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# Classical Armenian: Morphology 4

Verbal Morphology – Part 2: Stem Formation, Inflection

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## Classical Armenian: Verbal Morphology 2

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- Weak aorists
- Exceptional small classes
- Irregular and defective verbs
- Suppletive verbs
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- Sample paradigms: *sirem* ‘love’, aor. *sirec’i*

## Morphology of the two-stem system

- For the majority of verbs in Classical Armenian, the aorist stem is predictable from the present stem, and vice versa.
- Most verbs fall into one of several major patterns, though only a handful remain productive in the classical language.
- The few exceptions and ambiguities include several high-frequency verbs. Several of these show **suppletion** of aspectual stems.

## Present stems

- Presents are traditionally grouped into five “conjugations” according to the stem-final vowel: *-e-*, *-i-*, *-a-*, *-ow-* [-u-], and *-o-* (only in defective 3sg. *goy* ‘there is’, 3pl. *gon* ‘there are’). These inflect in almost entirely parallel fashion.
- However, just as important for stem formation is the distinction between **unaffixed** and **affixed** presents. The latter typically contain a nasal suffix *-an-* or *-n-*.

## Two types of aorist

- Classical Armenian distinguishes two types of aorist:
  - **“strong” aorists**, many of which have PIE etymologies, and
  - **“weak” aorists**, marked with a suffix  $-c'$ , which are an Armenian innovation.

## Strong aorists

- Most strong aorists are associated with presents in *-anem/-anim* (1).
- There are also a significant number beside presents in *-owm* and *-nowm* (2).
- Finally, a set of *medium tantum* aorists in *-eay* (< \*-i-a-) occurs beside presents in *-č'em* and *-nč'im* (3).

## Strong aorists: presents in *-anem/-anim*

| Present                    | Aorist                                 |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>lk'anem</i> 'leave'     | <i>lk'i</i> (3sg. <i>elik'</i> )       |
| <i>lk'anim</i> 'am left'   | <i>lk'ay</i>                           |
| <i>tesanem</i> 'see'       | <i>tesi</i> (3sg. <i>etes</i> )        |
| <i>tesanim</i> 'am seen'   | <i>tesay</i>                           |
| <i>owsowc'anem</i> 'teach' | <i>owsowc'i</i> (3sg. <i>owsoyc'</i> ) |
| <i>owsanim</i> 'learn'     | <i>owsay</i>                           |

## Strong aorists: presents in *-owm*, *-nowm*

| Present                                       | Aorist  |
|---|---|
| <i>gelowm</i> 'twist'                         | <i>geli</i> (3sg. <i>egel</i> )                             |
| <i>hełowm</i> 'pour'                          | <i>hełi</i> (3sg. <i>eheł</i> )                             |
| <i>henowm</i> , <i>hanowm</i> 'weave'         | <i>heni</i> , <i>hani</i> (3sg. <i>ehen</i> , <i>ehan</i> ) |
| <i>arnowm</i> 'take'                          | <i>ari</i> (3sg. <i>ar</i> )                                |
| <i>jeřnowm</i> 'become warm'                  | <i>jeřay</i>  |
| <i>aytnowm</i> 'swell' (< * <i>ayti-nu-</i> ) | <i>ayteay</i> (< * <i>ayti-a-</i> )                         |
| <i>erdnowm</i> 'fear' (< * <i>erdu-nu-</i> )  | <i>erdoway</i>  |



## Strong aorists: presents in *-č'em*, *-(n)č'im*

| Present                                      | Aorist          |
|--|-----------------|
| <i>čanač'em</i> 'know' (< * <i>canač'</i> -) | <i>caneay</i>   |
| <i>t'ak'č'im</i> 'hide'                      | <i>t'ak'eay</i> |
| <i>erknč'im</i> 'fear'                       | <i>erkeay</i>   |

## Weak aorists

- Most weak aorists are formed to one of two types of presents:
  - 1. presents in *-em/-im* → aorists in *-ec'i* (3sg. *-eac'*), mp. *-ec'ay*;

| Present                          | Aorist  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>sirem</i> 'love'              | <i>sirec'i</i> (3sg. <i>sireac'</i> )           |
| <i>sirim</i> 'am loved'          | <i>sirec'ay</i>                                 |
| <i>t'agaworem</i> 'rule as king' | <i>t'agaworec'i</i> (3sg. <i>t'agaworeac'</i> ) |
| <i>erewim</i> 'appear'           | <i>erewec'ay</i>                                |

N.B. the alternation of *-ec'-* ~ *-eac'* in the suffix!

