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# “They are only two, like the teats of a donkey”: Kambaata Denumerals Revisited

Yvonne Treis<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Introduction

Kambaata is a Highland East Cushitic language spoken around the Hambarrichcho massif in Southern Ethiopia, about 350km from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. It is spoken by more than 600,000 speakers (Central Statistical Agency 2007: 74), the large majority of whom live in the Kambaata-Xambaaro Zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ Regional State. Kambaata is used as a medium of instruction in primary schools and taught as a subject up to grade 8. The official Kambaata orthography is based on the Latin script (Treis 2008: 73-80), which is also adopted in this contribution with minor adaptations, the most important being that stress is consistently marked.<sup>2</sup> Despite having been taught in schools since 1997, Kambaata has remained an overwhelmingly oral language. The national language Amharic is the written language in private and official contexts. The linguistic landscape of Kambaata towns, e.g. on signs and billboards, is entirely in Amharic, sometimes with English additions. Written Kambaata documents are hardly accessible to the population, but the Kambaata radio programme FM 105.8 can be received for several hours a day.

This article departs from earlier analyses of Kambaata numerals (Treis 2007, Treis 2008: 202-21), significantly expanding and partly revising them with new fieldwork data collected in February 2016<sup>3</sup> as well as data from a corpus of schoolbook texts, a Kambaata-Amharic dictionary and the Kambaata translation of the Gospel of John.<sup>4</sup> The title of this contribution is inspired by a comment a Kambaata speaker made about me when he learned that I had only one sister:

- (1) *harr-é*                      *hanx-i=g-a*                      *lám-ee-t*  
donkeys-fGEN    teat-mGEN=SIM-mOBL    two-fPRED.VV-COP3  
‘(They) are (only) two, like the teats of a donkey.’

As the formation of cardinal numerals in Kambaata has already been described in detail, I will focus in this article especially on denumerals, i.e. derivational and compounding processes that

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<sup>2</sup> The following graphemes are not in accordance with the IPA conventions: <ph> /p’/, <x> /t’/, <q> /k’/, <j> /dʒ/, <c> /tʃ’/, <ch> /tʃ/, <sh> /ʃ/, <y> /j/ and <’> /ʔ/. Geminate consonants and long vowels are marked by doubling, e.g. <shsh> /ʃ:/ and <ee> /e:/.

<sup>3</sup> I am indebted to my language assistant Deginet Wotango and to my Kambaata language consultants Teshome Dagne, Tessema Handiso, and many others who readily taught me their language over the past few years. I am grateful to the Culture Department of the Kambaata-Xambaaro Zone for their support during my fieldtrips. An earlier version of this paper was presented at the meeting of the project *Les dénuméraux à travers les langues* (led by Bernard Fradin) on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014. This research project is sponsored by the Federation *Typologie et universaux linguistiques : données et modèles* (CNRS, FR 2559).

<sup>4</sup> Sources are indicated as follows: [K89], [KXS] = schoolbook texts, [DIC97] Kambaata-Amharic dictionary, [John] = Gospel of John, [Elic.] = elicited data, [TD] and [DW] = natural speech data.

have cardinal numerals as inputs. The description of Kambaata was inspired by Fradin's (2015) typological overview of the formation of denumerals. In section 2, I give a brief introduction to Kambaata word classes with a focus on the properties shared and not shared between true adjectives and numerals. In section 3, I summarise the formation of cardinal numerals. In section 4 I elaborate on ordinal derivation. Section 5 is dedicated to adjectival and nominal compounds based on numerals. Sections 6 and 7 deal with the derivation of distributive and multiplicative numerals. Section 8 looks at how fractions are expressed. Section 9 provides information on approximation and, finally, section 10 illustrates the use of numerals in calculation. Whenever possible, denumeral formation in Kambaata is compared to that of the closely related Highland East Cushitic (HEC) languages K'abeena, Alaaba, Hadiyya and Sidaama. No information is available on denumerals in the remaining HEC languages, Libido, Gedeo and Burji.

## 2. Word classes in Kambaata

Kambaata has five open word classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, ideophones and interjections, as well as a closed word class of pronouns. Adverbs and conjunctions are two negligible word classes with only a few members. Kambaata distinguishes between fully finite main clause verbs and various types of dependent clause verbs: relative verbs, converbs, purposive verbs and verbal nouns. Verbs are marked inflectionally for subject agreement, aspect, mood and subordination. Nouns are marked for nine cases and two genders. Adjectives are defined in Kambaata as a class of lexemes that display case and gender-agreement with a head if used as modifiers in a noun phrase. This feature clearly distinguishes them from nouns and verbs: modifying nouns are marked by the genitive case, modifying verbs are relativised.

The class of adjectives subdivides into true adjectives, demonstrative determiners and cardinal numerals, all of which distinguish two genders (masculine, feminine) and three cases (accusative, nominative, oblique) if used as modifiers in a noun phrase. When I speak of "adjectives" in the remainder of this paper, I refer to true adjectives. Although true adjectives and numerals could be considered two sub-classes of a (macro-)class of adjectives, there are also features that clearly help to distinguish numerals from adjectives on formal grounds, for example (for details see Treis 2008: 88-96).

- (i) In the case/gender paradigm, a vowel change can be observed between the feminine and masculine forms of numerals but not of true underived adjectives; compare *mat-ú* (m) / *mat-í-ta* (f) 'one' (NUM) with *qeraa'rr-ú* (m) / *qeraa'rr-ú-ta* (f) 'long'.
- (ii) All underived adjectives have a corresponding cognate inchoative-stative verb with the same stem, e.g. *qeraa'rr-ú(-ta)* 'long' and *qeraa'rr-* 'be(come) long'. Cardinal numerals have no such cognate verbs.
- (iii) Adjectives and numerals are subject to different derivational processes; see, for instance, that quality nouns in *-im-áta* can be derived in a productive way from adjectives but not from numerals: *kall-ú(-ta)* 'naked' > *kall-im-áta* 'nakedness'.
- (iv) Predicative adjectives select copula 2: *-ha* (m) / *-ta* (f) (2). In contrast, cardinal numerals select copula 3, *-VV-t* (1), if they function as the head of the predicate, and trigger a zero copula if they are modifiers to a predicate noun (3).

- (2) *ti* *mán-ch-ut* *bíiz-a-ta*  
 DDEM1.fNOM people-SG-fNOM kind-fPRED-fCOP2  
 ‘This woman is kind.’
- (3) *harr-é* *hanx-í=g-a* *lám-e* *óos-o*  
 donkeys-fGEN teat-mGEN=SIM-mOBL two-fOBL children-fPRED  
 ‘(They) are (only) two children, like the teats of a donkey.’

