

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 or sap^hr-**v**-um e [reflexive]
Ara-NOM every day shave-**REFL**-IMP be.3SG
‘Ara shaves every day.’
- (2) zork^h-ə haxt^h-**v**-ec^h tšnam-uc^h [passive]
army-NOM defeat-**REFL**-AOR.3SG enemy-ABL
‘The army was defeated by the enemy.’
- (3) bažak-əs kotf-**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 → 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:

