Complementation in Agul: distribution and semantics of complement types

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In this talk I am concerned with sentential complementation in Agul, a language from the Lezgic branch of the East Caucasian (Nakh-Daghestanian) family. Agul is spoken by approximately 20 thousand speakers in the Agul and Kurah districts of Southern Daghestan, Russia. This study is based on the data from the *Hupuq'* dialect (spoken by some 600 speakers). Agul has five main complement types. These complement types are illustrated in (1)—(5):

(1) participial clause

> dad.a-s Ha-a me gada-ji peʔ qa͞tk'.i-f.
> father-Dat know-Prs this boy-Erg hen steal.Pf-Part
>
> *Father knows that this boy has stolen a hen.*

(2) converb clause

> dad.a-s gada quš.u-na ͞kande-a.
> father-Dat boy go.away.Pf-Conv want-Prs
>
> *Father wants the boy to go away.*

(3) infinitive clause

> dad.a-s gada ag₀.a-s ͞kande-a.
> father-Dat boy see.Ipf-Inf want-Prs
>
> *Father want to see the boy.*

(4) verbal noun clause

> gi gada quš.u-b.a-k-as qa͞tq'.u-ne.
> that(Erg) boy go.away tell.Pf-Pft
>
> *He told about the boy's going away.*

(5) puna-clause

> dad-a qa͞tq'.a-ji gada-ji peʔ qa͞tk'.i-ne p.u-na.
> father tell.Ipf-Pst boy hen steal.Pf-Pft say.Pf-Conv
>
> *Father told that the boy had stole a hen.*

In my talk I consider three main aspects of complementation in Agul, i.e. morphology, semantics of the main complement types in Agul and their distribution with regard to different classes of complement-taking predicates. After a short description of the morphology of clause complements, I will consider distribution of complement types across different complement-taking predicates. Special attention will be paid to cases where a complement-taking predicate may appear in more than one type of complement constructions and to semantic contrasts arising in these cases. Basing on this, I propose generalizations about semantics of each complement type. Another issue to be considered in this paper is a linear order of constituents in constructions with complement clauses, which also seems to be strongly motivated by semantics and the communicative structure of a complement-taking predicate.

References

Noonan, Michael. 1985. "Complementation." In T. Shopen (ed.) Language typology and syntactic description. Vol 2: Complex constructions. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 42–140.