Not all number words are members of the numeral word class: The numbers *xibb-í-ta* (f) ‘100’, *kum-í-ta* (f) ~ (AMH) *shiih-á* (m) ‘1000’ and *miloon-á* (m) ‘million’ are members of the noun word class. Furthermore, not all members of the numeral word class are numbers. If morphological and (morpho-)syntactic features are taken into account, the lexemes *mexx-ú* (m) / *-í-ta* (f) ‘single’ and *me’-ú* (m) / *-í-ta* (f) ‘how many, how much?’ need to be categorised as numerals: they show the characteristic vowel change between masculine and feminine forms, they lack cognate inchoative-stative verbs, they select copula 3 as predicates and they trigger a zero copula as predicate modifiers. Finally, in the same way as other numerals, they serve, for instance, as input for multiplicative derivation (section 7).

The quantifier *hoolam-á* (m) / *-í-ta* (f) or *-á-ta* (f) ‘many’ is difficult to classify. On the one hand it displays the characteristic vowel change of numerals (at least for some speakers) and is the input for multiplicative derivation. On the other hand, it selects the same copula as adjectives and has a cognate inchoative-stative verb *hoolam-* ‘be(come) many’. Other quantifiers do not share the typical features of numerals.

### 3. Cardinal numerals

The cardinal numerals agree in case and gender with their head noun, if they are used as modifiers. For this purpose, adjectives have a masculine and a feminine form. Accusative numerals precede accusative nouns, and nominative numerals precede nominative nouns (4); the oblique form of the numerals is used to show gender agreement with a non-nominative, non-accusative noun, e.g. a locative noun (5). In Table 1, note that the feminine forms do not only differ from the masculine ones in the additional gender morpheme *-ta* / *-t* in the accusative and nominative cases but also in the quality of the case vowel (*u* vs. *i* and *o* vs. *e*).<sup>5</sup>

Table 1. Case/gender-paradigm of simple cardinal numerals

ACCUSATIVE		NOMINATIVE		OBLIQUE		
M	F	M	F	M	F	
mat-ú	mat-í-ta	mát-u	mát-i-t	mát-o	mát-e	‘1’
lam-ú	lam-í-ta	lám-u	lám-i-t	lám-o	lám-e	‘2’
sas-ú	sas-í-ta	sás-u	sás-i-t	sás-o	sás-e	‘3’
shool-ú	shool-í-ta	shóol-u	shóol-i-t	shóol-o	shóol-e	‘4’
ont-ú	ont-í-ta	ónt-u	ónt-i-t	ónt-o	ónt-e	‘5’
leh-ú	leh-í-ta	léh-u	léh-i-t	léh-o	léh-e	‘6’
lamal-á	lamal-í-t-a	lamál-u	lamál-i-t	lamál-a	lamál-e	‘7’

<sup>5</sup> Hereafter, the internally complex feminine case/gender-morphemes, i.e. *-í-ta* (fACC) and *-i-t* (fNOM), are no longer subdivided but simply given as *-íta* (fACC) and *-it* (fNOM).

hezzeett-ú <sup>6</sup>	hezzeett-í-ta	hezzéett-u	hezzéett-i-t	hezzéett-o	hezzéett-e	‘8’
hons-ú	hons-í-ta	hóns-u	hóns-i-t	hóns-o	hóns-e	‘9’
tordum-á	tordum-í-ta	tordúm-u	tordúm-i-t	tordúm-a	tordúm-e	‘10’

- (4) [...] *lám-it lókk-at yóo-se, caf-í doo'll-óo*  
 two-fNOM foot-fNOM COP1.3-3fO swamp-mGEN type\_of\_bird-fDAT  
 ‘[...] it (lit. she) has two legs, a flamingo.’ [TD2016-02-11\_001]
- (5) *mát-o buud-áani-n shóol-u yóo-haa?*  
 one-mOBL horn-mLOC-N four-mNOM COP1.3.REL-mCOP2  
 ‘On one horn are there four (branches)?’ [TD2016-02-11\_001]

Numerals do not require nominalization when used as heads of noun phrases.<sup>7</sup> In this function, they are simply inflected like nouns. As such, they can be marked for nine different case forms, as illustrated with *shool-ú* ‘four’ (Table 2).

Table 2. Case paradigm of numerals as NP head (example *shool-ú* ‘four’)

	ACC	NOM	GEN	DAT	LOC	ICP	ABL	OBL	PRED
M	shool-ú	shóol-u	shool-í	shool-ii	shool-óon	shool-iin	shool-íichch	shóol-o	shóol-o
F	shool-í-ta	shóol-i-t	shool-é	shool-ée	shool-éen	shool-éen	shool-éechch	shóol-e	shóol-e

In (5) above, the masculine numeral *shóol-u* is used as the head of a nominative NP; the counted referent (*qaf-á* (m) ‘branch(es)’) is understood from the context. In (6), the numeral is marked for ablative case and masculine gender; the case form is determined by its function in the sentence (standard in a comparative construction), and the gender by its implicit referent, i.e. *su'mm-á* (m) ‘name(s)’. In (7), the immediate context mentions what is counted by the numeral, namely *tam-íta* (f) ‘use(s)’, and thus determines its gender. The accusative case of the numeral is due to its function as a direct object of ‘write’. In counting, the masculine oblique case is used, e.g. *mát-o, lám-o, sás-o* ‘1, 2, 3’.

- (6) *tordum-íichch kot-ún-ka*  
 ten-mABL be\_small\_in\_number-3mJUS-NEG  
 ‘It should not be less than (lit. from) 10 (names).’ [K89: 4.14]
- (7) *qaanc-í tam-éechch lám-ú-s xáaq-f[...]*  
 enset\_fibres-mGEN use-fABL two-fACC-DEF write-2PCO  
 ‘Write down two uses of enset fibres [...] (lit. From the uses of enset fibres, write down two [...]).’ [K89: 4.14]

Kambaata has a decimal number system in which tens precede units. The numeral ‘ten’ (*tordum-á*), the translation equivalent of ‘-teen’ in the numbers from ‘11’ to ‘19’ (*tóo-*) and the translation equivalent of ‘-ty’ in ‘20’, ‘30’, ..., ‘90’ (*-dum-á*) are etymologically related but synchronically not identical (see Treis 2007 and 2008: 303f for details). The tens in Table 3

<sup>6</sup> The masculine form of the independent numeral *hezzeett-ú* ‘eight’ cannot be formally distinguished from the noun *hezzeett-ú* ‘week’ and is surely etymologically related to it.

