

THE EXPONENCE OF GRAMMATICAL NUMBER IN KAMYA

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS TALK

- ▶ I present an explanation of how grammatical number is expressed in Kamyá
- ▶ Nouns and verbs show different patterns of number marking
- ▶ Plurality is not obligatorily marked on nouns
- ▶ Nouns may show a mismatch between semantic and morphological number
- ▶ Verbs obligatorily agree with the semantic number of subjects

INTRODUCTION TO KAMYA I

- ▶ Begun in 2018 and I've been working on it on and off since
- ▶ Set in modern-day south-eastern Europe
- ▶ Intended to be coherent and naturalistic (albeit with some artistic licence)
- ▶ As well as moderately constrained but still interesting

INTRODUCTION TO KAMYA II

► Typological overview:

- Nominative–accusative (with a soupçon of fluid-S)
- Predominantly suffixing synthetic morphology (largely agglutinative)
- Basic S–V–O word order
- In noun phrases, all modifiers precede nouns (except full relative clauses)
- No true class of adpositions
- No grammatical gender (including in personal pronouns)
- Eight grammatical cases
- As for grammatical number...

NOUNS

NUMBER ON NOUNS I

- ▶ Nouns display a morphological distinction between general and plural number
 - 📖 See e.g. Corbett (2000: 9–19) for an introduction to general number
- ▶ General nouns may refer to either a semantic singular or plural
 - 👉 In jargon: They may include either atomic entities and pluralities in their denotation
- ▶ Morphological plurals refer unambiguously to semantic plurals
 - 📄 Cf. Amharic (Kapeliuk 1994; Leslau 1995; Baye 1996), Indonesian (Sneddon 1996), Mongolian (Juhanen 2012), Turkish (Kornfilt 1997; Schroeder 1999; Göksel & Kerslake 2005)

NUMBER ON NOUNS II

- ▶ Unmarked nouns are general and the plural may be marked by suffixation

• <i>kudi</i>	‘book(s)’	• <i>kudida</i>	‘books’
• <i>vorha</i>	‘bull(s)’	• <i>vorhada</i>	‘bulls’
• <i>çulu</i>	‘child(ren)’	• <i>çuluda</i>	‘children’

NUMBER ON NOUNS III

▶ Though such plural marking cannot co-occur with a quantifier or cardinal numeral

- *gara kudi* ‘a lot of books’
- **gara kudida*
- *şeda vorha* ‘a few bulls’
- **şeda vorhada*
- *iz (hiri) çulu* ‘three children’
- **iz (hiri) çuluda*

NUMBER ON NOUNS IV

▶ Except that certain nouns are invariably found with overt plural marking

- *gara layda* ‘a lot of money’
- *eşek amda* ‘too many people’
- *rawiz muşta* ‘some alms’
- **gara lay*
- **eşek am*
- **rawiz muş*

NOMINAL PLURAL MARKERS I

► *-da, -ada, -ta* (cognate with *hida* ‘swarm’)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| • <i>waça</i> | ‘tree(s)’ | • <i>waçada</i> | ‘trees’ |
| • <i>tom</i> | ‘goat(s)’ | • <i>tomda</i> | ‘goats’ |
| • <i>vaş</i> | ‘husband(s)’ | • <i>vašta</i> | ‘husbands’ |
| • <i>şedheş</i> | ‘brain(s)’ | • <i>şedheşada</i> | ‘brains’ |
| • <i>begh</i> | ‘adze(s)’ | • <i>beghada</i> | ‘adzes’ |
| • <i>emek</i> | ‘sow(s)’ | • <i>emkada</i> | ‘sows’ |

NOMINAL PLURAL MARKERS II

▶ -çi (cognate with *dişi* ‘two’)

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • <i>kun</i> | ‘eye(s)’ | • <i>kunçi</i> | ‘eyes’ |
| • <i>poç</i> | ‘leg(s)’ | • <i>poçoçi</i> | ‘legs’ |
| • <i>diye</i> | ‘lung(s)’ | • <i>diyeçi</i> | ‘lungs’ |
| • <i>anka</i> | ‘sleeve(s), trouser leg(s)’ | • <i>ankaçi</i> | ‘sleeves, trouser legs’ |

NOMINAL PLURAL MARKERS III

► Additional wrinkles:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| • <i>mar</i> | ‘person’ | • <i>amda</i> | ‘people’ |
| • <i>kada</i> | ‘man/men’ | • <i>kadanya</i> | ‘men’ |
| • <i>staç</i> | ‘onion(s) (count)’ | • <i>staçanya</i> | ‘onion (mass)’ |
| • <i>lerteska</i> | ‘pea(s) (count)’ | • <i>leret</i> | ‘peas (mass)’ |

NOMINAL PLURAL MARKERS IV

▶ Collective nouns derived with *-anya* (from **ʕanja* † ‘bundle’) that have animate referents may act either as semantically singular or plural

