

Agreement and case in the Caucasus

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University of California, San Diego

LIGN 120

LIGN 120: May 8th, 2019

Case and agreement

“What's the difference between case and agreement?”

Sharon write-s to me

Sharon write-3SG to 1SG.ACC

Case and agreement

“What's the difference between case and agreement?”

Sharon	write-s	to	me
Sharon.NOM	write-3SG	to	1SG.ACC

Case marks arguments.

Case and agreement

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Agreement marks verbs.

Case and agreement

“What's the difference between case and agreement?”

Sharon	write-s	to	me
Sharon.NOM	write-3SG	to	1SG.ACC

Case marks arguments.

Agreement marks verbs.

...usually...

Case and agreement

A morphologist should be able to describe the word-structure of the languages around them, wherever in the world they are.



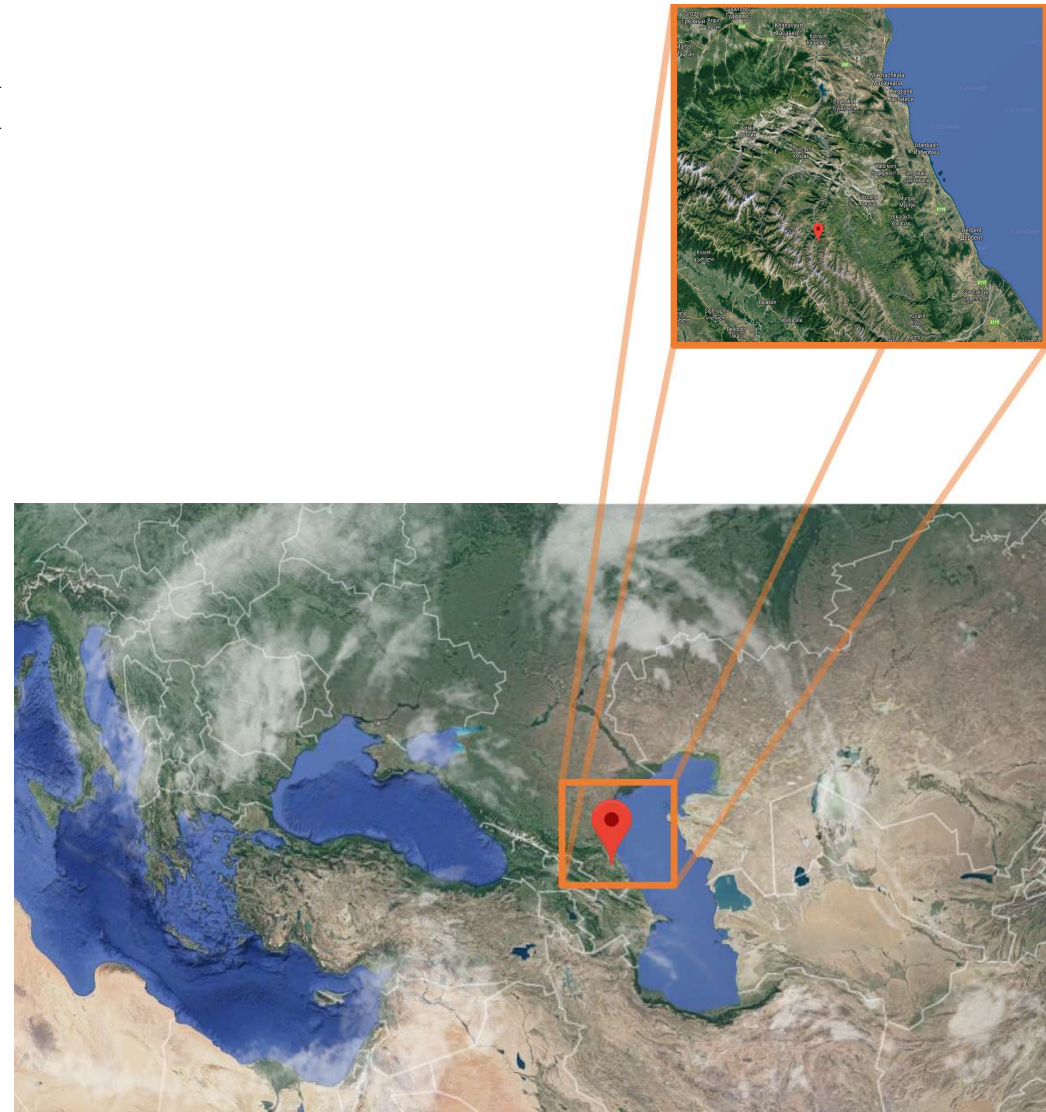
A lot of case in the Caucasus

How many morphological cases?

Vietnamese:	0
Icelandic:	4
Turkish:	6
Russian:	6 (sometimes 7)
Hungarian:	17 (some analyses propose 20 or higher...)
Avar:	19
Lak:	20
Tabasaran:	48

ARCHI

- Archi is an East Caucasian language spoken in the Republic of Dagestan, which is located in the South of Russia.
- Archi is spoken by around ~1200 people.
- Archi is mostly spoken in the village of Archib.
- Archi is also an ergative language, but with a twist.



LIGN 120: May 8th, 2019

Image credit: Google maps

ARCHI

wez dija tɬ'anɣi wi
'I like father.'

bez dogi tɬ'anɣi bi
'I like the donkey.'

dez buwa tɬ'anɣi di
'I like mother.'

ez motol tɬ'anɣi i
'I like the young goat.'

Kibrik 1977

ARCHI

wez dija tɬ'anɣi wi
'I like father.'

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'I like mother.'

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ez motol tɬ'anɣi i
'I like the young goat.'

➤ Archi has four genders:

1. *dija* 'father' is in the w-gender class (Class I).
2. *buwa* 'mother' is in the d-gender class (Class II).
3. *dogi* 'donkey' is in the b-gender class (Class III).
4. *motol* 'young goat' is in the zero-gender class (Class IV).

Kibrik 1977

ARCHI

w-ez dija tɬ'an-ʃi **w-i**

I-me.DAT father.ABS like-PRS I-be.PRS

‘I like father.’

d-ez buwa tɬ'an-ʃi **d-i**

II-me.DAT mother.ABS like-PRS II-be.PRS

‘I like mother.’

b-ez dogi tɬ'an-ʃi **b-i**

III-me.DAT donkey.ABS like-PRS III-be.PRS

‘I like the donkey.’

ez motol tɬ'an-ʃi **i**

IV-me.DAT father.ABS like-PRS IV.be.PRS

‘I like the young goat.’

Kibrik 1977

ARCHI

w-ez dija tɬ'an-ʃi **w-i**

I-me.7 AT father.ABS like-PRS I-be.PRS

'I like father.'

d-ez buwa tɬ'an-ʃi **d-i**

II-me.DAT mother.ABS like-PRS II-be.PRS

'I like mother.'

Masculine agreement on me!

b-ez dogi tɬ'an-ʃi **b-i**

III-me.DAT donkey.ABS like-PRS III-be.PRS

'I like the donkey.'

ez motol tɬ'an-ʃi **i**

IV-me.DAT father.ABS like-PRS IV.be.PRS

'I like the young goat.'

Kibrik 1977

ARCHI

w-ez dija tɬ'an-ʃi **w-i**

I-me.DAT father.ABS like-PRS I-be.PRS

‘I like father.’

d-ez buwa tɬ'an-ʃi **d-i**

II-me.DAT mother.ABS like-PRS II-be.PRS

‘I like mother.’

Feminine agreement on me!

b-ez dogi tɬ'an-ʃi **b-i**

III-me.DAT donkey.ABS like-PRS III-be.PRS

‘I like the donkey.’

ez motol tɬ'an-ʃi **i**

IV-me.DAT father.ABS like-PRS IV-be.PRS

‘I like the young goat.’

Kibrik 1977

ARCHI

w-ez dija tɬ'an-ʃi **w-i**

I-me.DAT father.ABS like-PRS I-be.PRS

'I like father.'

d-ez buwa tɬ'an-ʃi **d-i**

II-me.DAT mother.ABS like-PRS II-be.PRS

'I like mother.'

Class-III neuter agreement on me!

b-ez dogi tɬ'an-ʃi **b-i**

III-me.DAT donkey.ABS like-PRS III-be.PRS

'I like the donkey.'

ez motol tɬ'an-ʃi **i**

IV-me.DAT father.ABS like-PRS IV-be.PRS

'I like the young goat.'

Kibrik 1977

Case and agreement

“What's the difference between case and agreement?”

Sharon	write-s	to	me
Sharon.NOM	write-3SG	to	1SG.ACC

Case marks arguments.

Agreement marks verbs.

...usually... except in Archi agreement also marks arguments!

