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Book of abstracts

Paris, 12-14 April, 2017

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В сборник включены тезисы докладов участников международной научной конференции «Historical Linguistics of the Caucasus» («Историческое изучение языков Кавказа»), состоявшейся в Париже на базе Практической школы высших исследований в апреле 2017 г.

Доклады посвящены главным образом историческим аспектам изучения кавказских языков (нахско-дагестанских, абхазоадыгских, картвельских, а также индо-европейских языков Кавказа). Отдельная тематическая сессия в рамках международного проекта IMMOCAL — *Imperfective Modalities in Caucasian Languages* (рук. Ж. Отье) была посвящена имперфективности и ее связям с модальностью.

Для лингвистов, студентов филологических факультетов вузов и широкого круга читателей.

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This book brings together the abstracts for the oral and poster presentations delivered at the international conference "Historical Linguistics of the Caucasus", which took place at École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris, April 12-14, 2017.

The presentations deal mainly with historical aspects of the Caucasian language families – Nakh-Daghestanian, Abkhaz-Adyghe, and Kartvelian – as well as the Indo-European languages of the region. A special thematic workshop within the conference was devoted to imperfectivity and its relation to modality, as part of the international project IMMOCAL – *Imperfective Modalities in Caucasian Languages* (project coordinator Gilles Authier).

For linguists, students of linguistics and philology and all those interested in the languages of the Caucasus.

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CONTACT-INDUCED PROGRESSIVES IN IRANIAN LANGUAGES: A TYPOLOGICAL COMPARISON OF CAUCASIAN TAT AND BASHKARDI

The progressive manifests itself in various ways across Iranian languages. The evolution of this category, influenced to some extent by internal factors and sometimes by language contact, presents an interesting case of parallel development in related languages that are geographically very distant from each other. This presentation will demonstrate a parallel development of a specific type of synthetic progressive in two allegedly Southwestern Iranian languages: Muslim Tat, spoken in northeastern Azerbaijan, and Bashkardi, spoken in southern Iran. Our data chiefly come from own fieldwork on Tat in the Upper Şirvan region and from recordings made by Ilya Gershevitch in Bashakerd in Iran in 1956.

Both languages show forms that are identical in structure to the present tense in Modern Persian (1):

The Tat form in (1b) historically corresponds to (1a) in usage (and, like the Persian prefix $m\bar{\imath}$ -, $m\bar{\imath}$ - derives from a particle with an imperfective meaning), but its semantics has changed into a non-focal and modal function of eventuality and gnomic value (cf. AUTHIER 2012:179). In Bashkardi, the origin of a- is not known, and the alleged present tense in (1c) is also used in future and modal function (2a).

(2) (a) be-yår-ie ke SBJV-bring.PRS-2PL North **SUB** Bashkardi gwar=e hamie kabåb-ōn a-xwar-om side=EZ DEM meat-PL IPFV-eat.PRS-1SG biv-ār-īd (b) ke Persian¹⁴ SBJV-bring.PRS-2PL **SUB** be-x^wor-am hā kahāh īn with SBJV-eat.PRS-1SG DEM meat 'Bring [the bread] so that I might eat it with the meat.'

It would then come as no surprise that both Muslim Tat and Bashkardi have developed a new present / progressive, which is based on the infinitive (3). The prefix is $b\ddot{a}$ - (with its allomorphs $b\bar{a}$ -, $b\dot{i}$ - and $b\bar{a}$ -) in Upper Şirvan Muslim Tat, $m\dot{i}$ - (variants $m\bar{a}$ -, $m\bar{a}$ - and $m\bar{u}$ -) in Central Muslim Tat, a- again for Northern and $b\bar{e}$ - for Southern Bashkardi. While the Tat formation is synchronically the normal present tense, the Bashkardi form, in spite of being called "continuous present" (SKJÆRVØ 1989:846, 848), should rather be considered a progressive and remains highly marked in usage.