- *mugu* ‘pig(s)’
- *muguda* ‘pigs’
- *muganya* ‘swine; pork’
- *dhuri* ‘to watch’
- *dhuranya* ‘audience’
- **dhuranyada*


NUMBER ON PERSONAL PRONOUNS

- ▶ Personal pronouns show pervasive and obligatory suppletion for number

	SG	PL
1	cen	me
2	ta	kunya
3	a	hay

Table 1: Personal pronouns (nominative only)

DISTRIBUTIVE PLURAL

- ▶ The distributive plural refers to a number of nouns distributed in space or time
 See e.g. Corbett (2000: 111–7), Dixon (2012: 50)
- ▶ This is conveyed in Kamyā with whole-word reduplication

(1) Cen beldit **kudiz kudiz** na temtişa.

cen bel-dit **kudi-z** **kudi-z** na temt-işa
1SG.NOM find-NPST **book-ACC** **book-ACC** DEF room-LOC
'I found books [strewn about] in the room.'

ASSOCIATIVE PLURAL

- ▶ The associative plural denotes a plurality of nouns that constitute a coherent group or set in some way



See e.g. Corbett (2000: 101–11), Dixon (2012: 50–51), Daniel & Moravcsik (2013)

- ▶ In Kamyá, the associative is broader in use than usually seen cross-linguistically
- ▶ It is formed by postposed partial reduplication

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ● <i>Yuhan</i> | ‘John’ | ● <i>Yuhan varuhan</i> | ‘John and his friends’ |
| ● <i>bata</i> | ‘parent(s)’ | ● <i>bata varata</i> | ‘senior family relatives’ |
| ● <i>şeref</i> | ‘family/families’ | ● <i>şeref vareref</i> | ‘kith and kin’ |
| ● <i>goz</i> | ‘cow(s)’ | ● <i>goz varoz</i> | ‘farmyard animals’ |
| ● <i>ruz</i> | ‘stone(s)’ | ● <i>ruz varuz</i> | ‘stones and debris’ |

VERBS

NUMBER ON VERBS I

- ▶ Verbs obligatorily agree in semantic not morphological number with subjects
- ▶ The singular is unmarked and the plural is marked by suffixation

(2) a. Na çera akit n' emlaz.

na çera ak-it n' eml-az
DEF woman.NOM eat-NPST DEF apple-ACC
'The woman ate the apple(s).'

b. Na çera akardit n' emlaz.

na çera ak-**ar**-dit n' eml-az
DEF woman.NOM eat-**PL**-NPST DEF apple-ACC
'The women ate the apple(s).'

c. Na çera**da** akardit n' emlaz.

na çera-**da**-Ø ak-**ar**-dit n' eml-az
DEF woman-**PL**-NOM eat-**PL**-NPST DEF apple-ACC
'The women ate the apple(s).'

NUMBER ON VERBS II

► *-ar, -r* (cognate with *gara* ‘many, much’)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| ● <i>kavuk</i> | ‘dwell (SG)’ | ● <i>kavukar</i> | ‘dwell (PL)’ |
| ● <i>hagi</i> | ‘gather (SG)’ | ● <i>hagiyar</i> | ‘gather (PL)’ |
| ● <i>zumu</i> | ‘swell (SG)’ | ● <i>zumuwar</i> | ‘swell (PL)’ |
| ● <i>çehe</i> | ‘play (SG)’ | ● <i>çeher</i> | ‘play (PL)’ |
| ● <i>duvo</i> | ‘glow (SG)’ | ● <i>duvor</i> | ‘glow (PL)’ |
| ● <i>zayica</i> | ‘sharpen (SG)’ | ● <i>zayicar</i> | ‘sharpen (PL)’ |

NUMBER ON VERBS III

► Certain verbs also exhibit stem mutation or even suppletion

• <i>zadh</i>	‘herd (SG)’	• <i>zedhar</i>	‘herd (PL)’
• <i>diti</i>	‘own (SG)’	• <i>diçar</i>	‘own (PL)’
• <i>bele</i>	‘be able to (SG)’	• <i>ber</i>	‘be able to (PL)’
• <i>urul</i>	‘know (SG)’	• <i>rular</i>	‘know (PL)’
• <i>imin</i>	‘kill (SG)’	• <i>imar</i>	‘kill (PL)’
• <i>hem</i>	‘go/come (SG)’	• <i>har</i>	‘go/come (PL)’
• <i>em</i>	‘carry (SG)’	• <i>ledher</i>	‘carry (PL)’

CLAUSES

NUMBER IN THE CLAUSE I

- ▶ Since number is recoverable from the verb, it is usually not marked on subjects

(3) Na sosa hirar angluçata.

na sosa hir-**ar**-∅ angluç-ata
DEF child.NOM speak-**PL**-PRES English-INST
'The children speak English.'

(4) Na zuruvar poşinarcuz.

na zuruvar poş-in-**ar**-cuz
DEF banana.NOM rotten-INCH-**PL**-FUT
'The bananas are going to go rotten.'