Case and agreement

English pattern:

I	write	to	Sharon
1SG.NOM	write	to	Sharon.ACC

Archi pattern:

to	me-s	write-s	Sharon
to	1SG.DAT-3SG	write-3SG	Sharon.ABS

Case and agreement

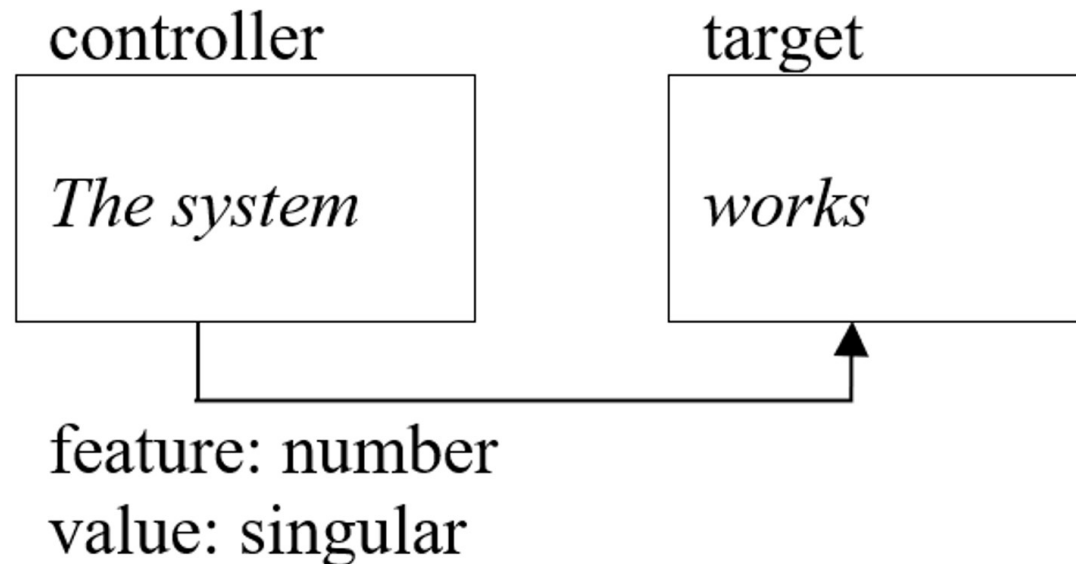
“What's the difference between case and agreement?”

Agreement has a **controller** which is usually a noun. The **features** of the controller noun spread to the **target**, which is usually (but not always) a verb!

Case and agreement

“What's the difference between case and agreement?”

Agreement has a **controller** which is usually a noun. The **features** of the controller noun spread to the **target**, which is usually (but not always) a verb!



Case and agreement

“What's the difference between case and agreement?”

Agreement has a **controller** which is usually a noun. The **features** of the controller noun spread to the **target**, which is usually (but not always) a verb!

Case has a **controller** which is usually a verb (including phrasal verbs) or adposition. The *target* of case is usually a noun, but unlike in agreement, the **controller** does not carry the case features, and so has nothing to ‘spread’! Instead it imposes features on the target. E.g.:

I talked with *him*. (would be comitative case)

I talked to *him*. (would be dative case)

urfi wak'ib
'The boy came.'

rurfi rak'ib
'The girl came.'

xæ bak'ib
'The dog came.'

urfi wak'ib
'The boy came.'

rurfi rak'ib
'The girl came.'

xæ bak'ib
'The dog came.'

ilini urfi tseʔib
'(S)he saw the boy.'

ilini rurfi tsreʔib
'(S)he saw the girl.'

ilini xæ tsbeʔib
'(S)he saw the dog.'

DARGI

urfi wak'ib
'The boy came.'

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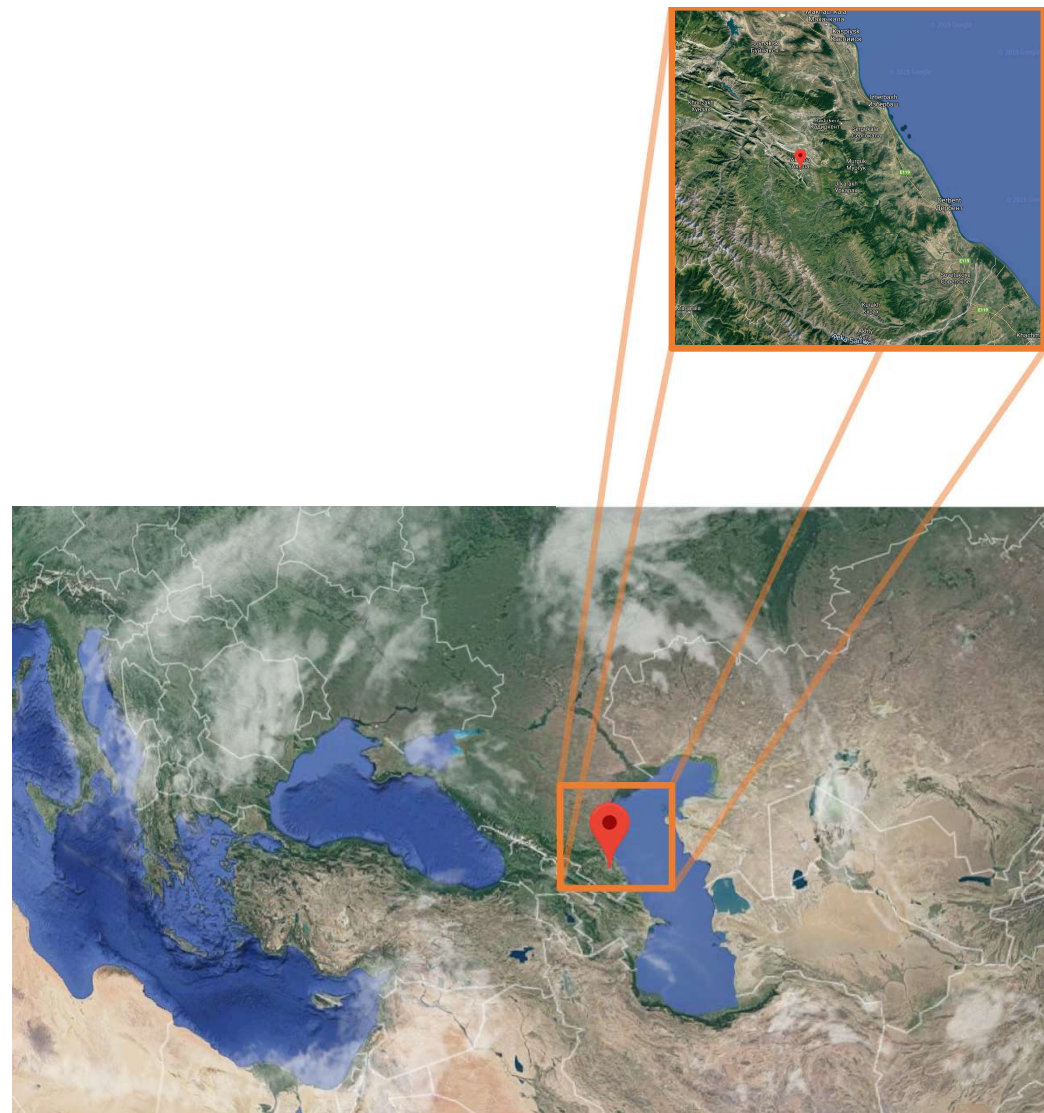
ilini urfi tseʔib
'(S)he saw the boy.'

ilini rurfi tsreʔib
'(S)he saw the girl.'

ilini xæ tsbeʔib
'(S)he saw the dog.'

DARGI

- Dargi is an East Caucasian language spoken in the Republic of Dagestan, which is located in the South of Russia.
- Dargi is spoken by 366,000 people.
- The standard dialect of Dargi is based on the version of the language spoken in the village of Akusha.
- Dargi is an ergative language.



Recap: Ergativity

DARGI

urfi w-ak'-ib
boy.ABS I-come-AOR.3
'The boy came.'

il.i-ni rurfi tf<r>e?-ib
(s)he-ERG girl.ABS see<II>-AOR.3
'(S)he saw the girl.'

il.i-ni xæ tfe?-ib
(s)he-ERG dog.ABS see<III>-AOR.3
'(S)he saw the dog.'

From van den Berg 2005

Recap: Ergativity

DARGI

urfi w-ak'-ib
boy.ABS I-come-AOR.3
'The boy came.'

il.i-ni rurfi
(s)he-ERG girl.ABS
'(S)he saw the girl.'

tʃ<r>eʔ-ib
see<II>-AOR.3

il.i-ni xæ
(s)he-ERG dog.ABS
'(S)he saw the dog.'

tʃeʔ-ib
see<III>-AOR.3

Infixes which mark agreement!

From van den Berg 2005

Recap: Ergativity

- In nominative-accusative systems, S (subject of an intransitive verb) and A (subject of a transitive verb) are encoded identically, and this encoding differs from that of P (patient-like argument of a transitive verb).
 - **Who** does what to **whom** can be encoded by... case marking, verb agreement, incorporation, etc. E.g.:
 - She** sleeps. [S=she=NOM]
 - She** loves a few good New York slices. [A=she=NOM]
 - The people love **her**. [P=her=ACC]
- In neutral systems, all arguments are encoded in the same way.
- In ergative-absolutive systems, S is encoded in the same way as P, and this encoding differs from that of A.

