

A grammar of Iranian Armenian

Parskahayeren or Iranahayeren

Hossep Dolatian

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Preface

Acknowledgments

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¹<https://www.instagram.com/tv/COWtIvUn4KA/>

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Abbreviations

√	root
ABL	ablative
ACC	accusative
AGR	agreement
AOR	aorist stem or suffix, regardless of whether it's used in the past perfective or in other contexts
ASP	aspect
AUX	auxiliary verb or copula 'is'
K	case
CAUS	causative
CLF	classifier
CON	connective
CN.CVB	connegative converb suffix or converb form
DAT	dative
DEF	definite
DET	determiner
FUT	synthetic future
FUT.CVB	future converb
GEN	genitive
IMP	imperative
IMPF	imperfective
IMPF.CVB	imperfective converb
INCH	inchoative
IND	indicative (used for Western Armenian)
INDF	indefinite
INJ	interjection
INF	infinitive
INS	instrumental
LOC	locative
LV	linking vowel
NEG	negation
NMLZ	nominalizer
NOM	nominative
NX	stem extender between irregular nouns or pronouns and oblique cases

OM	object marker (used for Persian)
ORD	ordinal
PASS	passive
PERF.CVB	perfective converb
PL	plural
POSS.1SG	first person possessive
POSS.2SG	second person possessive
PRO	pronoun
PROG	progressive (used for Persian)
PROH	prohibitive
PRS	present
PTCP	participle (used for Persian)
PST	past
RPTCP	resultative participle
SG	singular
SIM.CVB	simultaneous converb
SBJV	subjunctive marker (used for Persian)
SPTCP	subject participle
T	tense
TH	theme vowel
VX	meaningless suffix as a verbal stem-extender

1 Introduction

In this grammar, what we call Iranian Armenian is the variety of spoken Armenian that was developed by Armenians in Tehran, Iran over the last few centuries. It has a substantial community of speakers in California. This variety or lect is called ‘Persian Armenian’ [pɔ.ɟskɔhɔje.ɟen] or ‘Iranian Armenian’ [i.ɟɔnɔhɔje.ɟen] by members of the community (romanized as ‘Parskahayeren’ and ‘Iranahayeren’). A speaker of this dialect (or a person descended from this community) is called a ‘Persian Armenian’ [pɔ.ɟskɔhɔj] or ‘Iranian Armenian’ [i.ɟɔnɔhɔj] (romanized as ‘Parskahay’ and ‘Iranahay’). The name is a compound of the term for Persian or Iranian, plus the compound linking vowel /-ɔ-/, and then the word for Armenian (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1: Name of the language and of the ethnic group

	Armenian	Persian Armenian	Iranian Armenian
Person	hɔj	pɔ.ɟsk-ɔ-hɔj	i.ɟɔn-ɔ-hɔj
	հայ	պարսկահայ	իրանահայ
Language	hɔje.ɟen	pɔ.ɟsk-ɔ-hɔje.ɟen	i.ɟɔn-ɔ-hɔje.ɟen
	հայերէն	պարսկահայերէն	իրանահայերէն
Roots:		pɔ.ɟsik ‘Persian’ պարսիկ	i.ɟɔn ‘Iran’ իրան

Persian Armenian is the more conventional name for the language. It reflects the fact that the Armenian community of Tehran/Iran and their dialect existed prior to the creation of the modern state of Iran. But in recent years, the community has shifted to preferring the term ‘Iranian Armenian’. This is because some community members feel that using the name ‘Persian Armenian’ creates the wrong sense that either a) the Armenian variety is genetically related to the Persian language, or b) that these Armenians are ethnically Persian. Out of respect to the community, we use the English name ‘Iranian Armenian’ (IA) in this grammar to refer to this dialect.

The present book is not a comprehensive grammar of the language. It occupies a gray zone between being a simple sketch vs. a sizable grammar. We try to clarify the basic aspects of the language, such as its phoneme inventory, noticeable

1 Introduction

morphophonological processes, various inflectional paradigms, and some peculiar aspects of its syntax. We likewise provide a sample text of Iranian Armenian speech (§8). Many aspects of this variety seem to be identical to Standard Eastern Armenian, so we tried to focus more on those aspects of Iranian Armenian which differ from that variety. Readers are encouraged to consult [Dum-Tragut \(2009\)](#)'s reference grammar of Standard Eastern Armenian if needed.

