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PLANNING

Features of Annotation of Verb Complements in Different Stages and Varieties of Armenian

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VERB COMPLEMENTS IN ARMENIAN GRAMMATICAL TRADITION

Arguments

Generally 5 groups of arguments are distinguished, in accordance with 5 cases in Armenian. There are also prepositional and pronominal complements. All these are generally presented in one of the following subcategories:
- core - noncore (i.e. direct - indirect)
- arguments of voice and nature
- declensional and prepositional complements
- nominal and adverbial arguments
- core and oblique arguments (the last one is on the border between the arguments and adjuncts)

Adjuncts - mainly distinguished by their meaning or through questions.

Main types of verb complements in Armenian	
Arguments	**Adjuncts**
direct object	oblique of basis
indirect objects in dative (or genitive-dative)	oblique of cause
indirect objects in ablative	oblique of condition
indirect objects in instrumental	oblique of goal
indirect objects in locative	oblique of location
indirect objects in nominative (of intransitive verbs only)	oblique of manner
active agent (oblique agent in UD, the demoted subject in passive constructions)	oblique of mood
	oblique of quantity
	oblique temporal
	oblique of concession

Semantically, the average number of verb complements in Armenian ~ 50
Indirect objects > 40, Adjuncts > 9

UD relations used for the verb complemnts in Armenian	
obj	direct object
iobj	Indirect object in dative
iobj:agent	the object of causative verbs (semantic subject or real doer of the action)
obl	adjuncts, arguments with prepositions and standing in cases other than accusative and dative*
obl:agent	active argument (in passive constructions)
advmod	adjuncts or adverbial arguments
advcl	clause in the syntactic position of an adverbial complement
ccomp	clause in the syntactic position of direct object / secondary predication
xcomp	secondary predication with unknown subject
nsubj**	Bicides the main subject of the sentence, with this relation is marked the noun or pronoun (usually in genitive/dative) with the semantic function of subject in participal constructions

* Sometimes both case morphology and prepositions can be used to express the same meaning. If a dependent in dative is possible to replace with a prepositional construction, it is parsed as **obl**.
** In traditional grammar its called "side" subject to avoid the confusion.

THE FRAME OF ISSUES

Similarity of direct and indirect objects.

- Nonhuman-denoting nouns stand in accusative, and human-denoting ones - in dative.
- Sometimes nonhuman-denoting nouns stand in dative, and vice versa, human-denoting nouns stand in accusative (in Western Armenian and in some dialects).

բժիշկ կանչել / bžišk kančel – to call a doctor (acc.)
բժշկին կանչել / bžškin kančel – to call the doctor (dat.)

➤ *For core-noncore distinction some semantic features must be taken into account (definiteness, general/specific meaning, attitude or purpose of the speaker etc.).*

Inconsistencies between definitions in grammatical theory and language material.

- Middle verbs are intransitive and can have arguments in different cases except accusative.
- Some verbs marked in dictionaries as middle have an argument in accusative(?).
- Since nominative and accusative cases share the same form for nonhuman-denoting nouns, and only direct object can stand in accusative, these arguments are either considered to be nominative and are called indirect objects in nominative (very inorganic for Armenian), or oblique arguments in accusative.

անցնել թունելը / anc'nel t'ownelë lit. *'to pass the tunnel'*
*վազել տարածությու

նը / vazel taraçowt'yownë* lit. *'to run the distance')*

- Human-denoting nouns are met in different cases in this position depending on the verb's meaning.

անցնել ընկերոջը / anc'nel ënkerojë lit.*'to pass (exceed) the friend'* (dat.)
անցնել ընկերոջից / anc'nel ënkerojic' lit.*'to pass (surpass) from the friend'* (abl.)

➤ *There's necessity to reconsider the voice of these verbs as they seem to have a subtle meaning of transitivity.*

	Classical Armenian	Eastern Armenian	Western Armenian	Dialects
Direct object in accusative	all nouns and pronouns	nonhuman denoting nouns/pronouns*	all nouns and pronouns	Mixed
Direct object in dative		human denoting nouns/pronouns		

* pronouns share the same form for accusative and dative

Inconsistencies concerning the determination of argument's type of several verbs in passive constructions.

- Objects of some verbs (e.g. *նշանակել / nšanakel* 'to appoint', *ընտրել / ëntrel* 'to elect, to choose', *առաջադրել / aˑrajadrel* 'to nominate, to put forward' etc.) in passive can be followed by a complement in accusative.
- These verbs are seemed to be ditransitive and when transforming into passive, they can't lose the second direct object for not to have semantic deficit or incompleteness.

Նա նշանակվեց նախարար / na nšanakvec' naxarar lit. *'he was appointed a minister'*.

➤ *In UD the **xcomp** relation is used for these dependents, considering them secondary predications.*

In Classical Armenian there has been a so called 'ordinary' case used for objects of verbs sharing both active and passive meaning

The issue of the causative.

Is it a type of transitive verbs or is it a separate voice in Armenian?

- The main difficulty in sentences with real* causative verbs concerns the semantic role of actants and core argument distinction.
- Sometimes it's difficult to identify the direct object of causative verbs that have two dependents.

Նա որդուն թեյ է խմեցնում / na vordown t'ey ē xmec'nowm – lit. *s/he makes the son drink tea.*

➤ *The role of the syntactic object and semantic subject must be taken into account.*

- The infix *<c'n>* modifies the lexical meaning of the verb modifying the semantic frame of the sentence in the same way the passive infix *<v>* does.
- Causatives are included in the group of transitive verbs, but they seem to have all necessary features to be considered a separate voice.
- Though some grammarians have paid attention to this issue, generally there is inconsistency with grammatical tradition, as in UD Armenian treebanks we have causative voice and the relation **iobj:agent** for the semantic subject of the causative construction.

In Eastern and Western Armenian both active and middle verbs can take the causative infix, wile in Classical Armenian only middle verbs could take it in order to become active.

* Transitive verbs that become causative with the infix <c'n>

PERSPECTIVES

This research will provide a suitable basis for bringing out inter-linguistic parallelism across varieties of Armenian compiling a general set of tags and relations for verb complements and will be a step towards further bigger projects for creating diachronic and/or parallel corpora for Armenian.

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