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languages of Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia

Armenian

Complex clauses

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# Introduction

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Clauses that function as constituents of other clauses are often called subordinate clauses. There are three main types:

**Clausal arguments** function as arguments (subjects or objects) of the main clause. Those that function as objects are called **complement clauses**.

**Adverbial clauses** have an adverbial function with respect to the event described in the main clause, denoting the circumstances under which this takes place. This can involve time, manner, place, purpose, reason, result etc.

**Relative clauses** essentially function as modifiers of a particular referent in the main clause, in the case of restrictive relative clauses, delimiting its reference by specifying its role in the event described by the subordinate clause.

# Verb deranking

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Clauses used for functions normally associated with nouns (clausal arguments), adverbs (adverbial clauses), adjectives (relative clauses):

- Loss of verbal properties (TAM, ability to express participants)
  - Acquisition of noun or adjective-like properties (case, article)
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# Finite subordinate clauses

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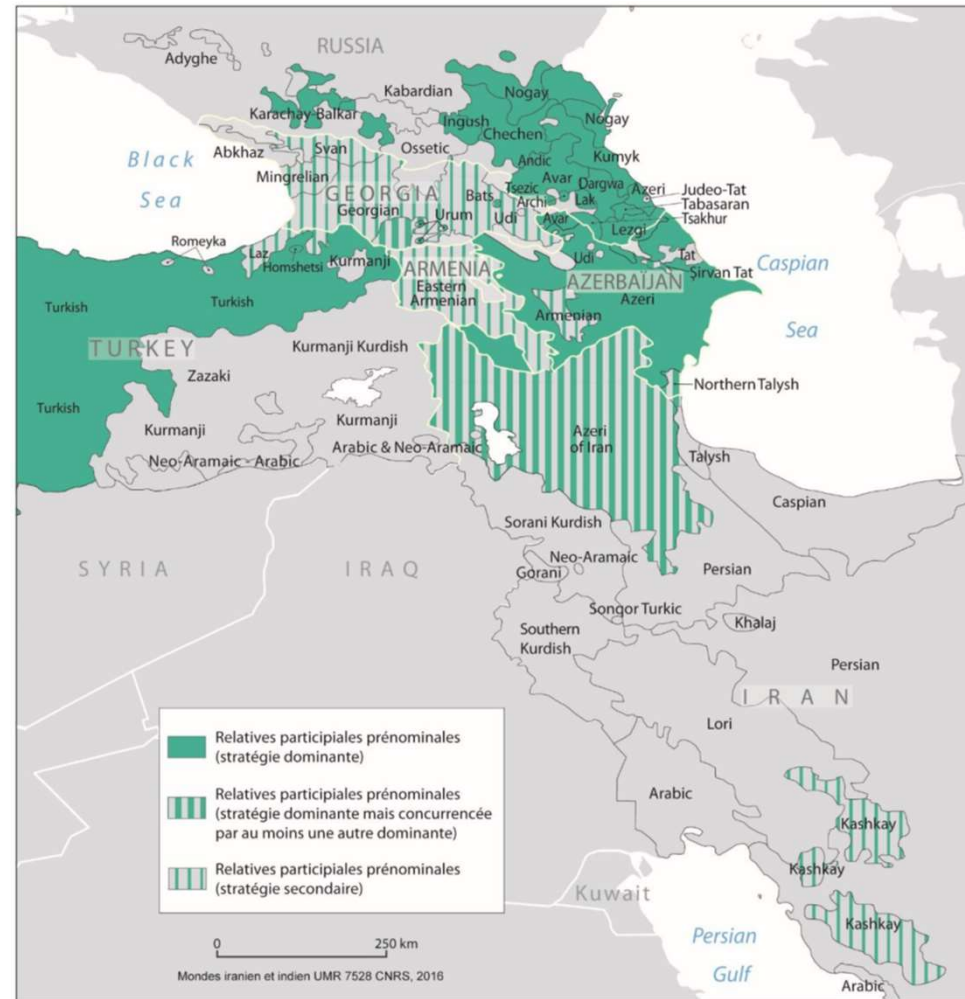
Classical Armenian mainly used finite (non-deranked or minimally deranked) verb forms in subordination (indicative and subjunctive).

This type of strategy is also used in modern Armenian:

- (1) Hasmik-n asac', [or uzum ê ašxatel].  
Hasmik-DEF say.3SG.AOR COMP want.IPT be.3SG.PRS work.INF  
'Hasmik said that she wants to work.'

- (2) Ark'ayakan im kamk'-n ê, [or geŋec'ik Varsanuš-ə  
royal 1SG.GEN will-DEF be.3SG.PRS COMP beautiful Varsanush-DEF  
amusnana k'aĵayr T'orgom-i het].  
marry.3SG.SUB brave man Torgom-GEN with  
'It is my royal will that beautiful Varsanush marry brave Torgom.'
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# Non-finite (participial) subordination



# Armenian participles (դերբայ)

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Modern Armenian also makes use of deranked, non-finite forms (participles), possibly a contact-induced development (Donabédian 2018: 27).

**Noun-like properties:**

subject in genitive, case, number, articles

**Verb-like properties:**

assigns object case (nominative or dative), can show diathesis (passive, causative) morphology, can be modified by adverbs

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# Object case

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Nominative (inanimate and/or non-specific)

- (3) Mesrop Maštoc'ə      **mer**      **taṙ-er-ə**      stełc'ot-n      ê:  
Mesrop Mashtots-DEF 1PL.GEN letter-PL-DEF create.IPT-DEF be.3SG.PRS

'Mesrop Mashtots is the one who created our letters'

Dative (animate specific)

- (4) **Erexa-yi-n**      korc'rac      zuygə      orošum      ê  
child-DAT-DEF      lose.RPT      couple-DEF      decide.IPT      be.3SG.PRS

gnal      mankatun.  
go.INF      children's home.