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Recap: Ergativity

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- In ergative-absolutive systems, S is encoded in the same way as P, and this encoding differs from that of A.
 - **Who** does what to *whom* can be encoded by... case marking, verb agreement, incorporation, etc. E.g.:
She sleeps. [S=she=ABS]
Her love a few good New York slices. [A=she=ERG]
The people loves *she*. [P=she=ACC]

Recap: Ergativity

Ergativity is one way of aligning morphology and syntax in the encoding of **who** did what to *whom*.

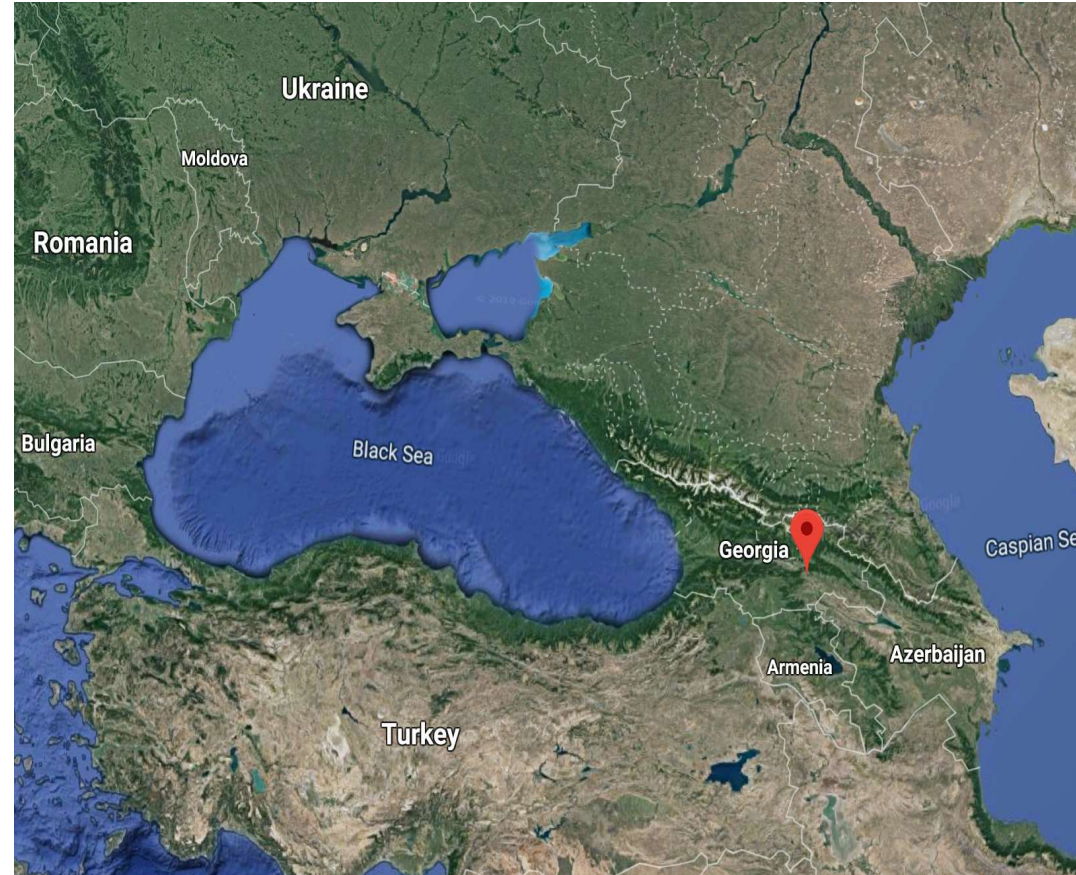
Recap: Ergativity

Ergativity is one way of aligning morphology and syntax in the encoding of **who** did what to *whom*.

There are many other kinds of ergativity in the Caucasus. Many of them don't play by the same rules...

GEORGIAN

- Georgian is a South Caucasian (Kartvelian) language spoken in the Republic of Georgia (no, not in Atlanta).
- Georgian is spoken by around 3.7 million people.
- Georgian is sometimes called a ‘split-ergative’ language.

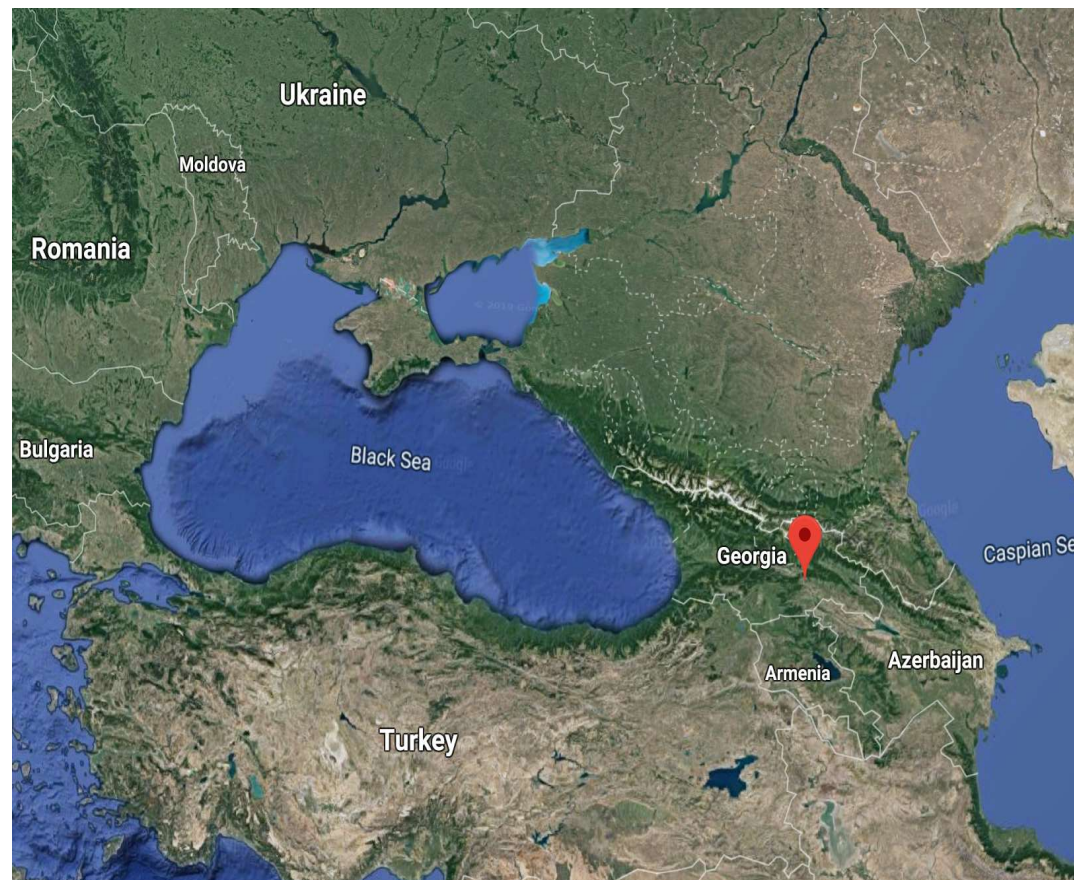


GEORGIAN

ვანომ ითამაშა
vanom itamajša
‘Vano played.’

ნინომ დაამთქნარა
ninom daamtknara
‘Nino yawned.’

ვანომ იფიქრა მარიკაზე
vanom ipikra marikaze
‘Vano thought about Marika.’



GEORGIAN

ვანომ ითამაშა

vano-m itamajfa

Vano-ERG he.played.II.3

‘Vano played.’

ნინომ დაამთქნარა

nino-m daamtknara

Nino-ERG she.yawned.II.1

‘Nino yawned.’

ვანომ იფიქრა მარიკაზე

vano-m ipikra marikaze

Vano-ERG he.thought.II.3 Marika.LOC

‘Vano thought about Marika.’

GEORGIAN

ვანომ ითამაშა
vano-m itamafa
Vano-ERG he.played.II.3
'Vano played.'

ნინომ დაამთქნარა
nino-m daamtknara
Nino-ERG she.yawned.II.1
'Nino yawned.'

ვანომ იფიქრა მარიკაზე
vano-m ipikra marikaze
Vano-NOM he.thought.II.3 Marika.LOC
'Vano thought about Marika.'

ვანო ალიღინდა
vano-m ayiyinda
Vano.ABS came.about.croon.II.2
'Vano began to sing in a low voice.'

გლეხმა დათესა სიმინდი
glex-ma datesa simind-i
farmer-ERG he.sowed.it.II.1 corn-ABS
'The farmer sowed corn.'

დედამ აკოცა შვილს
deda-m ak'otsa fvil-s
mother-ERG she.kissed.him.II.1 child-DAT
'The mother kissed her child.'

GEORGIAN

ბავშვი მიესალმა დედას

bavšv-i miesalma deida-s

child-ABS he.greeted.her.II.2 aunt-DAT

‘The child greeted (his) aunt.’