## Weak aorists

- 2a. presents in *-am* → aorists in *-ac'i* (3sg. *-ac'*), mp. *-ac'ay*.

| Present              | Aorist           |
|----------------------|------------------|
| <i>bam</i> 'say'     | <i>bac'i</i>     |
| <i>kam</i> 'stand'   | <i>kac'i</i>     |
| <i>mnam</i> 'remain' | <i>mnac'i</i>    |
| <i>yowsam</i> 'hope' | <i>yowsac'ay</i> |
| <i>orsam</i> 'hunt'  | <i>orsac'i</i>   |

## Weak aorists

- 2b. presents in *-anam* → aorists in *-ac'i* (3sg. *-ac'*), mp. *-ac'ay*.

| Present   | Aorist   |
|---|--|
| <i>banam</i> 'open'                                       | <i>bac'i</i>                                     |
| <i>stanam</i> 'get, acquire'                              | <i>stac'i</i>                                    |
| <i>lowanam</i> 'wash, am washed'                          | <i>lowac'i</i> , mp. <i>lowac'ay</i>             |
| <i>merjenam</i> 'approach'<br>( <i>&lt; *merji-anam</i> ) | <i>merjec'ay</i><br>( <i>&lt; *merji-ac'ay</i> ) |
| <i>azatanam</i> 'become free'                             | <i>azatac'ay</i>                                 |

## Weak aorists: exceptions

- A few weak aorists are exceptionally formed:
  - 1. presents in *-em/-im* → aorists in *-ac'i* (*-ac'*), not *-ec'i* (*-ec'*);

| Present                  | Aorist           |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| <i>asem</i> 'say'        | <i>asac'i</i>    |
| <i>gitem</i> 'know'      | <i>gitac'i</i>   |
| <i>karem</i> 'am able'   | <i>karac'i</i>   |
| <i>mart'em</i> 'am able' | <i>mart'ac'i</i> |

## Weak aorists: exceptions

- 2. presents in *-nowm* → aorists in *-c'i*

| Present                                  | Aorist                                    |
|--|---|
| <i>lnowm</i> 'fill' (< * <i>li-nu-</i> ) | <i>lc'i</i> (3sg. <i>elic'</i> )          |
| <i>xinowm</i> 'seal/stop up'             | <i>xc'i</i> (3sg. <i>exic'</i> )          |
| <i>zgenowm</i> 'put on (clothes)'        | <i>zgec'ay</i>                            |
| <i>yenowm</i> 'lean (upon)'              | <i>yec'ay</i>                             |
| <i>ankenowm</i> 'make fall'              | <i>ankec'i</i> (N.B. 3sg. <i>ankēc'</i> ) |

- These are almost certainly late creations; all other presents in *-nowm* form strong aorists.

## Exceptional small classes

- Four verbs exceptionally have identical present and aorist stems.

| Present                   | Aorist  |
|---------------------------|---|
| <i>berem</i> 'carry'      | <i>beri</i> (3sg. <i>eber</i> )                 |
| <i>acem</i> 'lead'        | <i>aci</i> (3sg. <i>ac</i> , later <i>ēac</i> ) |
| <i>hanem</i> 'pull out'   | <i>hani</i>                                     |
| <i>nstim</i> 'sit (down)' | <i>nstay</i>                                    |

- For these verbs only, the prohibitive and aorist indicative are homophonous, e.g. *mi berer* 'don't carry!', *berer* 'you carried'.

## Exceptional small classes

- Only two verbs have a suffix *-na-* (as opposed to *-ana-*):

| Present  | Aorist                            |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>dařnam</i> 'turn (intr.)' < * <i>darj-na-</i> | <i>darjay</i>                     |
| <i>bařnam</i> 'lift, carry' < * <i>barj-na-</i>  | <i>barji</i> (3sg. <i>ebarj</i> ) |
| mp. 'am lifted, carried'                         | <i>barjay</i>                     |



## Irregular and defective verbs

- Four verbs have a suffix *-ne/i-* (as opposed to the productive *-ane/i-*); all show irregularities.

| Present  | Aorist  |
|--|---|
| <i>linim</i> 'become' (also backformed <i>etanim</i> ) | <i>etē</i> < * <i>ete-y</i> : only aor. mp. stem not ending in <i>-a-</i> |
| <i>arnem</i> 'do, make'                                | <i>arari</i> : only reduplicated aorist                                   |
| <i>yarnem</i> 'rise'                                   | <i>yareay</i> , but iptv. <i>ari</i> without <i>y-</i> !                  |
| <i>dnem</i> 'put'                                      | <i>edi</i>  |