The introduction provides a basic typological sketch of the language (§1.1). We then discuss the origin of the Iranian Armenian community and its demographics in §1.2. The community displays triglossia and we discuss the community's basic sociolinguistics in §1.3. We discuss how we carried out our fieldwork in §1.4 and our annotation system in §1.5.

At the time of writing this grammar, we have made recordings of some but not all of the examples in the grammar. We have created an online archive. We are currently holding it on GitHub, but we plan to transfer it to a more dedicated archive in the future.¹ The archive consists of the following items:

- Some recorded elicitations.
- Original sound files that are used in the Figures in the phonology chapter (§2).
- Complete verb conjugation classes from the verb morphology chapter (§6).
- The sample text from §8.

Elicitation records were made over either Zoom, Audacity, or text messaging services (Telegram and Facebook Messenger); the recording medium does have some effects on the acoustic signal ([Sanker et al. 2021](#)). The elicitations and sample text were transcribed with Praat TextGrids ([Boersma 2001](#)), and then broken up with Praat scripts ([DiCanio 2020](#)).

1.1 Overview of Iranian Armenian

When providing a basic typological sketch of this variety, it is wise to first explain how Iranian Armenian relates to other Armenian varieties. Armenian is an independent branch of the Indo-European language family. Its earliest attested ancestor is Classical Armenian of the ~5th century. The modern varieties of Armenian are conventionally divided into two branches: Western and Eastern. There are two standardized dialects that are mutually intelligible after significant exposure: Standard Western Armenian (SWA) and Standard Eastern Armenian (SEA); henceforth Standard Western and Standard Eastern. Both branches have dozens

¹https://github.com/jhdeov/iranian_armenian

of extinct, endangered, or viable non-standard varieties (Adjarian 1909; Greppin & Khachaturian 1986; Vaux 1998b: ch1.1; Baronian 2017).

Geographically, the dividing line between the two branches roughly corresponds with the Turkey-Armenia border. Dialects that developed and were spoken in the Ottoman Empire are part of the Western group, while dialects that developed in the Persian and Russian Empires constitute the Eastern branch. Iranian Armenian is part of this Eastern branch. The variety likely developed from a common ancestor between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian.² Whereas Standard Eastern (as spoken in Yerevan) is a more conservative descendant of this ancestor, Iranian Armenian has developed various innovations that we discuss in this grammar. Despite these innovations, speakers of Iranian Armenian report feeling that Iranian Armenian is a dialect of Standard Eastern.

In terms of its segmental and suprasegmental phonology, Iranian Armenian for the most part resembles Standard Eastern Armenian. Like Standard Eastern and unlike Standard Western, Iranian Armenian has a 3-way laryngeal contrast for stops and affricates, e.g., /b, p, p^h/ as in Table 1.2 (§2.1.1) (Hacopian 2003). It has a two-way rhotic contrast between a trill /r/ and a retroflex approximant /ɻ/ (§2.1.2). It has a relatively simple vowel inventory of /ɒ, e, i, o, u, ə/, and it includes /æ/ as a marginal phoneme, mostly for Iranian loanwords (§2.1.4).

Table 1.2: Illustrating the three-way laryngeal contrast in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian, but not Standard Western

	IA	SEA	SWA	
‘word’	bɒr	bar	p ^h ar	բառ
‘cheese’	pɒniɻ	panir	banir	պանիր
‘elephant’	p ^h iɪ	p ^h iɪ	p ^h iɪ	փիղ

In terms of differences, the Iranian Armenian segments /ɻ, ɒ/ correspond to Standard Eastern /r, a/, while /æ/ does not exist in Standard Eastern. These differences are likely due to contact with Persian. A significant area of difference is in question intonation: Iranian Armenian has adopted the intonation patterns of Persian when forming questions (§2.2.3).

For morphophonology (§3), Iranian Armenian has grammaticalized as obligatory some processes that are optional or variable in Standard Eastern. These involve allomorphy of the definite article (§3.2.2), and a process of liquid deletion in

²Based on conventional dialectological work in Armenian (Աճառյան 1911), the ancestor of SEA is often assumed to be the dialect of Yerevan Armenian (Dolatian in review). IA may have developed as a subdialect of either SEA or Yerevan.

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periphrasis (§3.3). Liquid deletion is a type of phonosyntactic or syntax-sensitive phonological process (or arguably syntax-sensitive allomorphy). The liquid of the perfective converb suffix *-el* or *-eɫ* is deleted if the suffix does not precede the auxiliary.