- (3) (a) Central Muslim Tat

 mə-saxt-än=üm

 (b) Upper Sirvan Muslim
 - (b) Upper Şirvan Muslim Tat

 bə-soxt-an=um

 IPFV-do.PST-INF=1SG

 'I do'
- (c) Northern Bashkardi a-kerd-en=om
- (d) Southern Bashkardi

 be-kert(-en)=īn

 PROG-do.PST-INF=COP1SG

 'I am doing (right now)'

Like the Bashkardi prefixes, the prefix $b\ddot{a}$ - in Upper Şirvan Tat seems to be multifunctional, as a group of change-of-state verbs show a subjunctive/imperative with prefix, ¹⁵ mirroring the Persian form (4):

-

¹⁴ Constructed example.

¹⁵ Other verbs would have a non-prefixed form in this function.

(4) (a) Upper Şirvan Tat ba-xost-an=um ki bi-niš=i IPFV-want.PST-INF=1SG SUB SBJV-be.seated.PRS=2SG (b) Persian $m\bar{i}$ - $x^w\bar{a}h$ -am (ke) be-neš \bar{i} n- \bar{i} IPFV-want.PRS-1SG SUB SBJV-sit.down-2SG 'I want you to sit down.'

However, the phonetic behaviour of $b\ddot{a}$ - in Upper Şirvan Tat leads us to assume that the two prefixes, viz. that of the progressive and that of the subjunctive/imperative (which is present in this dialect of Tat more than in others), are historically different morphemes. While some of the verbs that take the latter have the same form of the prefix in both categories, others show a vowel assimilation in the subjunctive not seen in the progressive of the same verbs (5)-(6), which is all the more remarkable as the prefix is stressed (marked by ' in (5)-(6)).

Upper Şirvan Tat

(5) (a) bä-kɨšt-'an=um (6) 'bi-kiš=um (a) IPFV-kill.PST-INF=1SG SBJV-kill.PRS=1SG 'I kill / am killing' '(that) I kill' ba-burr-'an=um 'bu-bur=um (b) (b) IPFV-cut.PST-INF=1SG SBJV-cut.PRS=1SG 'I cut / am cutting' '(that) I cut'

The progressive prefix, on the other hand, is probably the result of a grammaticalisation of the preposition $b\ddot{a}$ (etc.) 'to', also used in for marking objects (7). In the progressive, the Tat construction ceased to be perceived as a prepositional group and acquired regular verbal negation, preceding the prefix (8a).

(7) (a) Upper Şirvan Tat ba nist=umxuna LOC home NEG.EXIST=1SG 'I am not at home.' (b) Southern Bashkardi ba to=mdīt to you.sG=PC2sG see.PST 'I saw you.'

(8) (a) Upper Şirvan Tat <u>na-bi-xost-an=um</u>

NEG-PROG-want.PST-INF=1SG

'I don't want (that)'

(b) Southern Bashkardi be-vuot

ne=hen

PROG-come.PST

NEG=COP3PL

'they don't come'

We argue, then, that the Bashkardi prefix be- is the result of more than one etymon as well, agreeing with the suggestion that the Middle Persian particle $b\bar{e}$ derives from several origins (cf. JÜGEL 2013 and CHEUNG fthc., among others). While no differences in pronunciation are found for the prefix of the Southern Bashkardi progressive and subjunctive, the fact that the former is based on a verbal noun already hints at the possibility of the pattern contining a preposition, and negation still is on the copula (8b), showing that the progressive is less "verbalised" and the pattern less grammaticalised than in Tat.

The subjunctive morpheme be- (exx. 2, 4, 6) seems to be a morphological borrowing from Persian, and its function has been applied to the historically zero-marked imperatives and subjunctives. The seeming identity with the progressive prefix in Bashkardi could be due to Persian influence, where be- is the only comparable element. Upper Şirvan Tat, which has not been in contact with Persian in recent times, may have acquired the subjunctive/imperative marker be- via North West Iranian languages such as Taleshi, and the similarity with the infinitive-based progressive using the preposition $b\ddot{a}$ is coincidental.