<sup>7</sup> The same is true of adjectives in Kambaata.

consist of the stem of the simple numeral plus a historically earlier, fairly reduced ‘-ty’-morpheme *-oo/-aa*, a recent ‘-ty’-morpheme *-dum*, plus the usual case morpheme.<sup>8</sup>

Table 3. Formation of tens

‘20’	lam-oo-dum-á	Compare:	‘2’	lam-ú
‘30’	sajj-aa-dum-á		‘3’	sas-ú
‘40’	shool-aa-dum-á		‘4’	shool-ú
‘50’	ont-aa-dum-á		‘5’	ont-ú
‘60’	leh-aa-dum-á		‘6’	leh-ú
‘70’	lamal-aa-dum-á		‘7’	lamal-á
‘80’	hezzeett-aa-dum-á		‘8’	hezzeett-ú
‘90’	hons-aa-dum-á		‘9’	hons-ú

The numbers consisting of tens and units are not just combinations of the synchronic terms for tens and units, rather, they are based on the old tens, i.e. they lack the new ‘-ty’-morpheme *-dum*. The tens are linked to the unit by *-na* CRD (Table 4).<sup>9</sup>

Table 4. Formation of tens plus units

tóo-na	+ Num <sub>1...9</sub>	e.g.	‘19’	tóo-na	hons-ú
lam-ée-na	+ Num <sub>1...9</sub>	e.g.	‘28’	lam-ée-na	hezzeett-ú
sajj-áa-na	+ Num <sub>1...9</sub>	e.g.	‘37’	sajj-áa-na	lamal-á
shool-áa-na	+ Num <sub>1...9</sub>	e.g.	‘46’	shool-áa-na	leh-ú
ont-áa-na	+ Num <sub>1...9</sub>	e.g.	‘55’	ont-áa-na	ont-ú
leh-áa-na	+ Num <sub>1...9</sub>	e.g.	‘64’	leh-áa-na	shool-ú
lamal-áa-na	+ Num <sub>1...9</sub>	e.g.	‘73’	lamal-áa-na	sas-ú
hezzeett-áa-na	+ Num <sub>1...9</sub>	e.g.	‘82’	hezzeett-áa-na	lam-ú
hons-áa-na	+ Num <sub>1...9</sub>	e.g.	‘91’	hons-áa-na	mat-ú

The number words *xibb-íta* ‘100’ and *kum-íta* ‘1000’ are feminine nouns. In everyday language, the number word *kum-íta* ‘1000’ of Cushitic origin is usually replaced by the Amharic loan *shiih-á* ‘1000’, a masculine noun. The numeral *miloon-á* ‘million’, a masculine noun, is an English loan via Amharic. As modifiers, these noun-like number words are marked for the genitive case (as any other modifying noun), i.e. they are unable to show case or gender-agreement with a head noun.

- (8) *kum-é*                      *mann-á*                                      *kum-é*                      *lokk-áta*  
 thousand-fGEN    people-mACC                                      thousand-fGEN    foot-fACC  
 ‘(one) thousand people’                                      ‘(one) thousand feet’

For the formation of hundreds and thousands, the numerals *xibb-íta* (f) ‘100’ and *kum-íta* (f) ‘thousand’ are modified by simple numerals which agree in case and gender with their (numeral) head noun, e.g. *ont-íta xibb-íta* five-fACC hundred-fACC ‘500’, *lam-ú shiih-á* two-

<sup>8</sup> For reasons of space only the masculine accusative form is given in Table 3, the tens do however inflect in the same way as e.g. *tordum-á / -i-ta* ‘ten’ (Table 1).

<sup>9</sup> For reasons of space only the masculine accusative form is given in Table 4.

mACC thousand-mACC ‘2000’. For more details on complex cardinal numerals see Treis (2007; 2008: 202-21).

#### 4. Ordinal numerals

Starting with the number ‘two’, ordinals are derived from cardinal numerals by the suffixation of one of the ordinal allomorphs  $\{-kí, -qí, -iqqí, -qqí\}$  (Table 5).

Table 5. Ordinal numerals

CARDINAL NUMERAL	ORDINAL NUMERAL	
mat-ú	woná	‘1 <sup>st</sup> ’
lam-ú	lan-kí	‘2 <sup>nd</sup> ’
sas-ú	sak-kí	‘3 <sup>rd</sup> ’
shool-ú	shool-kí	‘4 <sup>th</sup> ’
ont-ú	ont-iqqí	‘5 <sup>th</sup> ’
leh-ú	leh-iqqí	‘6 <sup>th</sup> ’
lamal-á	lamal-qí	‘7 <sup>th</sup> ’
hezzeett-ú	hezzeett-iqqí	‘8 <sup>th</sup> ’
hons-ú	hons-iqqí	‘9 <sup>th</sup> ’
tordum-á	tordun-qí	‘10 <sup>th</sup> ’
tóona mat-ú	tóona mat-iqqí (*tóona woná)	‘11 <sup>th</sup> ’
tóona lamal-á	tóona lamal-qí	‘17 <sup>th</sup> ’
lamoodum-á	lamoodun-qí	‘20 <sup>th</sup> ’
xibb-í-ta (n)	xibb-e-qqí	‘100 <sup>th</sup> ’
shiih-á (n) ~ kum-íta (n)	shiih-i-qqí ~ kum-e-qqí	‘1000 <sup>th</sup> ’
me’-ú	me’-iqqí	‘of which rank?’

The first ordinal is suppletive: *mat-ú* ‘one’ > *woná* ‘first’. The suppletive ‘first’ is, however not used for the ordinal forms of tens plus one, e.g. ‘21<sup>st</sup>’, which is literally “twenty-oneth” (9).

- (9) *hanqaf-fóo lam-ée-na mat-iqqí bar-éen fushsh-itáa ’u*  
 hatch-3f.PVO.REL two-TY-CRD one-ORD day-mLOC take\_out-3fIPV  
 ‘They make (them) come out (of their eggs) on the 21<sup>st</sup> day (after they have started) hatching.’ [K89: 2.101]

The distribution of the ordinal allomorphs  $\{-kí, -qí, -iqqí, -qqí\}$  is partly lexically, partly phonologically, and partly morphologically conditioned: ‘second’, ‘third’ and ‘fourth’ are marked by *-kí*. Starting with ‘fifth’, all true numerals attach *-qí* and *-iqqí* to the numeral stem. The short *-qí* is found after stem-final sonorants (see *lamal-qí* ‘seventh’ and *tordun-qí* ‘tenth’), the long *-iqqí* is found elsewhere. Place assimilation between stem-final nasals and the following ORD-morpheme is observed in the case of ‘second’ and ‘tenth’. In the ordinal ‘third’ the stem-final /s/ assimilates totally to the ordinal morpheme. Ordinals of noun-like cardinal numerals (‘100<sup>th</sup>’, ‘1000<sup>th</sup>’) are formed by the suffixation of the ordinal morpheme to the genitive form (and not the stem) of the numeral noun. The ordinal morpheme itself could be still further segmented into a consonantal part  $\{-k, -q, -iqq, -qq\}$  and a genitive morpheme *-í*.

The interrogative ordinal numeral *me’-iqqi* ‘of which rank (lit. how manieth)?’ (10) is based on the interrogative numeral *me’-ú / -íta* ‘how much?’.

- (10) *antabée’-u me’-iqqi bar-éen fushsh-itáa-’i?*  
 chicken-mNOM how\_many-ORD day-mLOC take\_out-3fIPV-Q  
 ‘On which day (lit. on the how manieth day?) do chicken make (their chicks) come out  
 (of their eggs)?’ [K89: 2.101]

In contrast to cardinal numerals, ordinal numerals are (almost) morphologically invariant. As modifiers in a noun phrase, ordinals do not show gender or case agreement with the head noun; they thus behave like modifying genitive nouns.