For morphology, Iranian Armenian has agglutinative and suffixal inflection. There is no grammatical gender. Nouns inflect for case, number, and determiners (definite, possessive), with some residue of irregular inflection. Nominal morphology is largely the same between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian (§4).

For verbal morphology (§6), Iranian Armenian verbs are divided into different conjugation classes based on the type of theme vowel, presence of valency suffixes (causative, passive, inchoative), and any irregularities in inflection (root suppletion, affix allomorphy, etc.). Iranian Armenian uses synthetic inflection for some parts of the verbal paradigm, but it is largely periphrastic. Like Standard Eastern and unlike Standard Western, Iranian Armenian forms the present indicative by using a converb and an inflected auxiliary, while Standard Western uses a synthetic form instead (Table 1.3).

Table 1.3: Illustrating periphrastic vs. synthetic verbal inflection across the dialects

IA	siɫ-um	e-m	սիրում եմ
SEA	sir-um	e-m	սիրում եմ
	like-IMPF.CVB	AUX-1SG	
SWA	gə-sir-e-m		կը սիրեմ
	IND-like-TH-1SG		
	‘I like.’		

Compared to Standard Eastern, Iranian Armenian has developed some significant changes in verbal inflection. The suffix */-m/* is a 1SG agreement marker for present verbs in Standard Eastern Armenian, but this suffix has been generalized to mark the 1SG for any possible tense in Iranian Armenian (§6.2.2). Compare the various tenses of ‘to read’ in Table 1.4. And in the past perfective or aorist, Iranian Armenian has developed extensive changes in what suffixes are used to mark the past and perfective/aorist morphemes (§6.4.1). In brief, Standard Eastern Armenian uses the morpheme template */-ts^h-i/* for most verb classes, such as A-Class ‘to read’ and E-Class ‘to sing’, while it uses */-∅-ɑ/* for irregulars like ‘to eat’. Note the presence of theme vowels before */-ts^h-i/*, and the absence of theme vowels before */-∅-ɑ/*. In contrast, Iranian Armenian has generalized the */-∅-v/* pattern

and uses this template for many types of regular verb classes, such as ‘they sang’ but not ‘they read’.

Table 1.4: Illustrating changes in verbal inflection across Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

Tense	Verb	SEA	IA	
Subj. Pres. 1SG	‘to read’	kar ^h -a-m կարդամ	kd.ɹ ^h -ɔ-m կարդամ	read-TH-1SG
Subj. Past 1SG	‘to read’	kar ^h -aj-i-∅ կարդայի	kd.ɹ ^h -ɔj-i-m կարդայիմ	read-TH-PST-1SG
Past Pfv. 3PL	‘to read’	kar ^h -a-t ^h -i-n կարդացին	kd.ɹ ^h -ɔ-t ^h -i-n կարդացին	read-TH-AOR-PST-3PL
Past Pfv. 3PL	‘to sing’	jer ^k -e-t ^h -i-n երգեցին	je.ɹ ^k -∅-∅-ɔ-n երգան	sing-TH-AOR-PST-3PL
Past Pfv. 3PL	‘to eat’	ker-∅-∅-a-n կերան	ke.ɹ-∅-∅-ɔ-n կերան	eat-TH-AOR-PST-3PL

In terms of syntax (§7), we have not been able to carry out an extensive study of Iranian Armenian. Based on intuitions of our speakers, it seems that Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian have relatively few significant syntactic differences. Like Standard Eastern Armenian, Iranian Armenian is primarily an SOV language but with free word order. One important area of commonality is that the copula is a mobile auxiliary in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian but not in Standard Western (Kahnemuyipour & Megerdooian 2011). The auxiliary is added to focused words in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian (Table 1.5).

Table 1.5: Mobile clitic in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian but not Standard Western

IA	mɔ.ɹjɔ-n	ɔ	u.ɹɔχ	Մարիան ա ուրախ:
SEA	marja-n	e	uɹɑχ	Մարիան է ուրախ:
	Maria-DEF	AUX	happy	
SWA	marja-n	uɹɑχ	e	Մարիան ուրախ է:
	Maria-DEF	happy	AUX	
	‘MARIA is happy.’			

There are some syntactic differences that we have noted. Due to contact with Persian, Iranian Armenian can use the second person possessive suffix *-t* to act as an object clitic. No such use is attested for the other persons. There are other

1 Introduction

minor innovations in relative clause formation, again mostly due to Persian contact.