In Central Muslim Tat, which marks the "old present" with *mi*-, the marker has been extended to an infinitive-based synthetic progressive (3a), agreeing with the observation (JEREMIÁS 1993:103) that verbal prefixes are the most widespread way of marking the imperfective in Iranian. The origin of the prefix *a*- in Bashkardi remains an open question.

In conclusion, it seems that each variety has developed its own way of marking the progressive, either by extending the functions of a pre-existent morphological inventory, or by copying morphology from neighbouring languages, sometimes transforming its functions.

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Contents / Содержание

GENERAL INFORMATION4 LIST OF SELECTED PAPERS5
Isa Abdullaev FROM THE HISTORY OF GEORGIAN-DAGESTANI LANGUAGE TIES8
И. Х. Абдуллаев ИЗ ИСТОРИИ ГРУЗИНСКО-ДАГЕСТАНСКИХ ЯЗЫКОВЫХ СВЯЗЕЙ12
Badrizhat Alieva GENDER-ORIENTED APPROACH TO GRAMMATICAL CLASSES IN LAK16
Peter Arkadiev WHEN PERFECTIVE AND IMPERFECTIVE MEAN THE SAME: PLUPERFECT AND "RETROSPECTIVE SHIFT" IN CIRCASSIAN LANGUAGES
Irina Bagirokova, Yury Lander DEMORPHOLOGIZATION OF THE NOMINAL COMPLEX IN CIRCASSIAN24
Musa Bagomedov OYKONIMS OF THE CAUCASUS AS AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF HISTORICAL AND ETHNOCULTURAL INFORMATION (ON THE EXAMPLE OF DAGESTAN)27
М.Р. Багомедов ОЙКОНИМЫ КАВКАЗА КАК БЕСЦЕННЫЙ ИСТОЧНИК ИСТОРИЧЕСКОЙ И ЭТНОКУЛЬТУРНОЙ ИНФОРМАЦИИ (НА ПРИМЕРЕ ДАГЕСТАНА)30
Lia Bakuradze THE SUFFIX -OBA IN THE GEORGIAN LANGUAGE33
Amiran Basilashvili TOWARDS THE VERBAL STEMS WITH CVC STRUCTURE IN UDI38
Oleg Belyaev PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PHARYNGEALIZATION IN SHIRI40

Marina	Beridze ON SOME ISSUES OF VERBAL INFLECTION: AT THE ORIGINS OF THE GEORGIAN PERFECT	43
Winfried	d Boeder INCREASE AND DECREASE OF COMPLEXITY IN THE HISTORY OF GEORGIAN	48
Marina	Chumakina IMPERFECTIVE AND THE MORPHOLOGICAL MARKEDNESS: THE CASE OF ARCHI	57
Michael	Daniel PROSPECTIVE / INTENTIONAL IN ARCHI	59
Нина Де	обрушина МНОГОЯЗЫЧИЕ И ЯЗЫКОВОЕ РАЗНООБРАЗИЕ ДАГЕСТАНА: РЕТРОСПЕКТИВНОЕ ПОЛЕВОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ	63
Diana F	Corker THE IMPERFECTIVE ASPECT IN SANZHI DARGWA	65
Arnaud	Fournet THE RELATIONSHIP OF NAKH WITH THE EXTINCT HURRIAN AND URARTIAN LANGUAGES	67
Mariza I	Ibragimova DISCUSSION ABOUT GENITIVE RECONSTRUCTION AND ITS ACTUAL STATUS IN THE RUTUL LANGUAGE	71
Steven K	<i>Kaye</i> KNOWNS AND UNKNOWNS IN THE HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN TALYSHI TENSE-ASPECT-MOOD SYSTEM	74
Madzhio	d Khalilov SOME TRAITS OF OLD GEORGIAN INFLUENCE ON TSEZIC LANGUAGES	78
Zaira K	halilova CAUSATIVES IN THE TSEZIC LANGUAGES	81
Victoria	Khurshudyan IMPERFECTIVE IN MODERN EASTERN ARMENIAN	82
Izabela .	Kobalava, Manana Topadze Gäumann, Rusudan Gersamia RENDERING SPATIAL RELATIONS BY MEANS OF PREVERBS IN MEGRELIAN AND LAZ	90