## Irregular and defective verbs

- *tam* ‘give’, aor. *etow*: only trace of PIE root ablaut; inflection of *etow* mostly parallel to that of *edi* ‘put’
- *lsem* ‘hear’, aor. *loway*
- **Defective** verbs (incomplete paradigm):
  - 3sg. *goy*, 3pl. *gon* ‘there is, are’: present only
  - *em* ‘am’: no aorist stem, forms supplied by *linim* ‘become’
  - *gog(e)-* ‘speak’: only iptv. (2sg. *gog*, 2pl. *gogēk’*) and subj. (e.g. 2sg. *gogc’es*, *gogjir*)

## Suppletive verbs

- Classical Armenian has a relatively large number of **suppletive** verbs. Most of them contrast one stem for present vs. another for aorist.

| Present              | Aorist   |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>ert'am</i> 'go'   | <i>č'ogay</i> (but aor. subj. <i>ert'ayc'</i> !) |
| <i>gam</i> 'come'    | <i>eki</i> (N.B. 3sg. <i>ekn</i> )               |
| <i>ownim</i> 'have'  | <i>kalay</i>                                     |
| <i>owtem</i> 'eat'   | <i>keray</i> (N.B. 3sg. <i>eker</i> )            |
| <i>əmpem</i> 'drink' | <i>arbi</i>                                      |

## Sample paradigms: *tesanem* ‘see’, aor. *tesi*

| Prs.Ind.<br>Act. | Prs.Ind.<br>Pass. | Imperfect        | Prs.Subj.<br>Act.   | Prs.Subj.<br>Pass.  | Proh.<br>Act.          | Proh.<br>Pass.         |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>tesanem</i>   | <i>tesanim</i>    | <i>tesanei</i>   | <i>tesanic’em</i>   | <i>tesanic’im</i>   |                        |                        |
| <i>tesanes</i>   | <i>tesanis</i>    | <i>tesaneir</i>  | <i>tesanic’es</i>   | <i>tesanic’is</i>   | <i>mi<br/>tesaner</i>  | <i>mi<br/>tesanir</i>  |
| <i>tesanē</i>    | <i>tesani</i>     | <i>tesanēr</i>   | <i>tesanic’ē</i>    | <i>tesanic’i</i>    |                        |                        |
| <i>tesanemk’</i> | <i>tesanimk’</i>  | <i>tesaneak’</i> | <i>tesanic’emk’</i> | <i>tesanic’imk’</i> |                        |                        |
| <i>tesanēk’</i>  | <i>tesanik’</i>   | <i>tesaneik’</i> | <i>tesanic’ēk’</i>  | <i>tesanic’ik’</i>  | <i>mi<br/>tesanēk’</i> | <i>mi<br/>tesanik’</i> |
| <i>tesanen</i>   | <i>tesanin</i>    | <i>tesanein</i>  | <i>tesanic’en</i>   | <i>tesanic’in</i>   |                        |                        |

## Sample paradigms: *tesanem* ‘see’, aor. *tesi*

| Aor.Ind.<br>Act.                   | Aor.Ind.<br>Pass. | Aor.Subj.<br>Act. | Aor.Subj.<br>Pass. | Imp.<br>Act.                       | Imp.<br>Pass.    |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>tesi</i>                        | <i>tesay</i>      | <i>tesic’</i>     | <i>tesayc’</i>     |                                    |                  |
| <i>teser</i>                       | <i>tesar</i>      | <i>tesc’es</i>    | <i>tesc’is</i>     | <i>tes</i>                         | <i>tesir</i>     |
| <i>etes</i>                        | <i>tesaw</i>      | <i>tesc’ē</i>     | <i>tesc’i</i>      |                                    |                  |
| <i>tesak’</i>                      | <i>tesak’</i>     | <i>tesc’owk’</i>  | <i>tesc’owk’</i>   |                                    |                  |
| <i>tesēk’</i><br>( <i>tesik’</i> ) | <i>tesayk’</i>    | <i>tesjik’</i>    | <i>tesjik’</i>     | <i>tesēk’</i><br>( <i>tesik’</i> ) | <i>tesarowk’</i> |
| <i>tesin</i>                       | <i>tesan</i>      | <i>tesc’en</i>    | <i>tesc’in</i>     |                                    |                  |