In terms of its lexicon, we have not found major differences between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian. Because of contact and sometimes bilingualism with Persian, Iranian Armenian speakers tell us that they often use Persian words for some concepts, such as for various plants or spices. The community has likewise borrowed some Persian phrases and turned them into Armenian phrases, i.e., calques.

For example, the following in Table 1.6 are common phrases in Persian; they are syntactically complex predicates made up of a word and light verb. Armenian speakers have adopted these phrases and just replaced the light verb with an Armenian equivalent. These phrases are known even by young members of the California diaspora who speak Iranian Armenian but not Persian.³

Table 1.6: Calqued phrases from Persian to Iranian Armenian

	Persian			Iranian Armenian	
‘to take a nap’	tʃ ^h ort nap	zædæn hit	چرت زدن	tʃ ^h ort ^h nap	χəp ^h el hit
‘to broadcast’	p ^h æxʃ broadcast	kærdæn do	پخش کردن	p ^h æxʃ X	ɔnel do
‘to shower’	duʃ shower	gereftæn catch	دوش گرفتن	duʃ shower	børnel catch

Unfortunately due to lack of time and resources, we haven’t been able to carry out an extensive study of such phrases in Iranian Armenian. See [Sharifzadeh \(2015\)](#) and our sample text (§8) for more examples of calques and borrowed words.

Finally, as a language, Iranian Armenian is under-described. To our knowledge, the only manuscript that even has data on this variety is [Shakibi & Bonyadi \(1995\)](#). This manuscript provides some sample paradigms, and a large glossary of Iranian Armenian. However, this document seems to actually describe a type of code switching or mixing between Iranian Armenian and Standard Eastern Armenian. For example, that manuscript’s data uses some Iranian Armenian features like the 1SG suffix *-m*, but it also uses more Standard Eastern Armenian features like using the Eastern style of marking the past perfective.⁴ As we dis-

³Persian IPA is taken from Wiktionary, verified by Koorosh Ariyae.

⁴It should be noted that [Shakibi & Bonyadi \(1995\)](#) do not represent the three-way laryngeal

cuss later, Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian are two registers of Armenian as spoken by the Iranian Armenian community in a type of diglossia.

1.2 Migration history

Armenians have had a long historical presence in Persia or Iran. We briefly review this history in order to later illustrate the sociolinguistic situation of the modern community.

Ethnic Armenians have been in contact with Persian or Iranian culture since antiquity, since at least the 6th century BCE (Dekmejian 1997: 421; Hovhannisian 2021: 1). Because of this historic contact, there has been extensive language contact between Armenian and Iranian languages (Meyer 2017: ch.1). There have been villages or areas in modern-day Iran with large Armenian populations, especially in Northwest Iran or Iranian Azerbaijan such as Tabriz. These various villages, towns, and districts developed their own dialects or Armenian varieties. These varieties significantly differ from Standard Eastern Armenian and from (Tehrani) Iranian Armenian.

An incomplete list of some area-specific varieties include Maku (Կասովայան 2018b), Maragha (Աճառյան 1926), New Julfa (Աճառյան 1940, Vaux in prep), Salmast (Vaux 2022b), and Urmia/Khoy (Ասատրյան 1962). For an overview of these dialects, see Martirosyan (2019, 2018: 85). These dialects constitute the historical region of “Persian Armenia”, called [parskahjk^h] Պարկահայք in Standard Eastern Armenian (Martirosyan in review). For an overview of the migration patterns of these dialects, see Mesropyan (n.d.). For lists and historical overviews of past and present Armenian villages and districts, see Amurian & Kasheff (1986) and Ghougassian (2021). For in-depth historical and anthropological overviews of the Armenian community in Iran, see Cosroe Chaqueri (1998), Sanasarian (2000), and Barry (2017b, 2018). There is likewise recent work on language signage in Armenian-populated areas (Rezaei & Tadayyon 2018).

In terms of demographics, the ancestors of most modern Iranian Armenians entered Iran via mass migrations (Kouymjian 1997: 19; Hovhannisian 2021: 3). In the 1600s, Shah Abbas I of Persia forced the mass migration of ethnic Armenians from historical Eastern Armenia, especially from modern-day Nakhchivan or Nakhijevan (Նախիջևան). The number of these Armenians is estimated as 400,000 being deported to Iran in 1604, of which 300,000 individuals survived by

contrast for stops and affricates. We suspect that this is because this manuscript seems to have developed without using linguistic sources on Armenian (which would state that there is such a distinction), and that the authors of this manuscript likely don't speak Armenian.