Petr Koo		
	NARRATIVE IMPERFECTIVE USES OF CLASSICAL ARMENIAN REPORTING VERBS	96
Agnes K	Corn, Murad Suleymanov CONTACT-INDUCED PROGRESSIVES IN IRANIAN LANGUAGES: A TYPOLOGICAL COMPARISON OF CAUCASIAN TAT AND BASHKARDI	98
Ramaz I	Kurdadze, Ketevan Margiani, Maia Lomia CATEGORY OF EVIDENTIALITY IN THE KARTVELIAN LANGUAGES: PROBLEMS, HISTORY OF THE QUESTION STUDY, PROSPECTS	03
Magome	ed A. Magomedov DETERMINATION OF BORDERS OF ACCOMMODATION OF BREEDS AND AREA OF SPREADING OF LANGUAGES ACCORDING TO DATA OF TOPONYMY (AVAR-ANDIAN LANGUAGES)	06
M. A. M	агомедов ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЕ ГРАНИЦ ПРОЖИВАНИЯ ПЛЕМЕН И АРЕАЛА РАСПРОСТРАНЕНИЯ ЯЗЫКОВ ПО ДАННЫМ ТОПОНИМИИ (АВАРО-АНДИЙСКИЕ ЯЗЫКИ)1	09
Daniyal	Magomedov FORMATION OF NEOLOGISMS-NOUNS IN THE AVAR LANGUAGE	17
Д.М. Ма	агомедов ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ НЕОЛОГИЗМОВ-СУЩЕСТВИТЕЛЬНЫХ В АВАРСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ1	20
Magome	ed I. Magomedov DERIVATIONAL ANALYSIS OF ARCHAIC WORDS IN THE AVAR LANGUAGE1	24
М.И. Мо	агомедов СЛОВООБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ АРХАИЧНОЙ ЛЕКСИКИ В АВАРСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ1	27
Tamar N	Makharoblidze CONCERNING SOME ISSUES OF IMPERFECTIVE MODALITY IN SPOKEN AND SIGNED GEORGIAN1	32
S. M. Mo	SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE RUTULIAN LANGUAGE	36

A. Martynova, G. Moroz UVULAR CONSONANTS IN LANGUAGES OF THE CAUCASUS	50
Vincent Martzloff THE DERIVATIONAL HISTORY OF ORDINAL NUMBERS IN ARMENIAN, GEORGIAN AND OTHER CAUCASIAN LANGUAGES	54
Ranko Matasović THE ORIGIN OF GENDER IN NORTHWEST CAUCASIAN 15	59
Robin Meyer IMPERFECTIVE MODALITIES IN CLASSICAL ARMENIAN: THE CASE OF THE IRREALIS	62
R. O. Mutalov DIACHRONIC CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM OF NOUN CLASS MARKERS IN DARGWA	65
Monika Rind-Pawlowski FORMATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE IMPERFECTIVE STEMS IN KHINALUG	68
Alexander Rostovtsev-Popiel ZAN PREFIXATION CHALLENGING THE THEORY OF GRAMMATICALIZATION	78
Nino Sharashenidze GRAMMATICALIZATION OF უნდა (UNDA) FORM IN GEORGIAN18	83
S. M. Temirbulatova THE EXPRESSION OF LOCALIZATION OF DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS IN THE DIALECTS OF THE DARGIN LANGUAGE	89
Maka Tetradze VERBAL ASPECT IN BATS IN VIEW OF NAKH AND GEORGIAN ASPECTUAL SYSTEMS	92
Samira Verhees, Neige Rochant THE (AUXILIARY) VERB b-iʁidu IN ANDI19	97
Arseniy Vydrin OSSETIC OPTATIVE: IRANIAN HERITAGE VS. CAUCASIAN INFLUENCE	01