'The couple who lost their child decide to go to a children's home'

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# Diathesis marking

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## Passive

- (5) Dasəntʰacʰ-ner əndun-**v-el-u**                    hamar petkʰ ê                    ner kayacʰ nel  
course-PL            accept-PASS-INF-GEN for            OBL    be.3SG.PRS present.INF  
  
hetevyal    pʰastatʰ tʰ-er-ə  
following    document-PL-DEF

‘To be accepted for the courses, you must present the following documents’

## Causative

- (6) Bolor-i-n    **hia-cʰn-ot**                    artist-ə    sksel    ê                    yergel.  
all-DAT-DEF admire-CAUSE-SPT artist-DEF start.PPT be.3SG.PRS sing.INF

‘The artist who caused everyone to admire (her) began to sing.’

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# Main participles used in subordination

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## Infinitive

- (7) bolor-n êl gitein viravor-i ov lin-el-ə  
all-DEF PRT know.3PL.IPF wounded-GEN who be-INF-DEF  
'everyone knew who the wounded person was'

## Subject participle (< agent noun)

- (8) bnakaran-i karik<sup>ʕ</sup> unec<sup>ʕ</sup>ot<sup>ʕ</sup>-ner šat kan  
apartment-GEN need have.SPT-PL many exist.3PL.PRS  
'there are many people who need an apartment'

## Resultative participle (< deverbal adjective)

- (9) k<sup>ʕ</sup>o gnac<sup>ʕ</sup>-ac ôr-ə  
2SG.GEN go-RPT day-DEF  
'the day you went'

Also: future participle (inf+-ik<sup>ʕ</sup>), imperfective (adverbial) participle (inf+-is)

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# Subordination hierarchy (Cristofaro 2003)

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Level of morphological/syntactic subordination (deranking) correlated with semantic factors:

- **Predetermination:** phasals, modals, perception etc. = time  
Modals, phasals, manipulation, RCs etc. = participants
  - **Semantic integration:** causation > utterance
  - **Construal as object:** stable, atemporal entity  
e.g. location > propositional attitude
  - **Preference:** element of will, or an interest in the realization of the dependent event on the part of a participant of the main event
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# Subordination in Armenian

PHASALS:	Non-finite
>	
MODALS:	Non-finite > finite
DESIDERATIVE/MANIPULATIVE:	Finite > non-finite
PURPOSE ADVERBIAL:	Finite > non-finite
>	
PERCEPTION:	Finite > non-finite
>	
TEMPORAL:	Finite > non-finite
AGENT/SUBJECT RC:	Non-finite > finite
>	
REASON:	Finite > non-finite
DIRECT OBJECT (DO) RC:	Finite > non-finite
>	
INDIRECT OBJECT (IO)/OBLIQUE RC:	Finite > non-finite
KNOWLEDGE/PROPOSITIONAL ATTITUDE/UTTERANCE:	Finite > non-finite

# Subordination in Armenian

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- Both finite and non-finite forms (participles) can be used for every category on the hierarchy except phasals (top), for which only non-finite forms (infinitive) are possible.
  - Lower categories show a strong preference for finite forms, with non-finite forms being possible only in certain cases. For example, Sakayan (1993) claims that non-finite forms are not possible for IO RCs, but Hodgson (2019 and forthcoming) shows that they are possible in colloquial speech under particular semantic and pragmatic conditions (main topic, no ambiguity).
  - Subject RCs apparently violate the hierarchy, showing an unexpected preference for non-finite forms.
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# exercises

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Find examples of noun-like and verb-like properties of the participles in the subordinate clauses in the examples.

Categorize the subordinate clauses in the examples according to function in the main clause (clausal argument, adverbial clause, RC).

Categorize the subordinate clauses in the examples in terms of the Subordination Hierarchy shown on slide 9.

# ideas

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- Look at the verb forms used for subordination in a language you know. Are deranked forms used? If so, do the patterns of their usage correlate with the Subordination Hierarchy of Cristofaro (2003)? Can you relate the patterns of usage to the semantic factors discussed here? Are all these factors equally important in all contexts? Can you identify any other factors involved?
- Do you know another language whose subordination patterns have changed during its history (e.g. changed its preference for finite or non-finite forms)? Was language contact involved? If new verb forms appeared, where did they come from? In what contexts were they originally used?
- In Armenian, participial forms may be used for all the levels on Cristofaro's (2003) hierarchy, but are strongly disfavoured or impossible in certain contexts. You can investigate the contexts in which they are used in the Eastern Armenian National Corpus ([www.eanc.net](http://www.eanc.net)) (an English gloss appears if you hover the cursor above each word).

# references

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- Hewitt, B. George. 1978. The Armenian Relative Clause. *International Review of Slavic Linguistics*, 3:99-138.

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- Kowal, Béla. 1992. East Armenian relative clauses. In Catherine Paris (ed.). *Caucasologie et mythologie comparée, Actes du Colloque international du C.N.R.S. – IVe Colloque de Caucasologie (Sèvres, 27-29 juin 1998)*. Paris: Peeters. 431-439.

For participles in general:

- Shagal, Ksenia. 2019. *Participles: A Typological Study*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter.

For the typology of RCs in the area:

- Gandon, Ophélie. 2016. *La relativisation dans une perspective aréale: l'aire Caucase- Anatolie de l'est- Iran de l'ouest*. PhD thesis, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3.

# this lecture

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