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1606 (Ghougassian 2021: 314). These Armenians then settled in different regions of Iran, especially in Tabriz and in the New Julfa quarter of Isfahan (Hovhannisian 2021: 9). Over time, large numbers of Armenians then moved to Tehran sometime in the 19th or early 20th century (Hovhannisian 2021: 6). Then in the mid to late 20th century around the time of the Islamic Revolution, mass numbers of Armenians emigrated from Tehran to elsewhere around the globe, especially to Los Angeles county in Southern California.

In terms of contemporary population size, it is difficult to get clear numbers (Iskandaryan 2019).⁵ Some sources estimate that the Armenian population of Tehran reached a peak of 50,000 people in the late decades of the 20th century (Hovhannisian 2021: 6). The US government gives larger numbers. Curtis & Hooglund (2008: 101) estimate that the size of the Armenian population in Iran was around 350,000 in 1979 (prior to the revolution). Emigration then led to a population count of 300,000 in 2000. They report that 65% of the population lived in Tehran, around 195,000.

As for the Iranian Armenian diaspora, Iranian Armenians are a culturally significant subset of the Armenian population in California (Bakalian 2017). The US census lists 47,197 individuals in California who report themselves as Armenians born in Iran (Bureau 2015). For more in-depth socio-economic, demographic, and anthropological studies of the California population, see Der-Martirosian (2021) and Fittante (2017, 2018, 2019).

Because of these complicated demographic changes, it is possible that modern Tehrani Iranian Armenian developed as an offshoot of Standard Eastern Armenian. The Tehrani variety may have been in contact with the varieties of other Armenian villages in Iran over the centuries. Over time, as Armenians moved within Iran to Tehran, the Tehrani community levelled their speech to form modern-day Tehrani Iranian Armenian. This modern variety is what we refer to as Iranian Armenian. This is the variety that is spoken and acquired by Armenian children in Tehran, and in the large Iranian Armenian diaspora.

Because Iranian Armenian is a spoken vernacular, there are very scant records of it. Within Armenian philology, the earliest reference we found for Tehrani Iranian Armenian is in the introduction chapter of Աճարյան (1940)'s grammar of New Julfa Armenian (translated into English in Vaux in prep). In that grammar, Adjarian collected data on New Julfa Armenian in the late 1910s, early 1920s. That variety is spoken primarily in the New Julfa district of Isfahan. He contrasts New Julfa Armenian with what he calls "Persian Armenian" or "Perso-Armenian"

⁵To illustrate, see the inconsistent population estimates on the Wikipedia page for Iranian Armenians: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_Armenians

which he says is spoken in the northern regions of Iran, including Tehran. He doesn't provide any data on this dialect but he states that this Perso-Armenian lect is socially predominant. We suspect that what he calls Perso-Armenian is the direct ancestor of modern Tehrani Iranian Armenian.

1.3 Sociolinguistics of the Iranian Armenian community

The Tehran community is diglossic or triglossic (Nercissians 1988, 2012). Armenians learn and speak Persian with non-Armenians, and code switching is common (Ghiasian & Rezayi 2014, Ghiasian & Rezaei 2014). Within the Armenian community, children acquire Iranian Armenian at home. This variety is spoken as an informal register. In Armenian schools, children learn Standard Eastern Armenian. The community uses Standard Eastern Armenian as a formal register in literature, newspapers, written communications, and formal speech. We discuss each code in §1.3.1, and then discuss the social stigmatization of the spoken vernacular with respect to the Standard Eastern Armenian (§1.3.2).

Whereas the Iranian Armenian community in Tehran is diglossic or triglossic, the Iranian Armenian diaspora is much less so. For the diaspora in California, families may speak Iranian Armenian at home, but not necessarily Standard Eastern or Persian. The relative rarity of transmitting Persian to the youth makes sense because it is not a lingua franca among Armenians in the US. As for the Armenian registers, Standard Eastern Armenian is the formal register, while Iranian Armenian is the informal register. Thus the children of such communities acquire Iranian Armenian at home. Some but not all diaspora children attend Armenian schools where they acquire Standard Eastern.

1.3.1 Characteristics of the three codes

For Persian, Zamir (1982: ch6.7) reports that Tehrani Armenians spoke a distinctive dialect of Persian. Their dialect involved various phonological changes. For example, standard Persian /æ/ was pronounced as /v/ by speakers of this dialect (Zamir 1982: 370); the history of /æ/ is discussed more in §2.1.4. Afsheen Sharifzadeh (AS) and others report that this Persian dialect died out over the last few decades (Barry 2017a: 154). This dialect is now more characteristic of the current generation's grandparents or great-grandparents, i.e., people who were adults around the time of Zamir (1982)'s study.