## Sample paradigms: *sirem* ‘love’, aor. *sirec’i*

| Prs.Ind.<br>Act. | Prs.Ind.<br>Pass. | Imperfect      | Prs.Subj.<br>Act. | Prs.Subj.<br>Pass. | Proh.<br>Act.    | Proh.<br>Pass.   |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>sirem</i>     | <i>sirim</i>      | <i>sirei</i>   | <i>sirc’em</i>    | <i>sirc’im</i>     |                  |                  |
| <i>sires</i>     | <i>siris</i>      | <i>sireir</i>  | <i>sirc’es</i>    | <i>sirc’is</i>     | <i>mi sirer</i>  | <i>mi sirir</i>  |
| <i>sirē</i>      | <i>siri</i>       | <i>sirēr</i>   | <i>sirc’ē</i>     | <i>sirc’i</i>      |                  |                  |
| <i>sirem’k’</i>  | <i>sirim’k’</i>   | <i>sireak’</i> | <i>sirc’emk’</i>  | <i>sirc’imk’</i>   |                  |                  |
| <i>sirēk’</i>    | <i>sirik’</i>     | <i>sireik’</i> | <i>sirc’ēk’</i>   | <i>sirc’ik’</i>    | <i>mi sirēk’</i> | <i>mi sirik’</i> |
| <i>siren</i>     | <i>sirin</i>      | <i>sirein</i>  | <i>sirc’en</i>    | <i>sirc’in</i>     |                  |                  |

## Sample paradigms: *sirem* ‘love’, aor. *sirec’i*

| Aor.Ind.<br>Act.                         | Aor.Ind.<br>Pass. | Aor.Subj.<br>Act.  | Aor.Subj.<br>Pass. | Imp.<br>Act.                             | Imp.<br>Pass.       |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| <i>sirec’i</i>                           | <i>sirec’ay</i>   | <i>sirec’ic’</i>   | <i>sirec’ayc’</i>  |  |                     |
| <i>sirec’er</i>                          | <i>sirec’ar</i>   | <i>siresc’es</i>   | <i>siresc’is</i>   | <i>sirea</i>                             | <i>sirec’ir</i>     |
| <i>sireac’</i>                           | <i>sirec’aw</i>   | <i>siresc’ē</i>    | <i>siresc’i</i>    |  |                     |
| <i>sirec’ak’</i>                         | <i>sirec’ak’</i>  | <i>siresc’owk’</i> | <i>siresc’owk’</i> |  |                     |
| <i>sirec’ēk’</i><br>( <i>sirec’ik’</i> ) | <i>sirec’ayk’</i> | <i>siresjik’</i>   | <i>siresjik’</i>   | <i>sirec’ēk’</i><br>( <i>sirec’ik’</i> ) | <i>sirec’arowk’</i> |
| <i>sirec’in</i>                          | <i>sirec’an</i>   | <i>siresc’en</i>   | <i>siresc’in</i>   |  |                     |

## Sample paradigms: some irregular aorists

|           | 'put'             | 'give'        | 'become'                 | 'come'              | 'eat'               |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| aor.ind.  | <i>edi</i>        | <i>etow</i>   | <i>etē</i>               | <i>eki</i>          | <i>keray</i>        |
|           | <i>edir</i>       | <i>etowr</i>  | <i>eter</i>              | <i>ekir</i>         | <i>kerar</i>        |
|           | <i>ed</i>         | <i>et</i>     | <i>etew</i>              | <i>ekn (!)</i>      | <i>eker(keraw)</i>  |
|           | <i>edak'</i>      | <i>towak'</i> | <i>eteak'</i>            | <i>ekak'</i>        | <i>kerak'</i>       |
|           | <i>edik'</i>      | <i>etowk'</i> | <i>etēk'</i>             | <i>ekik'</i>        | <i>kerayk'</i>      |
|           | <i>edin</i>       | <i>etown</i>  | <i>eten</i>              | <i>ekin</i>         | <i>keran</i>        |
| aor.subj. | <i>edic'</i>      | <i>tac'</i>   | <i>etēc'</i>             | <i>ekic'</i>        | <i>kerayc'</i>      |
|           | <i>dic'es (!)</i> | <i>tac'es</i> | <i>lic'is, etic'is</i>   | <i>ekesc'es (!)</i> | <i>keric'es (!)</i> |
| imp.      | <i>dir</i>        | <i>towr</i>   | <i>ler, etijir</i>       | <i>ek</i>           | <i>ker</i>          |
|           | <i>dik'</i>       | <i>towk'</i>  | <i>lerowk', eterowk'</i> | <i>ekayk'</i>       | <i>kerayk'</i>      |



շնորհակալութիւն

Thank you for your attention!