NUMBER IN THE CLAUSE II

- ▶ But number is also often left unmarked on non-subjects
- ▶ The indefinite article strongly implies a singular rather than plural reading

- (5) a. Me gihardit **şi** caz luçe-z.
me gih-ar-dit **şi** caz luçe-z
1PL.NOM buy-PL-NPST **INDEF** new chair-ACC
'We've bought a new chair.'
- b. Me gihardit caz luçe-z.
me gih-ar-dit caz luçe-z
1PL.NOM buy-PL-NPST new chair-ACC
'We've bought new chairs.'

NUMBER IN THE CLAUSE III

- ▶ It is also possible to use the indefinite article with count nouns as a partitive
- ▶ But this usage is almost always found with overt plural marking

- (6) a. Na zaşka bukit **ş**i keriz.
na zaşka buk-it **ş**i keri-z
DEF bear.NOM hit-NPST **INDEF** fish-ACC
'The bear caught a fish.'
- b. (#) Na zaşka bukit **ş**i keriz.
na zaşka buk-it **ş**i keri-z
DEF bear.NOM hit-NPST **INDEF** fish-ACC
Intended: 'The bear caught some fish.'
- c. Na zaşka bukit **ş**i keridaz.
na zaşka buk-it **ş**i keri-**da**-z
DEF bear.NOM hit-NPST **INDEF** fish-**PL**-ACC
'The bear caught some fish.'

NUMBER IN THE CLAUSE IV

- ▶ With the definite article, if there is no marking, number is ambiguous for non-subjects
- ▶ But this is often inferable from context or real-world knowledge

(7) Cen be mal **na** şulaz **na** guşazen

cen be mal **na** şula-z **na** guşa-zen
1SG.NOM NEG see.PRES **DEF** star-ACC **DEF** cloud-ABL

‘I can’t see the star(s) because of the cloud(s).’

(8) Cedhesa **na** kudiz **na** gidozuri.

cedhe-sa **na** kudi-z **na** gido-zuri
put-IMP **DEF** book-ACC **DEF** table-ALL

‘Put the book(s) on the table(s).’

NUMBER IN THE CLAUSE V

- ▶ With naturally plural body parts, the definite article often implies plurality

(9) Ceş çuto vanad **na** kawaz.

ceş çut-o-Ø vand-Ø **na** kaw-az
1SG.DAT need-MDP-PRES wash-SUP DEF hand-ACC
'I need to wash my hands.'

- ▶ Though this not necessarily always the case

(10) a. Reça ceş **na** tere kawaz.

reç-a ceş **na** tere kaw-az
give-IMP 1SG.DAT DEF 2SG.GEN hand-ACC
'Give me your hand(s).'

b. Reça ceş **na** tere kawçiz.

reç-a ceş **na** tere kaw-çi-z
give-IMP 1SG.DAT DEF 2SG.GEN hand-PL-ACC
'Give me your hands.'

NUMBER IN THE CLAUSE VI

- ▶ In any case, overt nominal plural marking is somewhat uncommon
- ▶ When it is used, this is typically to provide disambiguation or focus

(11) Buka zahat na pitod**az** na stenazen?

buka zaha-t na pito-**da**-z na sten-azen
who.NOM remove-NPST DEF letter-**PL**-ACC DEF box-ABL
'Who took the letters out of the box?'

(12) Cen çizat şeld**az** vosa co leşet şinko ser şelaz.

cen çiz-a-t şel-**da**-z vosa co leşe-t şinko ser şel-az
1SG.NOM request-NPST stamp-**PL**-ACC but MIR acquire-NPST only one stamp-ACC
'I asked for stamps but only got one stamp.'

NUMBER IN GENERICS

- ▶ In generics, unmarked nouns are used with unmarked verbs

(13) Rowdezuro reçi alaz.

rowdezuro reçi ala-z
crocodile.NOM give.PRES egg-ACC
'Crocodiles lay eggs.'

(14) Kez ak perçaz, ani gela agad.

kez ak perç-az ani gela agad
dog.NOM eat.PRES meat-ACC but horse no
'Dogs eat meat but horses don't.'

SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- ▶ I've showcased the exponence of grammatical number in Kamyá
- ▶ Nouns exhibit a morphological general–plural distinction
- ▶ But a semantic singular–plural distinction
- ▶ Verbs agree with the semantic number of subjects
- ▶ Information on number is also recoverable from adnominal modifiers
- ▶ Or, failing that, context or real-world knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

1	first person	INDEF	indefinite
2	second person	INST	instrumental
3	third person	LOC	locative
ABL	ablative	MDP	mediopassive
ACC	accusative	MIR	mirative
ALL	allative	NEG	negative
DAT	dative	NOM	nominative
DEF	definite	NPST	near past
FUT	future	PL	plural
GEN	genitive	PRES	present
IMP	imperative	SG	singular
INCH	inchoative	SUP	supine

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