The modern community still has some level of awareness of this old dialect however; for example, the phonological accent of this old dialect is satirized in

1 Introduction

the work of Iranian Armenian comedian Gilbert Sinanian (Gibo Hobar).⁶ For the modern community, speakers seem to use the same dialect of Persian as non-Armenians but with some noticeable phonological features. For example, Barry (2018: 220) reports:

Furthermore, the Armenian accent is not simply something of which Iranian Armenians are self-conscious; Muslim Iranians recognise it also. Two Iranian students in Melbourne stated that the Armenian accent in Persian is easily recognisable in its intonation.

Similar reports on Armenian-accented Persian is reported among Isfahan Armenians (Rezaei & Farnia 2023). Though it's not clear to us what are the exact linguistic features of this accent.

As for the informal register of Iranian Armenian, this variety is natively acquired at home by speakers in the Tehran community. Outside of Tehran, various people have told us that the Tehrani variety is known in other Armenian-populated towns and villages in Iran. For example, Nercissians (2001: 64) explicitly states that "there is a clearly prestigious Tehrani dialect for Armenian." Specifically, spoken Tehrani Iranian Armenian is more prestigious than the spoken vernacular of other towns and villages, such as Isfahan, Tabriz, and so on.

It seems that other Armenian varieties in Iran are dying out and being replaced by Tehrani Iranian Armenian. For example, in AS's travels through Iran, he's found that many young people in New Julfa (Isfahan) no longer speak the New Julfa variety of their ancestors. Instead, the current generation speaks the Tehrani variety. The parents of this generation speak Tehrani and the local New Julfa vernacular; while the grandparents of this generation speak only the New Julfa vernacular.

Because of the prestige and language shifts, AS suggests that Tehrani Iranian Armenian has become a spoken koine or lingua franca among Armenians in Iran. The social prominence of Tehrani has likewise spread throughout the Iranian Armenian community in Los Angeles. Here, Varand Nikolaian (2016, p.c.) reports that the Tehrani variety is quite prominent among Iranian Armenians. In Los Angeles, Iranian Armenians from Isfahan, Tabriz, and other areas often shift to speaking Tehrani Iranian Armenian when talking to Iranian Armenians from other villages or towns. Some people likewise feel ashamed of their own local vernacular and have shifted to using Tehrani Iranian Armenian even in their own homes.

⁶<https://www.facebook.com/gibohopar/>

1.3 Sociolinguistics of the Iranian Armenian community

As for the formal register, it's more accurate to say that the formal register is Standard Eastern Armenian with an *Iranian Armenian accent*. That is, the community would say a Standard Eastern Armenian sentence but use Iranian Armenian phonology, such as using the rounded Iranian Armenian /ɒ/ instead of unrounded Standard Eastern /ɑ/.

1.3.2 Social stigmatization of the spoken vernacular

As a last note on sociolinguistics, we must mention the social status of Iranian Armenian with respect to Standard Eastern Armenian. Because of the diglossic situation in Tehran, the spoken vernacular of Tehrani Iranian Armenians is often stigmatized as 'wrong' or 'broken' or 'vulgar' speech, especially by the older generation of speakers. For example, in the early 2000s, one of the coauthors (BV) gave a conference presentation at UCLA on Iranian Armenian. Before the conference, he received an aggressive email from an esteemed member of the Iranian Armenian community in California. We repeat parts of that email below, anonymized. We re-transcribed Armenian words in IPA. Bolding is our own; Persian words are romanized in italics.

I am writing to you to express my deep concern about your thesis of the third literary dialect (the Persian-Armenian). The examples you cite to prove your findings, [gəɒɒts^him], [imɒts^hɒm] (instead of [gəɒɒts^hi, imɒts^hɒ]), [me] (instead of [mek]) **are all dialectal forms**, they are used in spoken language but never, never, never in print. You mention the printed material before the revolution. I have not seen one example with such **vulgar errors**. As to [lev] or [lɒf] instead of [lɒv], this is truly **unheard of**. These are all spoken forms by **not-very-educated people** in Iran and those who are here, and there are many. As to the words *havich*, *xiar*, *jafari*, *xiarshur*, these are purely Persian words (not even borrowings) and **nonexistent** in the spoken language let alone in the Persian Armenian literary dialect which I think, such an animal does not exist at all...