- (11) *sak-kí-na shool-kí maar-aakk-á sawwitt-á xáaqf*  
 three-ORD-CRD four-ORD line-PL-fGEN idea-mACC write.2sIMP  
 ‘Write (explain) the idea/message of the third and fourth line.’ [K89: 4.130]

If ordinal numerals are used as the head of an NP, they need to be nominalised. In (12), we find three nominalised ordinal numerals. If the ordinal is to be marked for the accusative or nominative case, it receives the nominaliser =*bii(-ta/-ha)*; for all other cases it receives the nominaliser =*hann/=tann*.<sup>10</sup>

- (12) *woná semisteer-áan lan-kí=bii(ha) fúll-eemm*  
 first semester-mLOC two-ORD=NMZ1mACC go\_out-1sPVE  
*lan-kí=hann-éen woná=bii(ha) ful-ii tass-áa*  
 two-ORD=NMZ2-mLOC first=NMZ1mACC go\_out-mDAT hope-mACC  
*ass-áyyoomm*  
 do-1sPROG  
 ‘In the first semester I came second. In the second (semester) I hope to come first.’  
 [K89: 4.125]

A limited degree of morphological variation is attested for the ordinals *woná* ‘first’ and *lan-kí* ‘second’. Unlike all other ordinals, they can be used adverbially and, for this purpose, special adverbial forms are created. The ordinal ‘first’ allows for four adverbial forms: *wóna* ~ *wónan* ‘earlier, before, in the beginning’ (13), *wónáa* ‘firstly, first of all’ (14) and *wónáachch* ‘than, compared to before’ (15).

- (13) [...] *woraqat-t-áan-ta-s wóna yoo-ba’i*  
 paper-PL-fLOC-L-3mPOSS before COP1.3-NEG.REL  
*cafal-ámm-ee=r-a xúujj [...]*  
 scribble-PASS-3mPVE.REL=NMZp-mACC see.3mPCO  
 ‘[...] when he saw the scribbles, which had not been on the papers before [...].’  
 [K89: 2.17]

<sup>10</sup> For more information on nominalisers see Treis (2008: 236-40).

- (14) *malées-u Latám wonáa lám-e oot-áan*  
 wise-mNOM [NAME] at\_first two-fOBL fence-fLOC  
*beeh-eennó=g-a sájj-o*  
 divide-3honIPV.REL=SIM-mOBL advise-3mPVO  
 ‘[...] the wise Latamo advised (him) to first divide (the herd) into two enclosures.’  
 [K89: 2.45]
- (15) [...] *iib-u-si-i muggítt-uhu-u won-áachch*  
 fever-mNOM-DEF-ADD diarrhoea-mNOM-ADD first-ABL  
*woyy-án marr-óochch [...]*  
 be\_better-3mICO go-3mPVO.REL.ABL  
 ‘[...] when the fever and the diarrhoea have become better than before [...].’  
 [K89: 4.8]

For the ordinal ‘second’ two adverbial forms are attested, *lankii ~ lankée* ‘a second time, again’, which a consultant considered to be regional variants.

- (16) *lan-k-ée dikk-úta mar-eenán abbis-éen*  
 two-ORD-DAT market-fACC go-3honICO exceed-3honICO  
*qoraphph-eennó=g-a yóo ’u*  
 take\_care.MID-3honIPV.REL=SIM-mOBL COP1.3  
 ‘One needs to be careful when one goes to the market again.’ [DW2014-12-24\_market]

Fractions are based on ordinal numerals (see section 8).

K’abeena, Alaaba and Sidaama make use of an ordinal suffix that is cognate with that of Kambaata. Like Kambaata, Alaaba and Sidaama have a suppletive ordinal ‘first’, which is not used for the ordinals ‘11<sup>th</sup>’, ‘21<sup>st</sup>’ etc. Instead, these ordinals are derived regularly and translated literally as ‘ten-and oneth’, ‘twenty-and oneth’ etc. (Schneider-Blum 2007: 132, Kawachi 2007: 137). K’abeena has no suppletive ‘first’ at all but only a regularly derived *mat-ikk’i* lit. “oneth” (Crass 2005: 217f). Compared to these languages, the ordinal formation of Hadiyya is fairly different. Ordinals of simple numerals are derived from cardinals by the replacement of the final vowel and, for some numbers, by the glottalisation of stem-final consonants. Ordinals of numerals higher than ‘ten’ are formed periphrastically with the noun ‘place’.<sup>11</sup> In Hadiyya, too, ‘first’ is suppletive; the suppletive form is, however, not used for ‘11<sup>th</sup>’, which is lit. “ten oneth place” (Tadesse 2015: 150).

## 5. Numeral-based compounds

Compounding is only a semi-productive morphological process in Kambaata. Consequently, not many compounds are attested in my database. Below I list all known adjectival and nominal compounds containing a numeral stem. The numeral is the first part in all the examples; compounds whose second stem is a numeral are not (yet) attested. The adjectival compounds in (17)-(23) all have a nominal stem as the second part. The adjectival inflectional morphology is attached to this second lexical stem. If the second stem starts with /h/, there is a tendency to drop this phoneme; see (17) and (22). The meaning of the compounds is not always the sum of its parts, e.g. in (21), and they would thus have to be included in a dictionary.

<sup>11</sup> The description in Tadesse (2015) is not very clear and only the ordinals ‘first’ to ‘19<sup>th</sup>’ are provided.



different numbers of layers. It is unclear whether *(h)aqq-* goes back to a nominal stem or whether its origin is the middle morpheme *-aqq*. (Only in the first case would the examples merit treatment in this section.) One informant proposed the noun *haqq-á* as the source of the second part. However, according to other native speakers, the noun *haqq-á* is only used with the meaning ‘tree, wood’ but never ‘layer’; therefore I tend to interpret the second element as the middle morpheme.

- (30) *mat-* ‘one’ + *(h)aqq-* ‘[?]’ → *mataqq-á(-ta)* ‘one-ply, of one layer’; ‘singular’ (K89: 6.131; KXS92: 22)
- (31) *mexx-* ‘single’ + *(h)aqq-* ‘[?]’ → *mexxaqq-á(-ta)* ‘one-ply, of one layer’
- (32) *lam-* ‘two’ + *(h)aqq-* ‘[?]’ → *lamaqq-á(-ta)* ‘two-ply, of two layers (e.g. of woven blankets and shawls such as the *gaab-íta*)’; ‘compounded, composite’ (neo.), e.g. *lamaqq-áta laagaakk-áta* ‘compound words’ (K89: 4.15), ‘reduplicated words’ (K89: 8.26), ‘consisting of two letters, digraph’ (neo.) (KXS92: 4)
- (33) *hool(-am)-* ‘many’ + *(h)aqq-* ‘[?]’ → (neo.) *hoolaqq-á(-ta)* ‘plural’ (K89: 6.131; KXS92: 22)

Some of the complex adjectives above have been used in local linguistic publications to denote grammatical concepts such as singular (30), plural (33), composite or reduplicated words (32), and digraphs (32).

