

Azerbaijani non-verbal predications in a nutshell



Azerbaijan



Typological profile

- Synharmonism
- Suffix-based morphology
 - BN + DER + PL + POSS + CASE
 - BV + VOICE + NEG + TAM (TENSE-ASPECT-MOOD) /VERBAL NOMINAL/ CONVERBS
- Left-branching syntax
- SOV sentence structure (Subject-Object-Verb)
- Ural-Altaic language type:

Lalä alma ye-di. 'Lala ate an apple.'

Lalä alma yedi-mi? 'Did Lala eat an apple?'

Verbal vs nominal predicates

Män oxu-yur-am.

I read-PRES-AGR1SG

,I am reading'

Män oxu-m-ur-am.

I read-NEG-PRES-AGR1SG

,I am not reading.'

Män evli-yäm.

I married-AGR1.SG

,I am married.'

Män evli deyim-äm.

I married NEG-AGR1.SG

,I am not married.'

Structure of a nominal predicate

$X + [Y + (\text{NEG})\text{COP} (\text{TAM})]$

“X is Y”

Y = noun, adjective or adverb

Azerbaijani copula types

- ❑ Person-number agreement markers (next slide)
- ❑ Copular particles
 - ❑ *idi* *-(y)dl* < **är-di* (documented in Old Turkic)
 - ❑ *imiš* *-(y)miš* < **är-miš* (documented in Old Turkic)
- ❑ Copular verbs (*ol-*)
- ❑ Existential particles: *bar* / *yox*

Person-number agreement markers

1sg <i>män</i>	-(y)Am
2sg <i>sän</i>	-sAn
3sg <i>o</i> (demonstrative)	-dlr (< *turur ,stands')
1pl <i>biz</i>	-(y)IK
2pl <i>siz</i>	-slz
3pl <i>onlar</i>	-dlr(lAr)

Pred. Nucleus (nominal, adj, adv.)

Velosiped və skuter sür-mək qadayan-dir.

bicycle CONJ scooter drive-AN forbidden-COP

,It is forbidden to ride bikes and scooters.'

Nigar aşıpaz-dir.

Nigar cook-COP

,Nigar is a/the cook.'

Nigar ašpaz-ol-an-dir.

Nigar cook-be-PN-COP

‘Nigar is the one who is a/the cook.’

Adj nucleous

Anar kasib imiř.

Anar poor EVID.COP

‚Anar is/was poor.‘

(superlative construction)

Nigar mäktäb-in än gözäl qiz-i-dir.

Nigar school-GEN PRTC pretty girl-POSS3-COP

‚Nigar is the prettiest girl of the school.‘

Adv.

Toy-umuz sabah-dir.

marriage-POSS1PL tomorrow-COP

,Our marriage is/will be tomorrow.'

Existentials/Locationals/Possessives

var // yox

How to express „pure existence“:

Sevgi var.

love EX

„Love exists.“

Sevgi yox-dur.

Sevgi NEG.EX-COP

„Love does not exist.“

Locationals

Yol kənar-in-da gözəl restoran-lar var.

road side-POSS3-LOC nice restaurant-PL EX

‘Along the road there are nice restaurants.’

var + idi / imiş / olajaq (TAM markers)

YOX

Yol kənarında

road side-POSS3-LOC

gözel restoran-lar

nice restaurant-PL

yox-dur.

EX-COP

yox + idi / imiş / #olajaq

Yol kənarında

road side-POSS3-LOC

gözel restoran-lar

nice restaurant-PL

ol-ma-yajaq

be(come)-NEG-FUT

Possession

genitive-possessor type (permanent possession – inalienable possession)

oblique-possessor type (locative) (temporary possession – alienable possession)

Persian-modelled construction

Some examples

Män-im *qardaš-ïm* *var.*
I-GEN sibling-POSS1 EX
,I have a brother.'

Män-im *pul-um* *var.*
I-GEN money-POSS1 EX
,I have money.'

(Indi) *män-de* *pul* *var.*
now I-LOC money EX
I have money now.'

Män-im čanta-m var.
I-GEN bag-POSS1SG EX
,I have a bag.'

Män-de Hermes čanta var.
I-LOC Hermes bag-POSS1SG EX
,I have a Hermes bag.'

Azeri varieties in Iran

Bir qiz var-am.

one daughter EX-AGR.1SG

,I have a daughter.'

Corresponding Persian construction:

Man....X....dâr-am.

I....X...have.

(*dâştan/dâr* ,to have')

var / yox + person-number agreement markers

Ev-dä män var-am.

house-LOC I EX-AGR1SG

,I will be at home.'

Ev-dä men yox-am.

house-LOC I EX-AGR1SG

,I will not be at home.'

Ostensive markers/predicators – a rather neglected research field in Turkic studies

Ostensive predicates, also referred to in the linguistic literature as ‘presentative particles’, are “grammatical expressions whose combination with a noun phrase constitutes the core of clauses aiming to draw the attention of the addressee to the presence of some entity within the situation of discourse” (Creissels 2017: 47):

Examples:

French *voici/voilà*

Russian *vot*

Italian *ecco*

Latin *ecce*

Standard Azeri/Azerbaijani

Bu-dur *baχ* *Lalä!*
this-COP see-IMP.SG Lala
'Here is Lala!'

Bu-dur *baχ* *Šäki* *bal-ï.*
this-COP see-IMP.SG Sheki honey-POSS3
'Here is the honey from Sheki.'

Bu-dur *baχ* *ķatar* *gel-ïr.*
this-COP see-IMP.SG train come-HFOC.INTRA
'Here is the train arriving.'

Spoken Azerbaijani

(spoken language):

Bu de: telefon-un.

OST telephone-POSS2.SG

'Here is your phone.'

O de: *telefon-ın.*

OST telephone-POSS2.SG

‘There is your phone.’

De: *telefon-ın.*

OST telephone-POSS2.SG

‘Here is your phone.’

References

Dolatkhan, Sohrab 2019. *Qashqai Turkic: A comprehensive corpus-based grammar* (Lincom Studies in Asian Linguistics 91). München: Lincom.

Hengeveld, Kees 1992. *Non-verbal predication. Theory, typology, diachrony*. Berlin & New York: De Gruyter.

Ragagnin, E. & Shirinova, L. (forthcoming). *La lingua azerbaigiana*. Venezia: Ca' Foscari Digital Publishing.

Ragagnin, Elisabetta 2022. Azeri. In: Johanson, Lars & Csató, Éva Á. (eds) 2022. *The Turkic languages*. London & New York: Routledge. 243-261.

Ragagnin, E. 2022a. Ostensive markers in Azeri and other Turkic languages. *Turkic Languages* 26/2, 67-74.

**Thank you for your kind
attention**

Betta & Lala