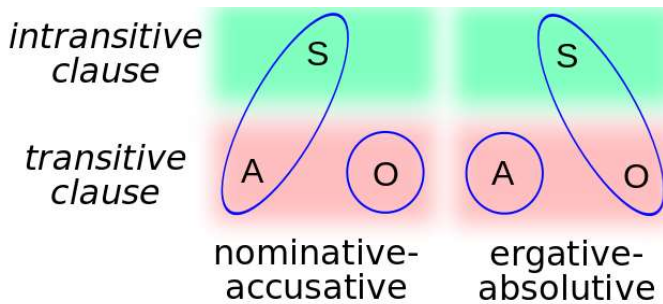


Image source:
Wikimedia commons

Canonical ergativity

sow/plant

kiss

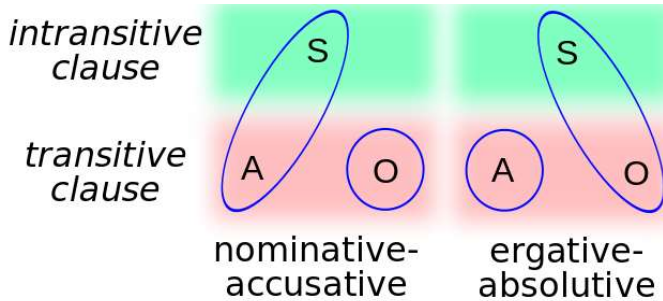
greet

begin to sing

played

yawned

thought about



Canonical ergativity

Image source:
Wikimedia commons

Transitive (subject=A)

sow/plant

kiss

greet

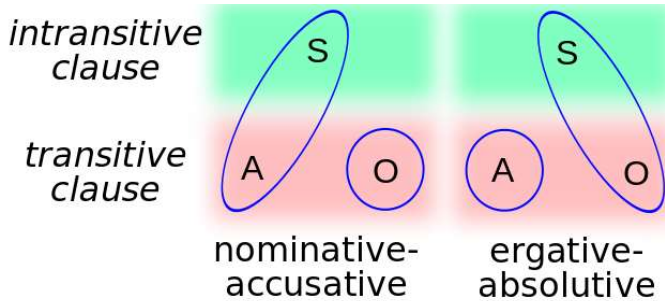
Intransitive (subject=S)

begin to sing

played

yawned

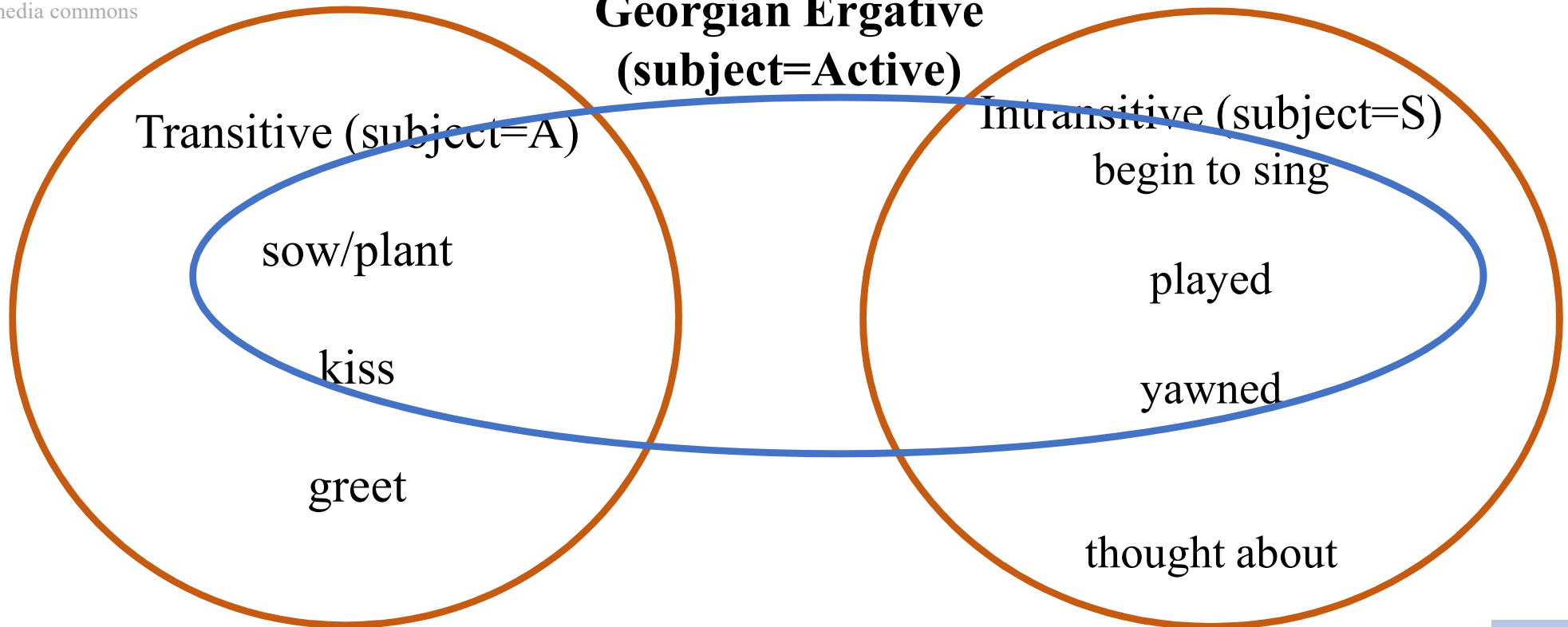
thought about



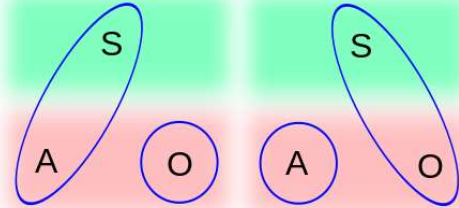
Canonical ergativity

Image source:
Wikimedia commons

Georgian Ergative (subject=Active)



intransitive clause



nominative-accusative

ergative-absolutive

Canonical ergativity

transitive clause

Image source: Wikimedia commons

Georgian Ergative (subject=Active)

Transitive (subject=A)

sow/plant

kiss

greet

Intransitive (subject=S)

begin to sing

played

yawned

Georgian Nominative/Absolutive (subject=Stative)

thought about

GEORGIAN

ვანომ ითამაშა
vano-m itamaša
Vano-ERG he.played.II.3
‘Vano played.’

ვანო თამაშობს
vano tamafobs
Vano.ABS he.plays.II.3
‘Vano plays.’

დედამ აკოცა შვილს
deda-m ak’otsa švil-s
mother-ERG she.kissed.him.II.1 child-DAT
‘The mother kissed her child.’

დედა კოცნის შვილს
deda k’otsnis švil-s
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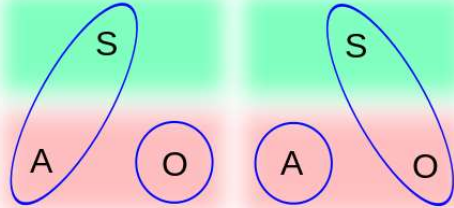
ვანომ ითამაშა
vano-**m** itamasha
Vano-ERG he.played.II.3
‘Vano played.’

ვანო თამაშობს
vano tamashobs
Vano.NOM he.plays.II.3
‘Vano plays.’