The compounds in (34)-(36) consist of an ordinal numeral and one or two nouns. The compound itself also belongs to the noun word class. Interestingly, it is not only the stem (*lank-*) but the complete ordinal with its genitive case vowel (*lankí*) which serves as the input. The case vowel (*-í*) assimilates to the initial vowel of the second V-initial constituent, creating a long vowel at the boundary.

- (34) *lankí* ‘second’ + *am-áta* ‘mother’ → *lankaam-áta* ‘maternal aunt’
- (35) *lankí* ‘second’ + *ann-á* ‘father’ → *lankaann-á* ‘paternal uncle’
- (36) *lankí* ‘second’ + *ann-á* ‘father’ + *oos-úta* ‘children’ → *lankaannoos-úta* (DIC97: 174) ‘cousins (via the paternal uncle)’<sup>12</sup>

Example (37) demonstrates the use of the compound noun in (35): it serves as a modifier to the predicate noun ‘children’ and thus carries the copula for the predicate noun. Note also that the initial syllable of the compound is reduplicated to mark reciprocity.

- (37) *Zaráar-i-i*                      *Maassáam-i-i*                      *lá-lankáann-i-ta*  
 [Name]-fNOM-ADD    [Name]-fNOM-ADD    RED-paternal-uncle-mGEN-fCOP2  
*óos-u*  
 children-fPRED  
 ‘Zaraare and Maassaame are cousins via the paternal uncle.’                      [K89: 4.138]

Reduplication is not only a means to express reciprocity; it is also a means to create distributive numerals, as we will see in the next section.

<sup>12</sup> The hypothetical term *\*lankaamoosúta* ‘cousins via the maternal aunt’, modelled on (34) and (36), was not accepted by native speakers.

## 6. Distributive numerals

Distributive numerals (‘1 each’, ‘2 each’ etc.) are marked by partial pre-reduplication. The addition of the distributive morpheme to numeral stems is the only prefixing operation in an otherwise entirely suffixing language.

The initial CV of the stem is copied and prefixed. Even if the initial syllable of the numeral contains a long vowel (e.g. *shool-ú* ‘four’), the vowel of the prefix is short (e.g. *shó-shshool-ú* ‘four each’). In this example, the first C of the numeral stem is realised geminate after the prefix because the second stem consonant is single. In contrast, the stem-final Cs of *hé-hezzeett-ú* ‘eight each’ and *hó-hons-ú* ‘nine each’ are not geminate, because the second stem consonants are bi-phonemic, namely *zz* and *ns*, respectively.<sup>13</sup> Only one example violates this gemination rule, the morpheme *tóona* ‘NUM-teen’, of which the distributive form is *tó-tóona* (\**tó-ttóona*) ‘NUM-teen each’; see Table 6 and (38).

For reasons of space, the distributive numerals from 1 to 10 are presented only in their masculine accusative form in Tables 6, 7 and 8. As modifiers, the distributive numerals do, however, inflect like ordinary cardinal numerals (see Table 1). They can also be used as heads of an NP, and then they inflect like nouns; see Table 2 and (38).

Table 6. Distributive numerals (1-10)

CARDINAL NUMERAL	DISTRIBUTIVE NUMERAL	
mat-ú	má-mmat-ú	‘1 (each)’
mexx-ú	mé-mexx-ú	‘a single (each)’
lam-ú	lá-llam-ú	‘2 (each)’
sas-ú	sá-ssas-ú	‘3 (each)’
shool-ú	shó-shshool-ú	‘4 (each)’
ont-ú	ó-’ont-ú	‘5 (each)’
leh-ú	lé-lleh-ú	‘6 (each)’
lamal-á	lá-llamal-á	‘7 (each)’
hezzeett-ú	hé-hezzeett-ú	‘8 (each)’
hons-ú	hó-hons-ú	‘9 (each)’
tordum-á	tó-tordum-á	‘10 (each)’
me’-ú	mé-mme’-ú	‘how much (each)?’

The formation of distributive numerals for the tens and hundreds follows the same mechanism as that of units. The only exception is ‘1000’, which is fully reduplicated in its distributive form. Recall that the number words ‘100’ and ‘1000’ are nouns.

Table 7. Distributive numerals (tens and hundreds)

CARDINAL NUMERAL	DISTRIBUTIVE NUMERAL	
lamoodum-á	lá-llamoodum-á	‘20 (each)’
sajjaadum-á	sá-sajjaadum-á	‘30 (each)’

<sup>13</sup> To the best of my knowledge, this phonotactic restriction is not applied elsewhere in the language. It is, for instance, possible that underived lexemes contain more than one geminate consonant or cluster; see e.g. *xilliill-íta* ‘hawk’.

shoolaadum-á	shó-shshoolaadum-á	‘40 (each)’
ontaadum-á	ó-’ontaadum-á	‘50 (each)’
lehaadum-á	lé-llehaadum-á	‘60 (each)’
lamalaadum-á	lá-llamalaadum-á	‘70 (each)’
hezzeettaadum-á	hé-hezzeettaadum-á	‘80 (each)’
honsaadum-á	hó-honsaadum-á	‘90 (each)’
xibb-íta (f)	xí-xibb-íta	‘100 (each)’
lam-íta xibb-íta	lá-llam-íta xibb-íta	‘200 (each)’
shih-á (m) [AMH]	shih-á shih-á (?shi-shiih-á)	‘1000 (each)’ <sup>14</sup>

While the formation of distributive forms of non-complex numerals is fairly straightforward, there are two, and possibly even three mechanisms to generate the distributive forms of numerals consisting of tens plus units. As Table 8 illustrates, either (i) only the unit is pre-duplicated or (ii) both the tens and the units are pre-reduplicated.

Table 8. Distributive numerals (tens plus units)

CARDINAL NUMERAL	DISTRIBUTIVE NUMERAL	
tóona mat-ú	(i) tóona má-mmat-ú (ii) tó-tóona má-mmat-ú	‘11 (each)’
laméena mat-ú	(i) laméena má-mmat-ú (ii) lá-llaméena má-mmat-ú	‘21 (each)’
xibb-íta mát-o	(ii) xí-xibb-íta má-mmat-ú	‘101 (each)’ <sup>15</sup>

In a schoolbook text, even a third possibility is attested. The distributive of the numeral ‘15’ in (38) has a pre-reduplicated ten but no pre-reduplicated unit.

- (38) *gaazéex-x-at*                      *bar-éen*                      *bar-éen,*                      *hé-hezzeett-óon*  
 newspaper-PL-fNOM    day-mLOC                      day-mLOC                      RED-eight-mLOC  
*tó-tó-na*                      *ont-óon*                      *te agan-áan*                      *agan-áan*                      *attaman-táa’u*  
 RED-ten-CRD                      five-mLOC                      or month-mLOC                      month-mLOC                      be\_published-3fIPV  
 ‘Newspapers are published daily, every eight (days) (i.e. weekly), every fifteen (days) (i.e. fortnightly) or monthly.’ [K89: 4.92]

While (38) shows the use of distributive numerals as heads of NPs, distributive numerals are, of course, also used as modifiers in an NP. The following examples illustrate the distributive numeral modifier of an accusative noun (39) and of a genitive noun (40).

