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Old Albanian

Morphosyntactic Structures – Part 1: Semantics of the verb

Roadmap

- Survey of verb categories
- Tense/Aspect
- Voice
- Mood
- Participle

Categories of the verb in Old Albanian

Tense/Aspect	present, imperfect, aorist future perfect, pluperfect
Mood	indicative, subjunctive imperative, optative
Voice	active vs. non-active

Tense/Aspect

category	tense/aspect
present	non-past
imperfect	past, imperfective
aorist	past, perfective
perfect	present + resultative
pluperfect	past + resultative
future	future

The present

Unmarked present:

Gjon, u t̄y të pagëzonj

John.VOC I you.ACC you.ENCL baptise

‘John, I (herewith) baptise you.’ (Buzuku)

The present

The particle *po* before the finite verb expresses Simultaneity and Progressivity:

Lazëri miku ynë po ënfle

Lazarus.NOM friend.NOM.DEF our.NOM PTCL sleep.PRS.3SG

‘Lazarus our friend **is sleeping.**’ (Buzuku)

Tense/Aspect

category	tense/aspect
present	non-past
imperfect	past, imperfective
aorist	past, perfective
perfect	present + resultative
pluperfect	past + resultative
future	future

The imperfect

The imperfect is used for the HABITUAL PAST and for the PAST CONTINUOUS:

Ish *një* *njeri* *i* *begatë* *qi*
be.IMPERF.3SG one man.NOM AGR rich.NOM REL

ënvishë *ëndë* *scarlat*
dress.IMPERF.NACT.3SG in purple

‘There **was** a certain rich man, who **was dressed** in purple’ (Buzuku)

Tense/Aspect

category	tense/aspect
present	non-past
imperfect	past, imperfective
aorist	past, perfective
perfect	present + resultative
pluperfect	past + resultative
future	future

The aorist

The aorist is used for the PUNCTUAL PAST:

l-u afëruonë trimatë e tij
he.DAT-REFL approach.AOR.3PL servant.NOM.PL.DEF AGR his

e i folnë atij
and he.DAT speak.AOR.3PL he.DAT

‘His servants **approached** and **spoke** to him’ (Buzuku)

Tense/Aspect

category	tense/aspect
present	non-past
imperfect	past, imperfective
aorist	past, perfective
perfect	present + resultative
pluperfect	past + resultative
future	future

The perfect

The PERFECT is used for a completed action with relevance for the present:

Pr ashtu zot-ynë të k̄a bekuom për jetë të jetësë
therefore Lord-Our.NOM you have.PRS.3SG bless.PTCP for life.ACC AGR life.GEN.DEF
'Therefore Our Lord **has blessed** you for all eternity.' (Buzuku)

The pluperfect

The PLUPERFECT is used for a pre-completed action with relevance in the past:

U pēduo zot-ynë se kish bām
REFL regret.AOR.NACT.3SG Lord-Our that have.IMPERF.3SG make.PTCP
njerinë përëmbī dhēt
mankind.ACC.SG on earth.LOC.DEF

‘God regretted that he **had created** mankind on the earth.’

Tense/Aspect

category	tense/aspect
present	non-past
imperfect	past, imperfective
aorist	past, perfective
perfect	present + resultative
pluperfect	past + resultative
future	future

The future

In Tosk: *do* 'wants' + finite subjunctive (*të* + SBJV)

Si do të duash fqinjënë ashtu si vetëhenë?

How want.3SG PTCL love.SBJV.2SG neighbour.ACC.DEF so as self.ACC

'How will you love your neighbour like yourself?' (Matranga)

The future

In Geg: *ka* AUX 'to have' + infinitive (*me* + PTCP)

U kam me pīm

I have.PRS.1SG PTCL drink.PTCP

'I will drink' (Buzuku)

Kishnë me ardhunë

have.IMPERF.3PL PTCL come.PTCP

'They were going to come' (Buzuku)

Voice

voice	semantics	marking
ACTIVE	transitive intransitive	active endings
NON-ACTIVE	intransitive passive impersonal reflexive reciprocal	non-active endings: PRES, IPF, SBJV active forms + marker <i>u</i> : AOR, OPT, IPT, ADM, PTC auxiliary <i>jam</i> 'be': PERF

The non-active

Some Old Geg examples from the present:

active		non-active	
<i>lanj</i> 1SG	'I wash'	<i>lahem</i> 1SG	'I am washed' 'I wash myself'
–		<i>sëmuhem</i> 1SG	'I fall ill'
<i>do</i> 3SG	'he wants'	<i>duhetë</i> 3SG	'it is necessary'
<i>lanjënë</i> 3PL	'they wash'	<i>lahī</i> 1PL	'wash yourselves!'

Mood

mood	semantics
INDICATIVE	factuality
SUBJUNCTIVE	doubt, concession, condition, necessity, incitement, command
IMPERATIVE	command
OPTATIVE	wish, possibility

The subjunctive

Doubt, concession, condition, necessity, incitement, command

Ku të blemë na kaqë bukë?

where PTCL buy.SBJV.1PL we so_many bread.ACC.PL

‘Where **shall we buy** so many breads?’ (Buzuku)

E ëndë qishdo shtëpī ju të hini...

and in whichever house.ACC.INDEF you.PL PTCL enter.SBJV.2PL

‘And in whichever house you **enter**, ...’

The imperative

U *dëfto* *priftit* *e* *i* *ep* *dhunëtiënë*
REFL show.IMP.2SG priest.DAT.DEF and him.DAT give.IMP.2SG offering

‘**Show yourself** to the priest and **give** him the offering’ (Buzuku)

Mos *më* *bdo* *ën* *faqejet* *sote*
not! me chase.IMP.2SG from face.ABL.DEF your.ABL.DEF.F

‘Don’t **chase** me from your face!’ (Buzuku)

The optative

Wish, possibility

U ënçiltë dheu e frujtoftë shëndetnë
REFL open.OPT.3SG earth.NOM.DEF and produce.OPT.3SG health.ACC.DEF
'**May** the earth **open up** and **may** it **bear** health.' (Buzuku, Jes. 45:8)

Tha zot-ynë: kloftë bām drita
say.AOR.3SG Lord-Our.NOM be.OPT.3SG make.PTCP light.NOM.DEF
'Our Lord said: **Let** light **be made**'.

Participle

The participle is unmarked for tense, mood, and voice.

The participle is used for the periphrastic tenses, the admirative, and:

	<u>Buzuku</u>	<u>approximate meaning</u>
past participle	<i>dhanë</i>	‘(having) given, (having been) given’
infinitive	<i>me dhanë</i>	‘to give’
gerundive	<i>tue lëvduom</i>	‘while praising’
privative	<i>pā panë</i>	‘without seeing’

Faleminderit për vëmendjen tuaj!

Thank you for your attention!