Please **check your sources** before coming to these conclusions. I consider myself an educated Iranian Armenian, who writes in Eastern Armenian literary language (and there is **non [sic] other variations**) and also speaks with some dialectal forms but never mixes Persian words.

Your question of what form of literary language is/was taught in schools in Iran. I am very much familiar with the textbooks used in Iran before the revolution and after. The text, the syntax, the lexicon, and the grammar is

1 Introduction

that of Standard Eastern Armenian literary language. The same standards are used also in the media. I beg you again, revisit your findings and conclusions. Your presentation may **irritate** many Iranian Armenians. I was hoping you would speak about a **distinct** dialect of Iranian Armenians, like the Maragha dialect (the *er* branch: [etas er] meaning I am going) or the Gharadagh dialect that is close to the Gharabagh dialect.

[Correction by BV: No one uses /etas er/ for anything. Khoy/Urmia/Salmast have /ert^has em/ ‘I am going’ and /ert^has em er/ ‘I was going’. Maragha uses /et^hæli im/ ‘I am going’ and /et^hæli im er/ ‘I was going’.]

As is clear, the email shows that the spoken vernacular is extremely stigmatized by at least some members of higher social classes. The dialect is considered ‘vulgar’, ‘un-educated’, or even ‘non-existent’. Paradoxically, the Iranian Armenian community legitimizes Armenian varieties that are spoken in the more peripheral areas of Iran. These varieties are deemed ‘exotic’ and un-intelligible enough for Tehranis to consider them as legitimate languages. In contrast, the spoken language of the average Tehrani child or adult is erased. People pretend they don’t speak this spoken vernacular, even though they do.

1.4 Fieldwork and language consultants

This grammar is based on fieldwork that was done by each of the authors, at different times, and with different people. We go through each phase of fieldwork below.

The first phase of fieldwork was undertaken in the 1990s and early 2000s by Bert Vaux (BV). BV is a trained generative phonologist and is a native speaker of English. He undertook fieldwork by collecting data from Armenian expatriates from Iran, especially in the Boston area.

BV’s main consultant was Karine Megerdooian (KM, female), who was born and raised in Tehran up until the age of 13. There, she acquired Iranian Armenian, Standard Eastern Armenian, and Persian. After that, she moved across Europe and North America until finally settling in the United States. KM is a trained generative syntactician and thus often gave meta-linguistic judgments as a linguist-speaker. At the time of BV’s fieldwork, KM was in her early 30s.

KM was BV’s main consultant, but BV also elicited data from other Iranian Armenian expatriates living in the US and Europe. One such consultant is AP. AP is a male from Peria, which is in the province of Isfahan, Iran. His judgments were relayed to BV through AP’s wife.

1.4 Fieldwork and language consultants

The second phase was undertaken by Afsheen Sharifzadeh (AS). AS is a self-trained linguist and is a native speaker of Persian and English. His fieldwork was somewhat atypical. He initially was interested in merely learning the Armenian culture and language. He often visited the Armenian community in Iran and would befriend Iranian Armenian speakers. His exposure was some time in the late 2000s and early 2010s. Over time, he developed an advanced proficiency in Standard Eastern Armenian and Iranian Armenian. His data comes from his interactions with a wide community of Iranian Armenian speakers, both in Tehran and in expatriate communities in the US. His main consultants were people in their early to late 20s.

The third phase was undertaken by Hossep Dolatian (HD). HD is a trained generative morphophonologist and is a native speaker of Standard Western Armenian. He did fieldwork after discovering the data collected by BV and AS. He then undertook the task of synthesizing their data and replicating it with speakers of Iranian Armenian in California. He did fieldwork in 2021 and his main consultant was Nicole Khachikian (NK, female). Her parents and grandparents are from Tehran. She was born and raised in the US outside of Los Angeles, but was often within the Iranian Armenian community of LA. Her home languages were Iranian Armenian and English. She does not know Persian. She learned aspects of Standard Eastern Armenian both by a) learning the spoken formal register of Standard Eastern Armenian with the larger Armenian community in Los Angeles, and b) taking Armenian classes at university. She was in her early 20s during HD's fieldwork. HD at times elicited data from KM, who was in her early 50s in 2021. Recordings were made remotely, either with Praat (Boersma 2001) over Zoom or with Audacity. HD's recording methodology is documented on the associated archive of this grammar.