- (39) *kifil-i*                      *aaz-éen*                      *tó-tordum-á*                      *rosaan-n-ú*  
 class-mGEN                      interior-mLOC                      RED-ten-mACC                      student-PL3-mACC  
*gur-á-na*                      *makk-é*                      *wud-íin*                      *uurr-ís-s* [...]  
 left\_side-fGEN-CRD                      right\_side-fGEN                      side-mICP                      stand-CAUS-2sPCO  
 ‘Let ten students each stand on the left and on the right sides of the class room [...].’ [K89: 8.106]

<sup>14</sup> As the Cushitic ‘1000’, *kum-íta*, is not in use in daily life, I was unable to elicit a distributive form.

<sup>15</sup> No form for ‘101 each’ is attested in which only the unit is pre-reduplicated.

- (40) *isso'óont mé-méxx-i-s lá-llám-o-'indo sá-ssás-o*  
 3pNOM<N> RED-single-fNOM-DEF RED-two-mOBL-DISJ RED-three-mOBL  
*boos-í qax-á af-fáa-haa=rra ikke*  
 type\_of\_pot-mGEN amount-mACC hold-3fIPV.REL-mCOP2=NMZp-mPRED INACT  
 ‘They (= six *zaale*-pots), each one of them, each held the contents of two or three *boosu*-  
 pots.’ [John 2, 6]

The distributive form of the numeral one, *mámmat-ú*, means not only ‘one each’ but also ‘some’ (Treis 2008: 312).

The formation of distributive forms is not restricted to cardinal numerals but can also depart from ordinal numerals, e.g. *lá-lankí* ‘every second’, *sá-sakkí* ‘every third’, *shó-shoolkí* ‘every fourth’, *lá-llamalqí* ‘every seventh’ (41).

- (41) *Shaaméeb-i-i Abbís-u-u la-lan-kí kod-áta*  
 [Name]-mNOM-ADD [Name]-mNOM-ADD RED-two-ORD time-fACC  
*áag-g it-tóo'u*  
 enter-3fPCO eat-3fPVO  
 ‘Shaameebo and Abbiso each entered and ate a second time.’ [Elic.]

The distributive ordinals support the gemination rule proposed for cardinal distributives above, namely that the second stem consonant triggers (or blocks) stem-initial gemination. While, for instance, *sá-ssas-ú* ‘3 each’ has a geminate stem-initial C triggered by the monophonemic /s/ as C<sub>2</sub>, the corresponding ordinal distributive, *sá-sakkí* ‘every third’ lacks the gemination because C<sub>2</sub> /kk/ is bi-phonemic.

Fractions (see section 8) can also be the input of the distributive formation: *mat-ú sakkichch-ú* ‘one third’ > *má-mmat-ú sakkichch-ú* ‘one third each’ or *sakkí af-óo* ‘one third (lit. the third share)’ > *sá-sakkí af-óo* ‘one third each’.

While distributivity is often encoded by partial reduplication (42a), conversational data shows that full reduplication is also an option in similar contexts (42b).

- (42) a. SPEAKER TD  
 [...] *shóol-eanta lokk-a-sé al-éen*  
 four-fOBL<N> foot-fGEN-3fPOSS top-mLOC  
*shó-shshóol-it zuru'mm-ichch-áakk-at yoo-se-táa [...]*  
 RED-four-fNOM toe-SG-PL-fNOM COP1.3.REL-3fO-fCOP2-ADD  
 ‘[...] she is (an animal) which has, on her four feet, four small toes each and [...].’  
 b. SPEAKER DW  
*mat-éen-ta-s mat-éen-ta-s*  
 one-fLOC-L-DEF one-fLOC-L-DEF  
 ‘On each one of them (= the feet)?’ [TD2016-02-11\_001]

In K’abeena, distributive numerals are always formed by full reduplication (Crass 2005: 218f).

## 7. Multiplicative numerals

A fully productive derivational process generates multiplicative numerals ‘NUM times’ by the addition of the morpheme *-é* to the cardinal numeral stem. The derivational process can be applied to lower, adjective-like numerals as well as higher, noun-like numerals; see *lam-ú* ‘two’

+ -é MULT > *lam-é* ‘twice’ and *xibb-íta* ‘100’ + -é MULT > *xibb-é* ‘100 times’. Multiplicative numerals are only used in adverbial function. K’abeena and Alaaba have a multiplicative derivation, which does not seem to be cognate with that of Kambaata. In both languages a morpheme -V-*ra* is suffixed to the cardinal numeral stem; see Crass (2005: 219f) on K’abeena and the Alaaba ex. 25-27 and 51 in text 3 of Schneider-Blum (2007: 416f, 421).

In (43), the multiplicative *sas-é* ‘three times’ is an adverbial to the verbal noun *xúur-u* ‘milking (mNOM)’. In (44), the multiplicative numeral is focussed and made the predicate of a cleft sentence. The period of time spanning a repeated action is encoded by a locative noun; see *bar-éen* ‘in a day, per day’ (43) and *hezzeett-óon* ‘in a week, per week’ (45).

- (43) *bar-éen sas-é xúur-u qal-amm-ó*  
 day-mLOC three-MULT milk-mNOM give\_birth-PASS-mPVO.REL  
*wo’-ichch-ú qoh-áno*  
 calves-SG-mACC harm-3mIPV  
 ‘Milking (the cow) three times a day harms the (new-)born calf.’ [K89: 2.40]

- (44) *sá’-u qall-ó=g-anka*  
 cow-mNOM calf-3mPVO.REL=SIM-mACC<N>  
*bar-éen sas-é-nee-t has-is-anóo-hu*  
 day-mLOC three-MULT-L.VV-COP3 want-CAUS-3mIPV.REL.NMZ.VV-mNOM  
 ‘When a cow has calved, one needs to milk her THREE TIMES a day.’ [Elic.]

Multiplicative numerals can also be derived from the three special members of the numeral word class; see *hoolam-á / -íta* ‘many’ > *hoolam-é* ‘many times’, *mexx-ú / -íta* ‘single’ > *mexx-é* ‘a single time’ and *me’-ú / -íta* ‘how many?’ > *me’-é* ‘how many times?’ (45).

- (45) *hezzeett-óon me’-é abbaas-seenán?*  
 week-mLOC how\_many-MULT sweep-2pICO  
 ‘How many times a week do you sweep?’ [K89: 2.13]

Apart from expressing ‘a single time’, the multiplicative *mexx-é* can also mean ‘at once, instantly’ (46).