დედამ აკოცა შვილს
deda-**m** ak'otsa shvil-s
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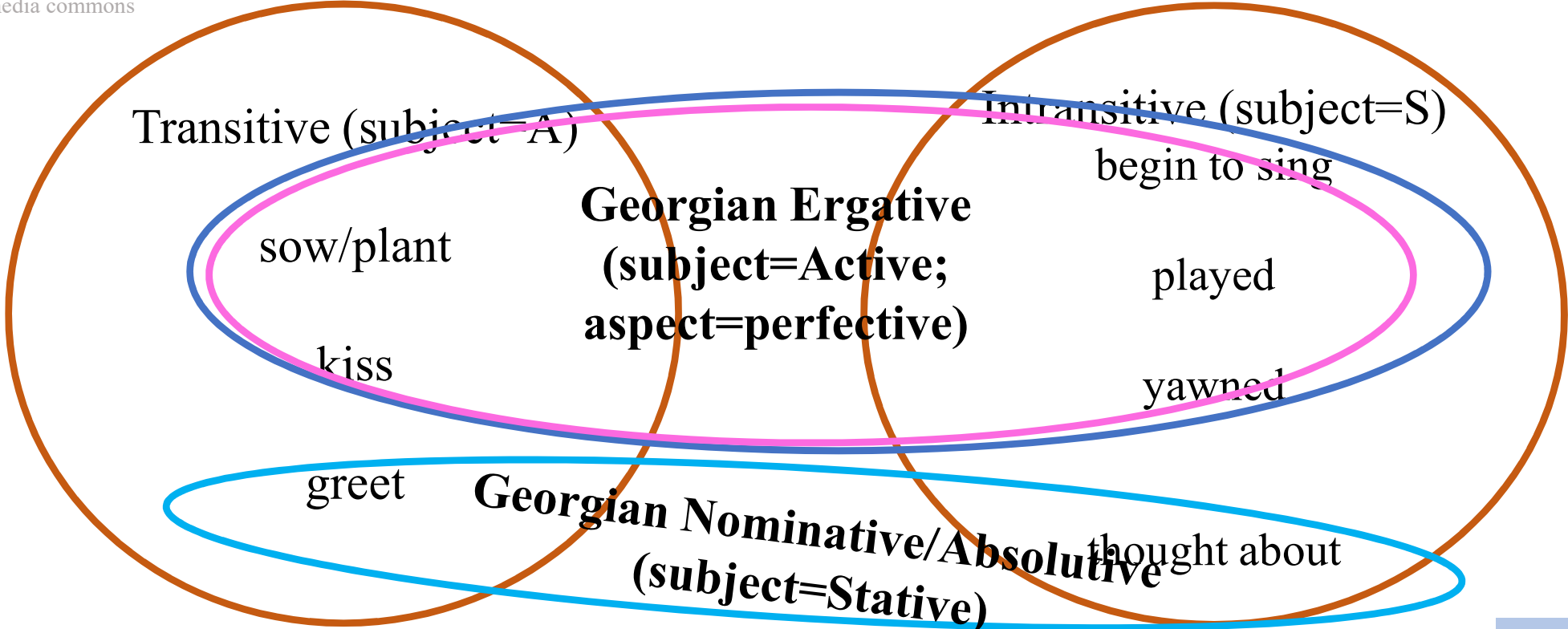
intransitive clause



nominative-accusative ergative-absolutive

Canonical ergativity

Image source: Wikimedia commons



Split-ergativity

Ergativity is one way of aligning morphology and syntax in the encoding of **who** did what to **whom**.

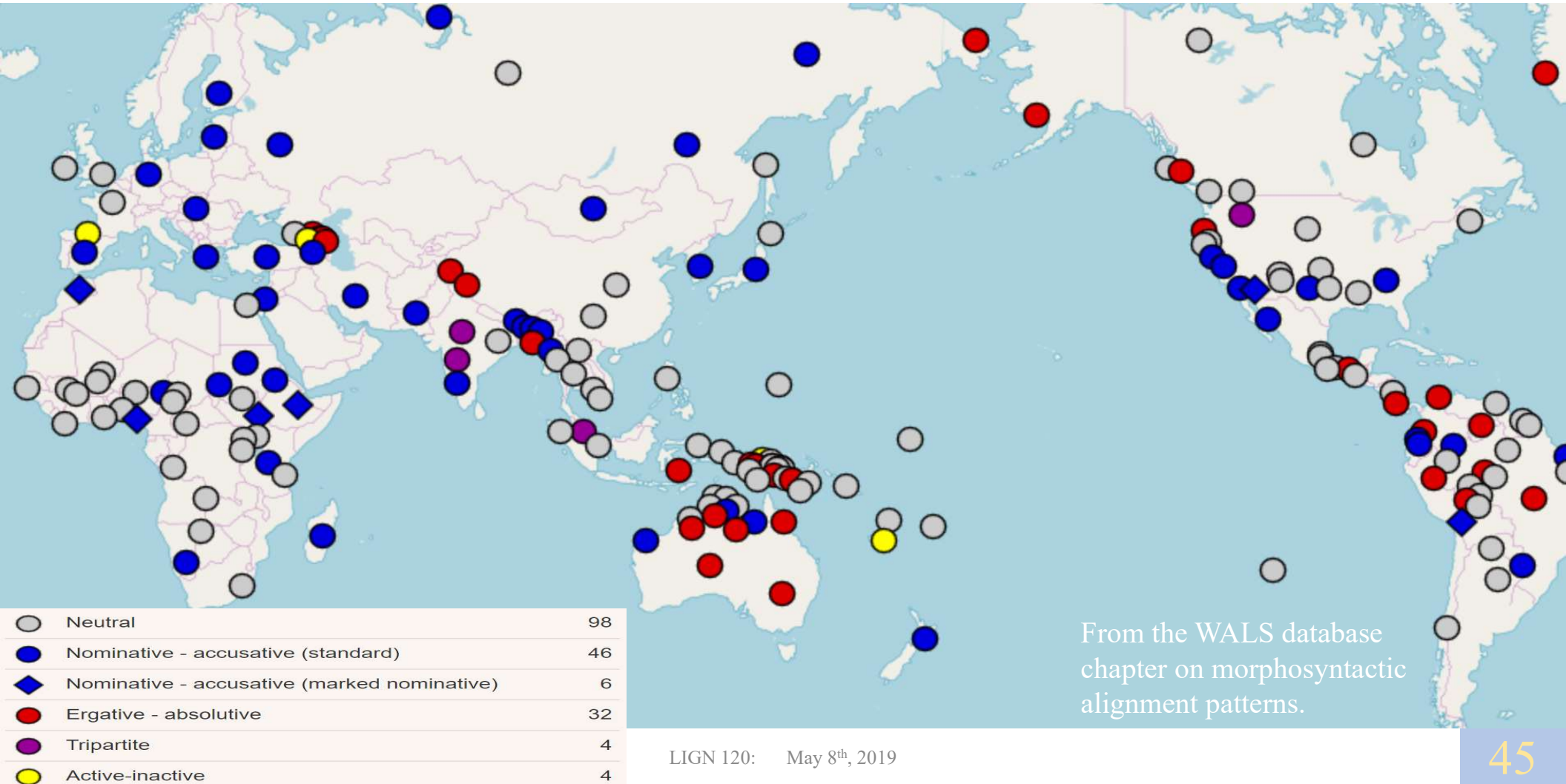
- But some languages *split* when they mark ergativity along other linguistic features. Georgian splits ergative marking along the following two features:
 1. Putting an **ergative** case marker on the **subject** of an active verb (like *sow*, *kiss*, *begin to sing*, *play*, *yawn*), but not on the **subject** of an inactive/stative verb (*greet*, *think about*). Sometimes this kind of split is referred to as ‘Active-Inactive alignment.’

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 2. Putting an **ergative** case marker on the **subject** of an active verb in the **perfective aspect** but not in the **imperfective aspect**.
- Other split-ergative/active-inactive languages, like Basque, mark ergativity in all aspects except the progressive, in which subjects must be marked by the nominative case.

Morphosyntactic alignment patterns



ADYGHE (West Caucasian)

Adyghe is an ergative-absolutive language. It marks the plural with the suffix *-χe*, except when the noun marked by the ergative *-m*; then it has a more specific suffix:

bostej-χe-r
dress-PL-ABS
'dresses' (absolutive)

hatʃ'e-m-e
guest-ERG-ERG.PL
'guests' (ergative)

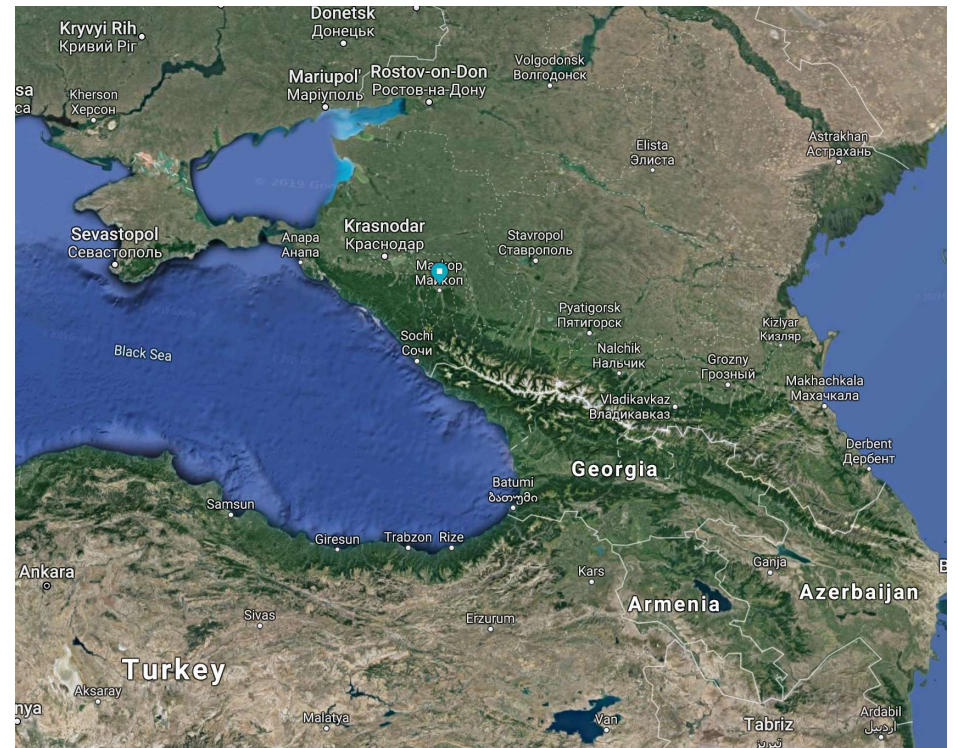


Image credit: Google maps Kumakhov et al. 1996: 4;
LIGN 120: May 8th, 2019 Harris 2017

