

Introduction

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1 The topic of complementation

The two articles¹ in this volume² address the topic of complementation in a number of Caucasian languages: the Northwest Caucasian (Abkhaz-Adyghe) languages in the North Caucasus and the Kartvelian languages in the South Caucasus. The study of complementation focuses on various relations between a main clause and main predicate with a clause-like complement, as well as types of main predicates and complements in these complex constructions.

Complementation in the Caucasian languages is of special typological interest, as it differs significantly from predominant complement models of infinitive clauses or finite clauses with complementisers found in most Standard European languages. Common types found in the Caucasian languages have complements with morphologically rich verb forms. This may be illustrated with a Kabardian (Northwest Caucasian) complement predicate including marking of both subject and object (Kumakhov and Vamling 2009:67):

- (1) a. De t-s'əyəps'-a-s' fe fə-q'-je-d-yebleye-n
 we S1PL-forget-PERF-ASSRT you O2PL-DIR-S1PL-invite-INF
 'We forgot to invite you'

The theoretical framework of the two studies primarily relies on Noonan (1985) and Ransom (1986). Noonan studies (1) (semantically based) types of matrix predicates, (2) types of complement predicates and (3) the dependencies between these types. The types of matrix predicates include the following: pretence predicate, propositional attitude predicate, knowledge and acquisition of knowledge predicates, utterance predicates, commentative predicates, predicates of fearing, desiderative predicates, achievement predicates, modal predicates, manipulative predicates, and phasal

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predicates. The complement types are distinguished as indicative, subjunctive, infinitival, nominalization, participial. Various types of dependencies between the matrix and complement clauses occur. For instance, the matrix verb *try* restricts the time reference of the complement clause, whereas a matrix predicate like *know* does not. The time reference of the action in the complement clause has to follow the time reference of a main clause with *try*. The matrix predicate *know* allows different time references (*I know that she will come / that she came*). Some matrix predicates (such as *doubt*, *believe*) may have an impact on the truth-value of the complement, whereas other matrix predicates (*regret*, *be important*) imply shared or background knowledge. The matrix predicate may also restrict the identity of the subject of the complement predicate (e.g. *force*, *begin*, *manage*). In view of such dependencies, the morphological repertoire and syntactic possibilities of the various types of complement predicates make them more likely to occur with certain types of matrix predicates than with others. As mentioned above, the complement predicates in the Caucasian languages are morphologically rich and show many differences compared to more well-known European languages. These dependencies are further explored in the articles in this volume. Here, we will only give a few illustrative examples. The complement predicate in (2a) is a subjunctive form with subject and object markers compared to an infinitive in the corresponding English sentence. In the Kabardian example (2b) the complement predicate is realized as a case marked participle with subject and object agreement, whereas we find a finite verb in the corresponding English complement clause.

- (2) a. v-exmarebi vano-s, rom man es gaak'etos
 S1SG-O3SG.help.PRS Vano-DAT that he.ERG it.NOM S3SG.O3SG.do.OPT
 'I helped Vano to do it.' (Vamling 1989, 91) Geo
- b. (Se) s-o-s'e (wə) (se)
 I S1SG-DYN-know.PRS you me
 sə-q'ə-zerə-p-š-a-r
 O1SG-OR-PART-S2SG-lead-PERF-ABS
 'I know that you brought me here.' (Kumakhov & Vamling 2009: 64) Kab

Two concepts that are used in the study originate from Ransom (1986): Truth and Action modality types, that are dependent on the higher predicate. They refer to different interpretations of the complement as being related to the truth of the proposition expressed by the complement clause (Truth modality) or involving the performance of an action (Action modality). These concepts are used in accounting for the distribution of complement types as subjunctive and indicative complements:

- (3) a. *minda, rom givi-m es simyera imyeros*
 S1SG.O3SG.want.PRS that Vano-ERG this song.NOM S3SG.O3SG.sing.OPT
 ‘I want Givi to sing this song.’ (Vamling 1989: 62) Geo
- b. *vpikrob, rom givi k’argad myeris*
 S1SG.O3SG.think.PRS that Givi.NOM well S3SG.sing.PRS
 ‘I think that Givi sings well.’ Geo

2 Background to the study

The two overview articles in this volume share a long history. They were written in 1997 in the thematic sub-project ‘Subordination and Complementation’ within the framework of the typological project *Eurotyp*, which was funded by the European Science Foundation in the 1990s. The ‘Subordination and Complementation’ project produced a number of articles on complementation in different language families of Europe as well as a wide range of theoretical papers on complementation in European languages. The papers were published in the series of working papers of the thematic group, for instance Vamling & Tchantouria (1991a), and also appeared in other publications, such as Vamling & Tchantouria 1991b, 1993; Kumakhov & Vamling 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997. However, the final project volume, where the two overview articles of the current volume were to be included, has not yet been published

Professor Mukhadin Kumakhov and Dr. Revaz Tchantouria, both co-authors of the articles in this volume, participated in several workshops and meetings in the Eurotyp project. Mukhadin Kumakhov (1928–2008) was a prominent specialist on the Northwest Caucasian languages and a native speaker of Kabardian. Revaz Tchantouria has worked extensively on the Kartvelian languages and is a native speaker of Megrelian and Georgian.

3 Outline of the two articles

The two articles follow roughly the same outline. The first part is a sketch of general properties of the language group, such as main word order patterns and simple clause structure, including nominal and verbal morphology with special focus on case, tense, mood forms and agreement marking in the verb. One section is devoted to pro-drop in the languages studied.

The second part deals with complementation. It is divided into two subparts on internal and external aspects of the complement clause. Under internal aspects,

complementisers and word order of the complement clauses are studied. Furthermore, forms of complement predicates, i.e. types of finite and nonfinite forms, are discussed. Interrogative clauses and indirect speech are also dealt with here, and so are morphological causatives and potential forms.

Under external relations, restrictions on the form of the complement predicate imposed by the main predicate are explored. Depending on which types (classes) of predicates are chosen in the main clause, different finite or nonfinite clauses are selected in the complement clause. Case marking, coreference relations and pro-drop are also dealt with in the sections on external relations.

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