Iron and Digor, is the lack of word initial *i-* and particle *i* in Iron. Only when looking at words, that don't receive their accentuation accordingly to the ironic accentuation rules, it becomes clear that Old-Iranian initial **wi-* was lost in Iron but preserved as *i-* in Digor:

Digor	Iron	Old-Iranian	
<i>iwarun</i>	<i>waryn</i>	< <i>*wi-vara-</i>	Bailey 1945: 21
<i>izajun</i>	<i>zajyn</i>	< <i>*wi-zâj-</i>	Bailey 1946: 205
<i>iğosun</i>	<i>qusyn</i>	< <i>*wi-gauš</i>	Bielmeier 1977: 40
<i>igon</i>	<i>gom</i>	< <i>*wi-kâma</i>	Bielmeier 1977: 44

Table 1: Digor *i-* and Iron \emptyset -

The question arises whether it is a plausible approach to expect irregularities when it comes to particle *i*; its functions have been described in Digor grammars as a definite particle, which is only partly correct. According to Testen, an accent movement for expressing definiteness can be observed in Iron which he justifies with the loss of particle **i* (1997: 729-730).

Hence, theoretically there should be some irregularities expected in Digor accentuation as well. Since the particle in Iron was lost I looked into parallel texts where the particle occurs in the Digor version. I want to present the examinations on the functions of the particle *i*, the approach on accentuational deviation and discuss further approaches.