REFLEXIVE VERBS AND VOICE MORPHOLOGY IN EASTERN ARMENIAN

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1 Introduction

• In Armenian, the same verbal morpheme -v is used in reflexive, passive and anticausative forms.

(1)	Ara-n	amen of	r sap ^h r- v -um	e	[reflexive]
	Ara-NOM	every da	ay shave- REFL -IMP	be.3sc	3
'Ara shaves every day.'					
(2)	zork ^h -ə	haxt ^h -v-e	ec ^h tšnam-uc ^h		[passive]
	army-NOM defeat-REFL-AOR.3SG enemy-ABL				
'The army was defeated by the enemy.'					
(3)	bažak-əs	ko	otŕ- v -ec		[anticausative]
	glass-POSS.1SG break- REFL -AOR.3SG				

'My glass broke.'

• The three verbal constructions have different syntactic and semantic properties.

Question:

How come they are all represented with the same passive-reflexive morpheme?

OUTLINE

- Study each construction and its distribution by looking at the causative/transitive counterpart, availability of a causer or agent, affectedness and aspect

- Analysis \rightarrow despite differences, they all share a specific structural configuration related to reduction in valency

- Look at middle voice (inchoatives) that lack the passive-reflexive morpheme:

(4) šorer-ə čor-a-c^h-an clothes-NOM dry-INCH-AOR-3PL 'The clothes dried.' [inchoative]

- Compare with previous work on voice morphology

- Discussion: effects on a theory of the morphology-syntax interface

Proposal

- Uniform derivation of passive and anticausative configurations
- Passive-reflexive morpheme appears when there is a shared morphosyntactic context, namely a reduction in valency \rightarrow it appears when the external argument is not projected.
- Passive-reflexive morpheme reflects the properties of the syntactic configuration \rightarrow morphosyntactic instantiation of a particular argument-structure representation.
- Morpheme is not projected from lexicon and is not predetermined
- Morpheme does not reduce the valency but is the realization of valency reduction

2 Distribution of Passive-Reflexive Morpheme

- Reflexive verbs:

սափրվել, սանդրվել, հագնվել, լվացվել

shave, comb, dress, wash

- Passives:

Առաջավոր բանվորները **պարզևատրվեցին** գործարանի վարչության կողմից։ The leading workers were rewarded by the administration of the factory Այդ առաջարկութիւնը **մերժվեց** ժողովի կողմից։ The suggestion was refused by the meeting.

- Anticausatives:

կոտրվել, եփվել, շարժվել, խորտակվել break, cook, move, sink/drown Դռևերը **բացվեցին**։ The doors opened.

- Middles:

սափրվել, սանդրվել, իագնվել, լվացվել shave, comb, dress, wash