ADYGHE (West Caucasian)

Unlike perhaps most nouns, pronouns in Adyghe may bring two ergative suffixes to the party: *-m* and *-f*'

a-χe-**m**

he-PL-**ERG**

'they' (ergative)

a-ʃ'-**m-e**

he-**ERG-ERG-ERG.PL**

'they' (ergative)

ADYGHE (West Caucasian)

Unlike perhaps most nouns, pronouns in Adyghe may bring two ergative suffixes to the party: *-m* and *-f'*

a-χe-m

he-PL-ERG

‘they’ (ergative)

a-f'-m-e

he-ERG-ERG-ERG.PL

‘they’ (ergative)

But the only good parties are the ones where you both bring your friends:

a-χe-m-e

he-PL-ERG-ERG.PL

‘they’ (ergative)

a-f'-χe-m-e

he-ERG-PL-ERG-ERG.PL

‘they’ (ergative)

a-r-χe-m-e

he-ABS-PL-ERG-ERG.PL

‘they’ (ergative)

Kumakhov et al. 1996: 4;
Harris 2017

Humboldt's Universal (von Humboldt 1836/1839)

1. Suppletion is undesirable.
2. Uniformity of linguistic symbolization is desirable:
Both roots and grammatical markers should be **unique** and **constant**.



Image source: Wikimedia commons

See Vennemann 1972: 184 for more information.

ADYGHE (West Caucasian)

Can one really ever have too much ergativity?



ADYGHE (West Caucasian)

Can one really ever have too much ergativity?

***SLAPSTOP OF
ADYGHE PRONOUN***

axeme

af^hχeme

arχeme

af^hme

axem

**THIS BAD BOY CAN FIT SO
MANY ERGATIVE MARKERS IN IT**

Ergativity in Adyghe
isn't uniquely marked...
nor is it constant...



Image source: Wikimedia Commons

ENGLISH

I/you/ya'll/they/we sail the Seven Seas in search of treasure.

I/you/ya'll/they/we sailed the Seven Seas in search of treasure.

ENGLISH

I/you/ya'll/they/we sail the Seven Seas in search of treasure.

I/you/ya'll/they/we sailed the Seven Seas in search of treasure.

John sails the Seven Seas in search of treasure.

John sailed the Seven Seas in search of treasure.

ENGLISH

to sail

Present & third person
singular

sail-s

Present & non-third
person singular

sail-∅

Past

sail-ed

Note: -∅ does not mean there is a real suffix there. It is a zero-marker we can use to distinguish when an affixless form contrasts with an affixed form.

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sail-∅

Past



sail-ed

Note: -∅ does not mean there is a real suffix there. It is a zero-marker we can use to distinguish when an affixless form contrasts with an affixed form.

ENGLISH

to sail

Hey these person and number features aren't uniquely marked in the morphology, pls fix

Present & third person singular



sail-s

Present & non-third person singular



sail-∅

sail-ed

Note: -∅ does not mean there is a real suffix there. It is a zero-marker we can use to distinguish when an affixless form contrasts with an affixed form.

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Present & third person
singular



sail-**s**

Present & non-third
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sail-**∅**

Past



sail-**ed**

Note: -∅ does not mean there is a real suffix there. It is a zero-marker we can use to distinguish when an affixless form contrasts with an affixed form.

ENGLISH

John sail[**d**] the Seven Seas in search of treasure.

John tap[**t**] his desk with a pencil.

John shred[**ɪd**] the documents.

ENGLISH 😊

to sail



Past



sail-[d]

ENGLISH 

to sail



Past



sail-[**d**]

to tap



Past



tap-[**t**]

ENGLISH 😊

to sail



Past



sail-[d]

to tap



Past



tap-[t]

to shred



Past [suffix]



shred-[ɪd]

ENGLISH

John sail[**d**] the Seven Seas in search of treasure.

John tap[**t**] his desk with a pencil.

John shred[**ɪd**] the documents.

John sinks the ships of his enemies.

John sank the ships of his enemies.

ENGLISH 😐

to sail



Past [suffix]



sail-**[d]**

to tap



Past [suffix]



tap-**[t]**

to shred



Past [suffix]



shred-**[ɪd]**

to sink



Past [ablaut]



sank

ENGLISH

John sail[**d**] the Seven Seas in search of treasure.

John tap[**t**] his desk with a pencil.

John shred[**ɪd**] the documents.

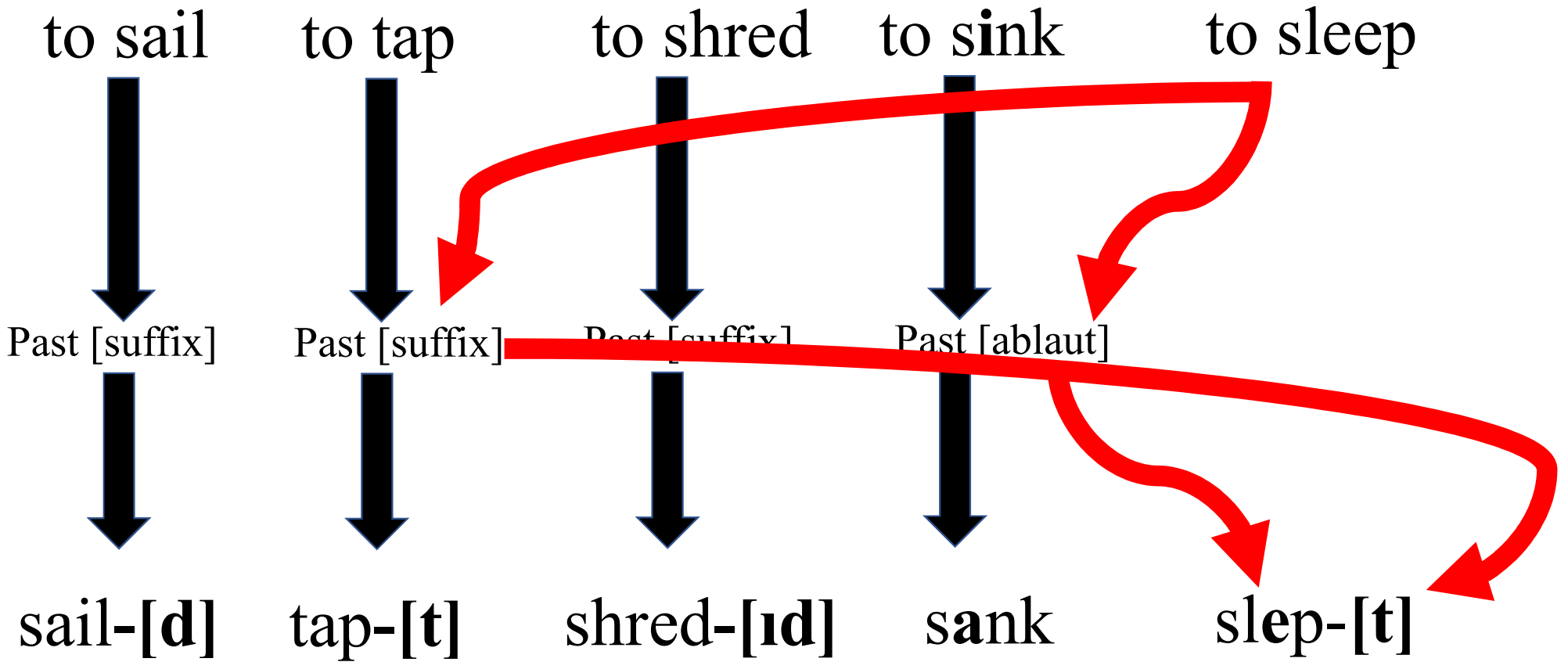
John sinks the ships of his enemies.

John sank the ships of his enemies.

John sleeps very late every morning.

John slept very late every morning.

