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languages of Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia

Armenian
Imperfectivity

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Paris, January 25, 2022

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Armenian verbal forms

Two stems for all verbal forms:

1. **imperfective** (present)

2. **perfective** (aorist)

Verbal forms (MEA)

Finite Forms			
Indicative:	*periphrastic (3x2)*	**1. imperfective** **2. perfective +** **3. destinative**	1. AUX.PRESENT 2. AUX.PAST
	synthetic	**aorist**	
Subjunctive: (<old present, synthetic)	1. present 2. past		
Conditional: (<old present with the prefix *k-*, synthetic)	1. present 2. past		
Debitive: (*piti* + SBJV)	1. present 2. past		
Imperative:	imperative (synthetic) prohibitive (*mi* + IMP)		

Distribution of imperfective and perfective stems in MEA

	Imperfective stem	**Perfective stem**
Non-finite	imperfective destinative connegative simultaneous infinitive (subjective)	perfective resultative (subjective)
Finite	subjunctive prs./ pst. conditional prs./ pst.	aorist imperative

Indicative to subjunctive shift

Class. Arm. (5–11th cen.)	Middle Armenian (12–16th cen.)		MWA	MEA
PRS & IPF, IND			**PRS/ PST, SBJV**	**PRS/ PST, SBJV**
e.g. *grem 'I write/ I am writing', kardam 'I read/ I am reading'*				
	INF, LOC + AUX e.g. *i grel em*	**k- + old PRS/IPF** e.g. *ku grem*	**k- + old PRS/IPF** e.g. *kə grem*	**IPFV** (loc. *–um*) + **AUX** e.g. *grum em, kardum em*
			Future piti + old present e.g. *piti grem,* *piti kardam*	**Future** 1. k- + old present 2. DST (-lu) + AUX 3. piti + old present *e.g.* *(1) kgrem, kkardam* *(2) grelu/kardalu em* *(3) piti grem/kardam*

Present semantics

- progressive

Hima	**gn-um**	**em**	pʰastaban-i	mot:
Now	**go-ipfv**	**be.aux.1sg**	advocate-gen	near

'Now I go [am going] to the advocate.'

- habitual semantics
- historical present

Mi	ōr	Hektor	Rštuni-n	**gn-um**	**ē**	šuka	orpeszi	kartofil	arn-i:
one	day	Hector	Rshtuni- def	**go-ipfv**	**be.aux.2sg**	market	in.order.to	potato	buy-sbjv.3sg

'One day Hector Rshtuni goes to the market to buy [some] potato.'

- near future

Patrast-v-ecʰekʰ	**gn-um**	**enkʰ:**
prepare-med-imp.2pl	**go-ipfv**	**be.aux.1pl**

'Get ready, we are going.'

Imperfect semantics

- progressive

Mard-ik	miajn	**mtac-um**	**ēin**		or-va	aprust-i	masin	
man-pl	only	**think-ipfv**	**be-aux.pst.3pl**		day-gen	fortune-gen	about	
'People were only thinking about their everyday living…'								

- habitual

žahel	žamanak	mi	aʁžk-a	**ēi**	**sir-um**
young	time	a	girl-dat	**be.aux.pst.1sg**	**love-ipfv**
'When I was young I loved a girl.'					

+
- past conditional in habitual function

Azat	žamanak	**k-g-aɾ**	**k-nst-er**	ajsteʁ	u	**k-naj-er**	mard-kanc[h]
free	time	**cond-come-pst.3sg**	**cond-sit-pst.3sg**	here	and	**cond-look-pst.3sg**	man-pl.dat
'In [his] free time he would come, sit here and look at people.'							

Progressives 1

- No progressive in MEA

- Many dedicated progressive forms usually in Western Armenian dialects

- Progressive forms = present tense forms + postpositive particles (*kor, ko, er, dar/uni/g'uni, haye, haykak* etc.)

- Turkic and Iranian language contact

- Certain dedicated progressives → more general/habitual present

Progressives 2

- Dedicated progressives → more general/habitual present

a.	g-ud-im	un-i	b.	ber-im	g-un-i
	ipfv-eat-1sg	have-3sg		bring-1sg	ipfv-have-3sg
	'I am eating'			'I am bringing'	

Čʰ-enkʰ	ls-er	kor:	Microphone,	please.
neg-be.aux.1pl	hear-conneg	prog	Microphone	please.
'We are not hearing. Microphone, please.'				

Kʼ-uz-en	ko	tʁa-n	Čemaran	ertʰ-aj
ipfv-want-3pl	prog	boy-def	seminary	go-sbjv.3sg
'They want the boy to go to the Seminary.'				

Residual stative verbs

- *em 'to be',*
- *kam 'to be/exist',*
- *unem 'to have',*
- *gitem 'to know',*
- *karam 'can',*
- *aržem 'to cost/to deserve'*

Two paradigms:

1. A defective paradigm with only present and past,

2. A full regular paradigm with a respective infinitive

Present and past imperfect forms of the first and second paradigms (periphrastic constructions) have a strict distribution of non-habitual and habitual imperfective semantics respectively.

Regular paradigm

1) completing the lacking forms for the defective verbs (e.g. infinitive, future, imperative etc.)

2) expressing habitual semantics in present and imperfect

…mer-ac-ner-ə	gerezman	**en**	**unen-um,**	isk	na	**čʰ-un-i**
die-res-pl-def	grave	**be.aux.3pl**	**have-ipfv**	but	he/she	**neg-have-3sg**
'…the dead have (usually) graves but he does not have.'						

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is part of the series *Glottothèque: Languages of the Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia; grammatical snippets online*, ed. by. C. Bulut, A. Donabédian-Demopoulos, G. Haig, G. Khan, P. Samvelian, S. Skopeteas, N. Sumbatova. Bamberg/Cambridge/Göttingen/Moskow/Nicosia/Paris: LACIM network.

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