- (46) *tah-ichch-u dango hitt-íta afiu’ll-ít zug-gáni-yan*  
 fly-SG-mNOM suddenly like\_this-fACC sit-3fPCO ambush-3fICO-DS  
*waall-ó=da arrab-í-se mexx-é*  
 come-3mPVO.REL=COND tongue-fACC-3mPOSS single-MULT  
*buqqís-s tokkós-s fushsh-ít ke’éechch*  
 pull\_out-3fPCO shoot-3fPCO go\_out.CAUS-3fPCO then  
*xámm át-t aphph-ít aag-ís-s qúrc at-táa’*  
 stick do-3fPCO take.MID-3fPCO enter-CAUS-3fPCO swallow do-3fICO  
 ‘When a fly comes suddenly while she (= the chameleon) is sitting in ambush in this way, she shoots out her tongue at once, makes (the fly) stick (to it), puts (it) in (her mouth) and swallows (it).’ [TD2016-02-11\_001]

Finally, the distributive numeral *má-mmat-ú / -íta* ‘one each; some’ can host the multiplicative morpheme: *má-mmat-é* ‘sometimes’ (47).

- (47) *múumm-u má-mmat-é bobir-á has-áno*  
 hair-mNOM RED-one-MULT wind-mACC want-3mIPV  
 ‘The hair needs (fresh) air sometimes.’ [K89: 2.35]

Despite having a fully productive multiplicative derivation at hand, Kambaata also makes frequent use of multiplicative periphrases. Two periphrases that are attested in my data: NUM + *kod-áta* ‘NUM times, turns’ and NUM + *j-áata* ‘NUM times’ are in free variation with the multiplicative derivation. In the following examples, from three different schoolbooks, the derived multiplicative *mat-é* (48), the periphrasis with *kod-áta* (49) and the periphrasis with *j-áata* (50) are used in almost identical contexts.

- (48) *al-í-nne [...] hezzeett-óon mat-é wo'-iini-i*  
 body-mACC-1pPOSS week-mLOC one-MULT water-mICP-ADD  
*saamun-iini-i áa'll-u has-is-áno-nne*  
 soap-mICP-ADD wash-mNOM want-CAUS-3mIPV-1pO  
 ‘We have to wash our body [...] once a week with water and soap.’ [K89: 5.59]

- (49) *mannoom-a-nné-e muumm-i-nné-e [...] hezzeett-óon*  
 body-fACC-1pPOSS-ADD hair-mACC-1pPOSS-ADD week-mLOC  
*mat-íta kod-áta áa'll-u has-is-áno-nne*  
 one-fACC turn-fACC wash-mNOM want-CAUS-3mIPV-1pO  
 ‘We have to wash our body and our hair [...] once a week.’ [K89: 4.118]

- (50) *muumm-í-nne hezzeett-í aaz-éen*  
 hair-mACC-1pPOSS week-mLOC inside-mLOC  
*lam-íta j-áata saamun-iin áa'll-u has-is-áno-nne*  
 two-fACC time-fACC soap-mICP wash-mNOM want-CAUS-3mIPV-1pO  
 ‘We have to wash our hair twice a week with soap.’ [K89: 2.33]

Furthermore, the multiplicative *hoolam-é* ‘many times’ is in free variation with the periphrasis *hoolam-á ir-á* ‘many times’. However, *ir-á* cannot be combined with true numerals (\**sas-ú ir-á* intended meaning: ‘three times’).

- (51) *hoolam-á ir-á biir-ús fanqalaamm-óomm*  
 many-mACC time-mACC office-fACC-3mPOSS return\_again\_and\_again-1sPVO  
 ‘I returned to his office many times.’ [DW2016-02-12\_NB]<sup>16</sup>

Kambaata does not have multiplicative verbs of the type ‘double, triple, quadruple’. This is instead expressed periphrastically:

- (52) *kann-í mat-ú / lam-ú / sas-ú bárg!*  
 IDEM1-mGEN one-mACC two-mACC three-mACC add.2sIMP  
 ‘Double / triple / quadruple it! (lit. Add one / two / three of this!)’ [Elic.]

Unlike simple adjectives, which all have a corresponding inchoative-stative property verb, e.g. *qeraa'rr-ú(-ta)* ‘long’ – *qeraa'rr-* ‘be(come) long’ (for details see Treis 2008: 268-73), numerals do not share their stems with verbs, nor are they the input of any derivation or

<sup>16</sup> A native speaker consultant considered *hoolam-á ir-á* equivalent to the derived multiplicative *hoolam-é*.

conversion processes leading to denomeral verbs. The only exception is *xibb-is-* ‘have a lot of cattle’ (DIC97: 310), which is the causative form of *xibb-íta* ‘hundred’.<sup>17</sup>

- (53) *Shaaméeb           lal-ú           xibb-ishsh-ee-haa*  
 [NAME].mNOM   cattle-mACC   hundred-CAUS-3mPVE.REL-mCOP2  
 ‘Shaameebo is someone with a lot of cattle.’ [Elic.]

## 8. Fractions and percentages

Kambaata makes a formal distinction between fractions with the numerator ‘one’ and with a numerator greater than ‘one’. Fractions with the numerator ‘one’ are expressed periphrastically as ‘N<sup>th</sup> mouth, N<sup>th</sup> part’, e.g. *sakkí afóo* ‘1/3’, *shoolkí afóo* ‘1/4’ and *ontiqqí afóo* ‘1/5’. When used in an NP, the fraction is the head and the noun referring to the counted entity serves as a genitive (54) or ablative modifier (55).

- (54) *uull-á       sak-kí       af-óo           aaqq-ée’u*  
 land-fGEN   three-ORD   mouth-mACC   take-3mPVE  
 ‘He took one third of the land.’ [Elic.]
- (55) *Kambaat-í       minaadab-íichch   tordun-qi-sí       af-óo*  
 Kambaata-mGEN   people-mABL   ten-ORD-3mPOSS   mouth-mACC  
*ammanáat-ut   yóo-ba’-i-a*  
 belief-mNOM   COP3.1-NEG.REL-mCOP2  
 ‘One tenth of (lit. from) the Kambaata population is not religious.’ [Elic.]

To express ‘1/2’ Kambaata uses the noun *bakkaní* ‘half’.

Fractions with a numerator greater than ‘one’ take a cardinal numeral as the numerator and a singulative noun derived from an ordinal numeral as the denominator. The numerator and the denominator agree in gender and case (56).

- (56) *sas-ú           shool-k-ichch-ú*  
 three-mACC   four-ORD-SG-mACC  
 ‘three quarters’ [Elic.]

The counted entity is expressed in an ablative phrase, see *uull-áachch* (57).

- (57) *ann-i-nné           uull-áachch   lam-ú       sak-k-ichch-únka-s*  
 father-mGEN-1pPOSS   land-fABL   two-mACC   three-ORD-SG-mACC<N>-3mPOSS  
*bahír-u       hiz-óo-nne           aaqq-í       kámme-ee’u*  
 older-mNOM   brother-mNOM-1pPOSS   take-3mPCO   do\_completely-3mPVE  
 ‘Our eldest brother took two thirds of (lit. from) our father’s land.’ [Elic.]

As for percentages, a schoolbook example (58) shows the use of *xibb-éechch* NUM *ang-áta* lit. ‘NUM hands from hundred’. Note that both *af-óo* ‘mouth’ (54) and *ang-áta* ‘hand’ also have the meaning ‘part’.