ENGLISH 😞



ENGLISH ☹️

to sail

to tap

to shred

to sink

to sleep

**MULTIPLE
EXPONENCE**

Past [suffix]

Past [suffix]

Past [suffix]

Past [abaut]

sail-[d]

tap-[t]

shred-[ɪd]

sank

slep-[t]

Single exponence and multiple exponence

Single exponence is the occurrence of a single realization of a single morphosemantic feature, bundle of features, or derivational category within a word.

e.g.: sank, sailed, spoke

Single exponence and multiple exponence

Single exponence is the occurrence of a single realization of a single morphosemantic feature, bundle of features, or derivational category within a word.

e.g.: sank, sailed, spoke

Multiple exponence is the occurrence of multiple realizations of a single morphosemantic feature, bundle of features, or derivational category within a word.

e.g.: slept, felt; af'me, aχeme, af'χeme, arχeme

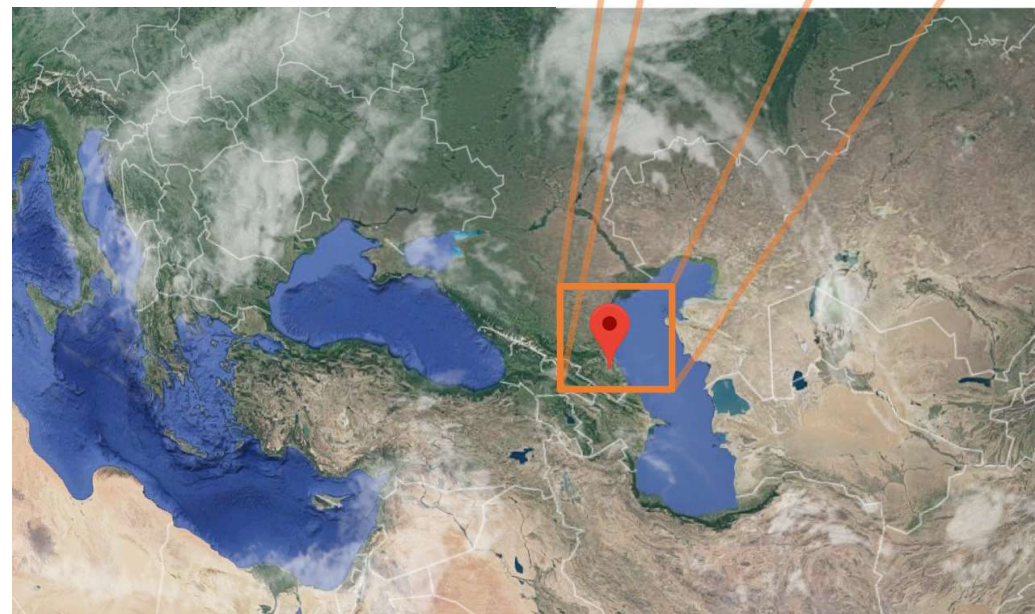
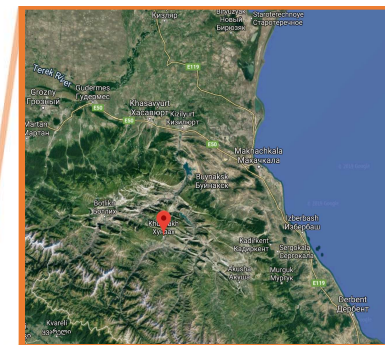
Single exponence and multiple exponence

Multiple exponence has nothing to do with ergativity in particular, but some languages, like Adyghe, have **multiple exponence in its ergative marking**.

Multiple exponence is thought to be rare in the languages of the world (though we have it in past tense marking in English), but it is a phenomenon found in many languages in the Caucasus, with different kinds of features.

AVAR

- Like Dargi and Archi, Avar is an East Caucasian language spoken in the Republic of Dagestan.
- Avar is spoken by ~1 million people.
- The standard dialect of Avar is based on the version of the language spoken in the village of Khunzakh.
- Avar has 3 genders in the singular: masculine, feminine, and neuter.



LIGN 120: May 8th, 2019

Image credit: Google maps

Multiple exponence **AVAR**

There are three genders in the singular, which are collapsed in the plural. Gender and number agreement is marked on adjectives.

херав

xer-av

old-MASC

‘old’ (masculine)

херай

xer-aj

old-FEM

‘old’ (feminine)

хераб

xer-ab

old-NEUT

‘old’ (neuter)

херал

xer-al

old-PL

‘old’ (plural)

Multiple exponence
AVAR

МЭТТ	В-УГО	цлакъ	вац ц адаВ	чи
Mett	v-ugo	ts'aqχ:'	v-ats':ad-av	tʃi
Matt.MASC.ABS	MASC-be	very	MASC-clean-MASC	person
'Matt is a very clean person'				

Multiple exponence

AVAR

There are three genders in the singular, which are collapsed in the plural. Gender and number agreement is marked on adjectives.

херав	херай	хераб	херал
xer-av	xer-aj	xer-ab	xer-al
old-MASC	old-FEM	old-NEUT	old-PL
‘old’ (masculine)	‘old’ (feminine)	‘old’ (neuter)	‘old’ (plural)

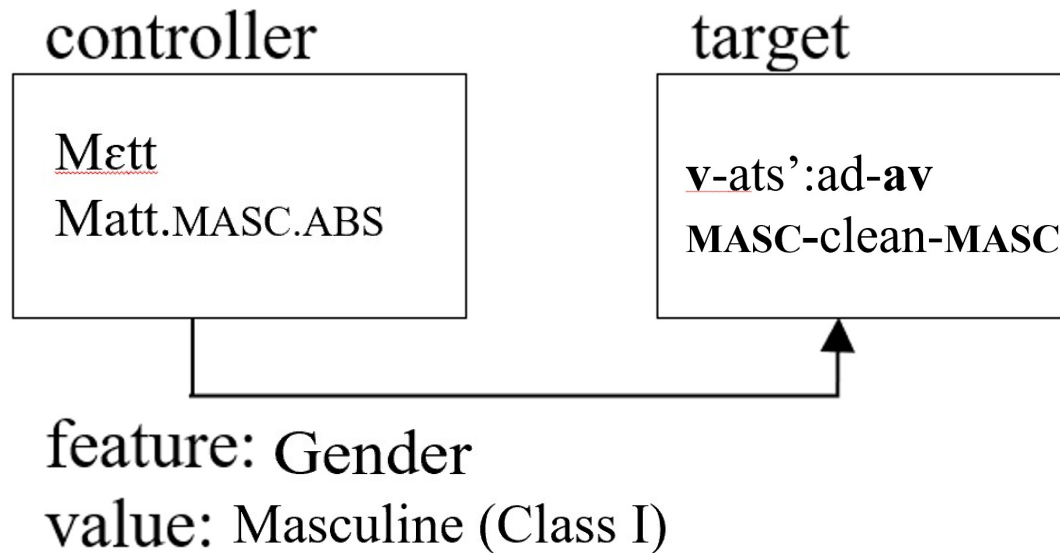
But sometimes Avar adjectives have long forms, which have multiple markers of agreement:

вац ц адав	яц ц адай	б-ац ц адаб	р-ац ц адал
v-ats’:ad-av	j-ats’:ad-aj	b-ats’:ad-ab	r-ats’:ad-al
MASC-clean-MASC	FEM-clean-FEM	NEUT-clean-NEUT	PL-clean-PL
‘clean’ (masculine)	‘clean’ (feminine)	‘clean’ (neuter)	‘clean’ (plural)

Multiple exponence
AVAR

МЭТТ	В-УГО	цлакъ	Вац ц адаВ	чи
Mett	v-ugo	ts'aqχ:'	v-ats':ad-av	tʃi
Matt.MASC.ABS	MASC-be	very	MASC-clean-MASC	person

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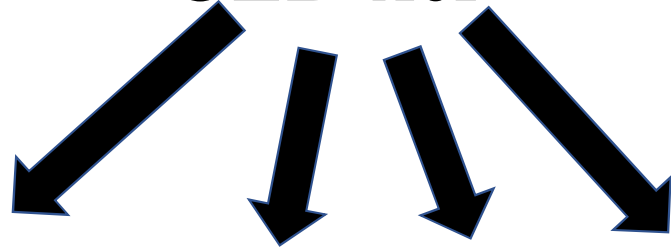


