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## Uninflected verbs: typological trends and a corpus-based comparison of two Nakh-Dagestanian languages

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This paper presents a typological survey of uninflectedness in verbs, part of a larger typology of differential argument indexing. In a diverse 528-language sample, 70% have verb-argument agreement (n=370). Of these, 45% (n=167) have a system in which agreement is realised differently or not at all under certain conditions.

However, these systems are of different types. Some correspond to sporadic agreement, i.e. agreement is restricted to a subset of verbs, which may be motivated by various factors (see Fedden 2019). Others are more like ‘classic’ differential case marking: only some arguments (e.g. animate, topical) and/or sentences (e.g. main clauses) trigger agreement (Witzlack-Makarevich & Seržant 2018, Iemmolo 2011). Still other systems combine both traits, i.e. are both lexically restricted and conditioned by factors other than the verb itself (see e.g. Walker et al. accepted).

In this talk, we focus on the sporadic agreement/verbal uninflectedness type. In particular, we address the role of frequency in their stability (see Fedden 2019: 320). As shown for Tsez (Nakh-Dagestanian), agreeing verbs are much more frequent in a corpus of child-directed speech than non-agreeing verbs (Gagliardi 2012). We investigate the role of frequency in uninflectedness through a comparative analysis of two spoken-language corpora of Nakh-Dagestanian languages with sporadic agreement: Sanzhi Dargwa (Forcker & Schiborr 2019) and Chechen (Molochieva & Walker to appear). Both corpora are annotated to allow the comparison of various semantic and pragmatic conditions. A pilot study for Chechen shows that token frequency is indeed the best predictor of agreement.

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