<sup>17</sup> Note that the Kambaata causative derivation with *-(i)s* has not only verbal stems but also nominal stems as inputs; see, for instance, *koh-á* ‘guests’ > *koh-is-* CAUS ‘invite as a guest’ (\**koh-* ‘be(come) a guest’).

- (58) *agg-i*            *kaa'll-anó*            *wó'-u*  
 drink-mDAT help-3mIPV.REL water-mNOM  
*xibb-éechch*    *mé'-e*                    *áng-a?*  
 hundred-fABL how\_much-fOBL hand-fPRED  
 ‘What percentage of the water is drinkable (lit. serve as a drink)?’ [K89: 7.117]

## 9. Approximation

Kambaata does not have an approximate number derivation; instead approximation is expressed by means of three periphrastic strategies. Both in the written (59) and oral text corpora (60) the use of the cardinal numeral *mat-ú* /-*íta* ‘one’ is attested as a marker of approximation.

- (59) *mat-ú*            *lám-e*    *xibb-é*            *birr-á*            *daqq-anó*  
 one-mACC two-fOBL hundred-fGEN birr-mACC find.MID-3mIPV.REL  
*mín-u* [...]   
 house-mNOM  
 ‘A house(hold) which earns about two hundred birr (lit. one birr of two hundred) [...].’ [K89: 6.108]

- (60) *antabée'-u-s*            *hoolám-a-ta,*  
 chicken-mACC-DEF many-fOBL-fCOP2  
*mat-íta*    *ont-é*    *leh-é*    *qax-áta*            *ik-káa'*  
 one-fACC five-fGEN six-fGEN number-fACC be-3fIPV  
 ‘The chicken were many, they were about five (or) six in number (lit. in one number of five or six).’ [TD2016-02-11\_001]

If the exact number is not known or not meant to be expressed, the speaker can also resort to a second strategy, the use of the nomino-adjective *qax-á(-ta)* ‘(having the) number, amount (of)’.<sup>18</sup> It precedes and agrees in gender and case with the noun whose number is estimated, e.g. *mann-á* ‘people’ and *mínnat* ‘houses’ (61). *Qax-á(-ta)* itself is modified by a genitive marked numeral or by a relative clause containing the numeral (62). The phrase ‘people having the number of hundred’ is interpreted as an approximation, ‘about one hundred people’.

- (61) *xibb-é*            *qax-á*                    *mann-á*  
 hundred-fGEN having\_number-mACC people-mACC  
 ‘about one hundred people’ [Elic.]  
*lamoodum-é*    *qáx-at*                    *mín-n-at*  
 twenty-fGEN having\_number-fNOM house-PL-fNOM  
 ‘about twenty houses’ [Elic.]
- (62) *ont-íta*    *kum-íta*            *ih-anó*            *qáx-u*  
 five-fACC thousand-fACC be-3mIPV.REL having\_number-mNOM  
*góon-u*            *hikkánne*            *afuu'll-ée'*  
 men-mNOM IDEM2.mOBL sit-3fPVE  
 ‘About 5,000 men (lit. men having a number that is 5,000) sat there.’ [John 6, 10]

<sup>18</sup> The word class membership of *qax-á(-ta)* is not entirely clear. Sometimes it can be used as a case and gender-agreeing modifier, in many other contexts it rather behaves like a noun.



- (70) *leh-ú beeh-ú lam-ú ih-áno sas-ú*  
 six-mACC divide-mACC two-mACC be-3mIPV three-mACC  
 ‘Six divided by two is three (lit. Six dividing two it-is three).’ [DW2014-07-16]
- (71) *leh-ú lam-ii beeh-eemá=da sas-ú ih-áno*  
 six-mACC two-mDAT divide-3honPVE.REL=COND three-mACC be-3mIPV  
 ‘Six divided by two is three (lit. If six is divided for two, it is three).’ [DW2014-07-16]

The marking patterns of the natural Kambaata examples correspond to the patterns observed in the expression of calculation in K’abeena (Crass 2005: 215ff).

## 11. Postscript

Although the morphology and morphosyntax of Kambaata numerals and denumerals can become fairly complex, the translation of simple cardinal numerals seemed for a long time to be a fairly straightforward task. It is when collecting more conversational data during my last fieldtrip that I also came across contexts where certain numerals could clearly not be interpreted as indicating number (numerosity). In section 9 we saw, for instance, that *mat-ú / -íta* ‘one’ is used as a marker of approximation. Furthermore, the numerals *lam-ú / -íta* ‘two’ and *sas-ú / -íta* ‘three’ turned out to have common idiomatic uses that cannot be translated literally and that can even be considered synonyms.

- (72) *kabár lam-éechch* [or: *sas-éechch*] *fúll hoshsh-óomm*  
 today two-fABL three-fABL get\_out.1sPCO spend\_the\_day-1sPVO  
 [Speaker coming home in the evening:] ‘I have achieved nothing today (lit. I have spent the day today getting out of two/three).’ [DW2016-02-23\_NB]
- (73) *ti mesel-éet lam-éechch* [or: *sas-éechch*] *fushsh-ítee-’e*  
 DDEM1.fNOM girl-fNOM two-fABL three-fABL take\_out-3fPVE-1sO  
 [Speaker exhausted:] ‘This girl has just wasted my time today (lit. This girl has taken me out of two/three).’ [DW2016-02-23\_NB]

So while the morphology and morphosyntax of Kambaata numerals and denumerals has been disentangled in this contribution, further challenges, such as the study of idiomatic expressions containing numerals, still lie ahead.

## Abbreviations

ABL	ablative
ADD	additive
AMH	Amharic
CAUS	causative
COP1	<i>yoo</i> -copula
COP2	<i>ha-/ta</i> -copula
COP3	VV- <i>t</i> -copula
CRD	coordinative
DAT	dative
DDEM	demonstrative adjective
DEF	definite
DS	different subject
f	feminine
GEN	genitive
hon	honorific, impersonal

ICO	imperfective converb
ICP	instrumental-perlative-comitative
IDEM	demonstrative pronoun
IMP	imperative
INACT	inactual
IPV	imperfective
JUS	jussive
L	linker
LOC	locative
m	masculine
MID	middle
MULT	multiplicative
n	noun
N	pragmatically determined morpheme (function as yet unclear)
NEG	negation
NMZ.VV	nominalization marked by a long vowel
NMZ1	nominalization with = <i>bii(-ta/-ha)</i>
NMZ2	nominalization with = <i>hann/=tann</i>
NMZp	nominalization with = <i>r</i>
NOM	nominative
O	object
OBL	oblique
ORD	ordinal
p	plural
PASS	passive
PCO	perfective converb
PL	plurative
POSS	possessive
PRED	predicative
PROG	progressive
PVE	<i>e</i> -perfective
PVO	<i>o</i> -perfective
Q	question
RED	reduplication
REL	relative
s	singular
SG	singulative
SIM	similative
TY	marker of tens
VV	vowel lengthening

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