Multiple exponence

AVAR



OLD xer



Masculine Feminine Neuter Plural



-av



-aj



-ab



-al

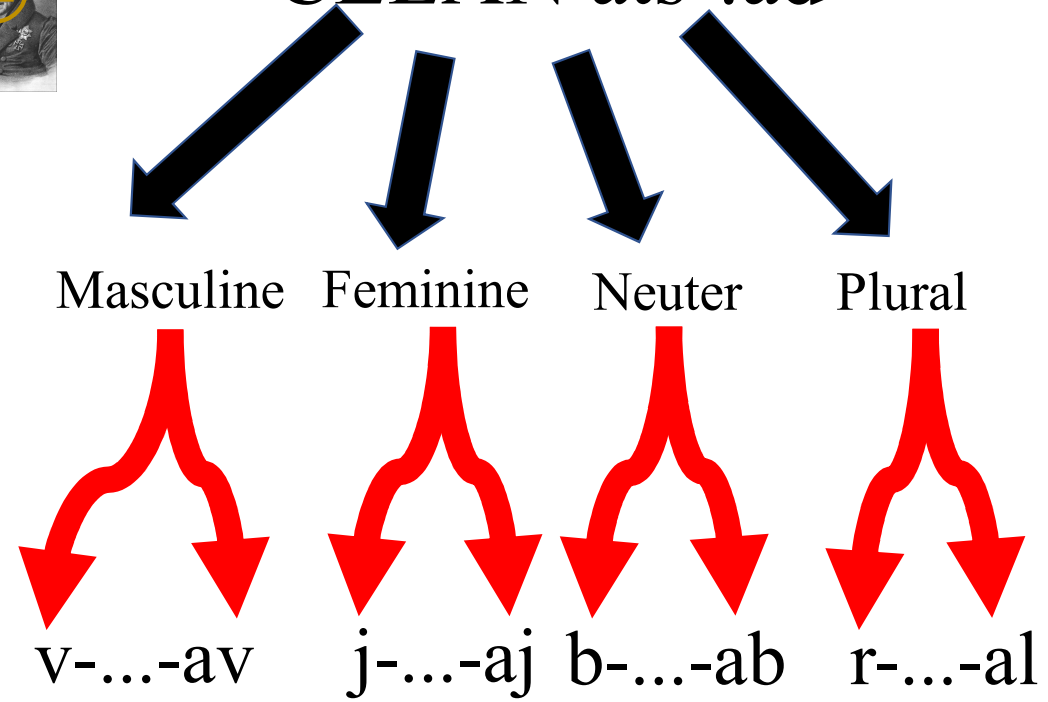
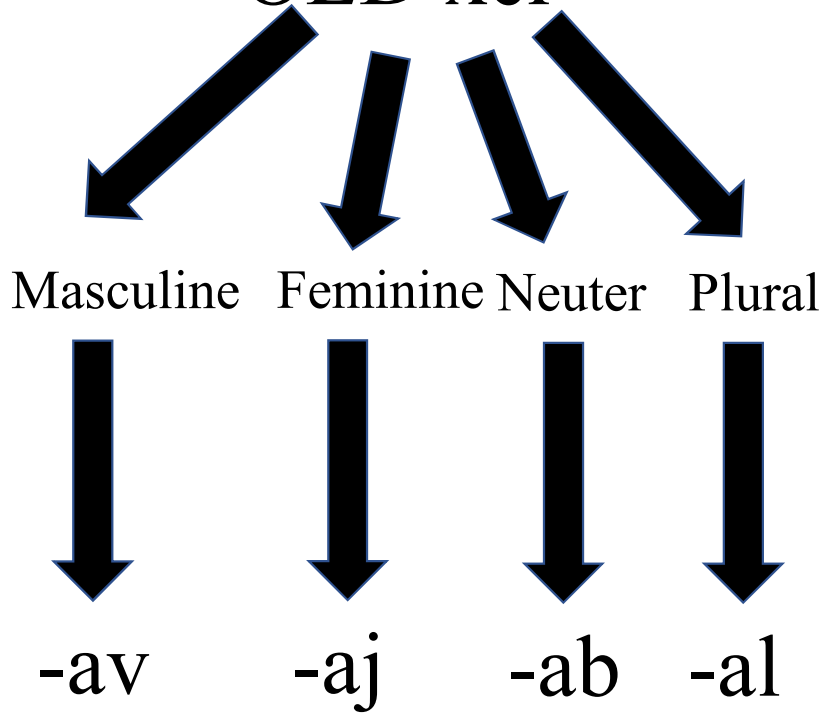
Multiple exponence

AVAR



OLD xer

CLEAN ats':ad



Multiple exponence

AVAR



CLEAN ats':ad

Well these agreement markers aren't constantly marked, since sometimes adjectives take suffixes, and sometimes they take circumfixes... but at least they are always uniquely marked.

Masculine

Feminine

Neuter

Plural

Masculine

Feminine

Neuter

Plural

-av

-aj

-ab

-al

v-...-av

j-...-aj

b-...-ab

r-...-al

Multiple exponence

AVAR



OLD xer

CLEAN ats':ad

Masculine

Feminine

Neuter

Plural

Feminine

Neuter

Plural

-av

-aj

Those aren't circumfixes! All of those agreement markers independently occur as the suffixes -av, -aj, -ab, and -al. The agreement features are not uniquely marked!

V-...-av

j-...-aj

b-...-ab

r-...-al



Multiple exponence

AVAR



OLD xer

CLEAN ats':ad

Masculine Feminine Neuter

Feminine Neuter Plural



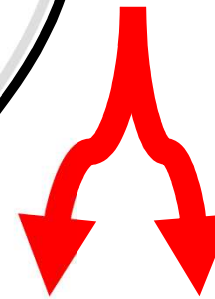
-av



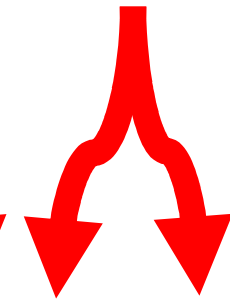
-aj

Oh no, it's multiple exponence!

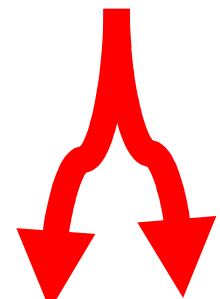
v-...-av



j-...-aj



b-...-ab



r-...-al



MULTIPLE EXPONENCE



ALICE C. HARRIS

LIGN 120: May 8th, 2019

What isn't multiple exponence?

Sometimes we see multiple markers of the same thing, but that doesn't make it multiple exponence.



LIGN 120: May 8th, 2019

Reduplication isn't multiple exponence

ENGLISH

John is a very good pirate.

=/=

John is a very very good pirate.

=/=

John is a very very very good pirate.

Reduplication isn't multiple exponence

ENGLISH

John is a very good pirate.

=/=

John is a very very good pirate.

=/=

John is a very very very good pirate.

TURKISH

enli 'broad'

=/=

epenli 'very broad'

ulu 'great'

=/=

upulu 'very great'

oyuk 'hollow'

=/=

opoyuk 'very hollow'

Reduplication
Turkish

Adjective = CV(C)X



Superlative 'very'

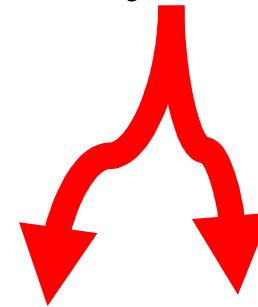


CV_p-CV(C)X

Adjective = CV(C)X



Adjective



CV_p-CV(C)X

Reduplication
Turkish

Adjective = CV(C)X



Superlative 'very'

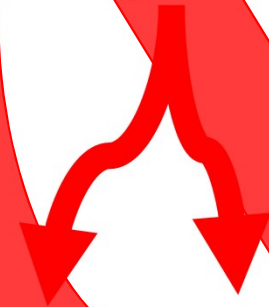


CV_p-CV(C)X

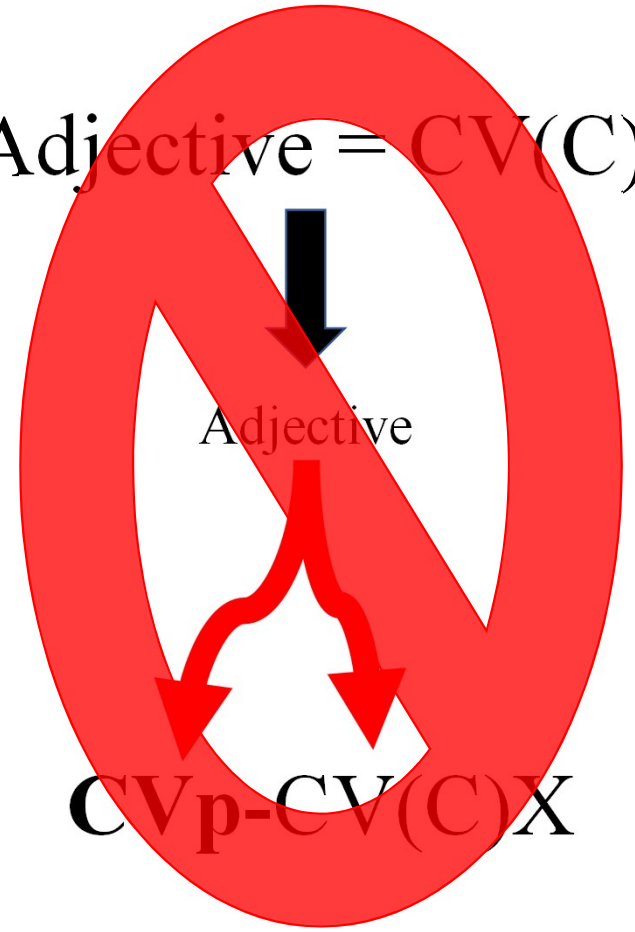
Adjective = CV(C)X



Adjective



CV_p-CV(C)X



Reduplication is not the multiple realization of the same semantic or morphological features. Reduplication is usually using syllable structure to mark a single feature, like superlatives.

Wrapping up

Some common ways of saying **who** does what to *whom* in the Caucasus are very different from the rest of the world...

Nouns can be targets for agreement (Archi!).

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Multiple exponence is found crosslinguistically in various categories, including case marking and agreement.

→ Sometimes linguists predict that ME is never systematic (e.g. von Humboldt's Principle, one form for one meaning). These predictions fail in the Caucasus!

Further reading

In English:

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