For some data points, HD elicited material on Standard Eastern Armenian material in order to show a contrast between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian. Some other IA-speaking linguists were also consulted at times. Elicitations were done with the following speakers:

- Eastern Armenian
 - Mariam Asatryan (MA): female; born and raised in Tsovasar, Armenia, age was around late-20s.
 - Victoria Khurshudyan (VK): female; born and raised in Goris, Armenia, age was around early-40s.
 - Vahagn Petrosyan (VP): male; born and raised in Yerevan, Armenia; age was around mid-30s.

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- Arevik Torosyan (AT): female; born and raised in Yerevan, Armenia up until her late teens; age was around early 20s.
- Iranian Armenian
 - Anooshik Melikian (AM): female; born and raised in Tehran, Iran up until 2016; age was around early 50s.
 - Garoun Engström (GE): female; born and raised in Uppsala, Sweden; age was around early 30s.

As is clear, the three linguists did their fieldwork at different times and locations. However, we have found little to no discrepancies across these different pools of data. The main differences come from generational changes in the pronunciation of certain lexical items and morphemes, which we take note of.

Furthermore, neither BV, AS, nor HD are native speakers of Standard Eastern Armenian or Iranian Armenian. BV's and AS's data come from speakers who can be considered bi-dialectal, which means the speakers are proficient in both Iranian Armenian and Standard Eastern Armenian. This is because their speakers were born and raised in Iran and thus were exposed to Standard Eastern Armenian within the education system of the Armenian community. In contrast, HD's main consultants are mono-lectal and mainly speak Iranian Armenian. Because HD's consultants grew up in the US, his speakers did not acquire Standard Eastern Armenian within an educational system. We have found only minor differences between the grammars of bi-dialectal vs. mono-lectal speakers when it comes to Iranian Armenian judgments or pronunciations.

1.5 Orthography, transcription, and glossing

The Armenian language is normally written in the Armenian script ([Sanjian 1996](#)). There are two orthographic conventions or spelling systems for Armenian: Classical and Reformed. The Classical system is the original system of writing the Armenian script. It is used for Standard Western. It was originally used for Standard Eastern Armenian as well, but then a series of Soviet-era spelling reforms created the Reformed system. The Reformed system is used for Standard Eastern Armenian as spoken in Armenia and large parts of the Diaspora. But in Iran, Standard Eastern Armenian is still written with the Classical system. For an overview of these orthographic changes, see [Dum-Tragut \(2009: 5-6,12\)](#).

For this grammar, we use the Reformed spelling to write Standard Eastern Armenian examples. We use Classical spelling to write Iranian Armenian examples

out of respect to the community's orthographic customs. This is somewhat atypical because Iranian Armenian is an unwritten vernacular. We have decided to provide orthographic forms to make future cross-dialectal work easier. Note that the orthographic script does not indicate all phonetic aspects of Iranian Armenian pronunciation. All data is likewise transcribed in IPA.

For our glossed sentences, we first provide an IPA transcription, then gloss, then translation, and then the orthographic representation.

For glossing, we follow the Leipzig Glossing Rules, and we've added our own conventions for those morphosyntactic features that are absent from the Leipzig Glossing Rules.

In this grammar, we adopt a simple item-and-arrangement model of morphology (Hockett 1942). We try to segment as many affixes as possible. We adopt the word 'morph' as a theory-neutral term to denote the surface form of morphemes, i.e., to simply denote morphological items (Haspelmath 2020). We at times provide realization rules to more clearly show how certain inflectional features are marked in Iranian Armenian; these rules should not be treated as explicit formal theoretical rules.

Full morpheme segmentation and glosses are given for sentences and for morphological paradigms. In the morphology section, we likewise segment zero morphemes. We generally avoid segmentation for the data in the Phonology chapter in order to reduce clutter. Outside of the morphology chapter, we often segment the 3SG auxiliary (positive *v* and negative *iʃ-i*) as just '(NEG)-AUX' instead of '(NEG)-AUX.PRS.3SG' to reduce clutter.

For our bibliography, we do not romanize or transliterate Armenian entries. All Armenian entries are given in the orthography, so that searching for those entries in the future (via library catalogs) is easier. Translations are provided to help preview the content of the entry.

2 Phonology

In this chapter we present the basic segmental inventory (§2.1) and suprasegmental phonology (§2.2) of Iranian Armenian.

2.1 Segmental phonology

Table 2.1 lists the consonant inventory of IA, including both phonemes and non-contrastive sounds in parentheses.

	Labial		Coronal				Dorsal/Back	
Stop	p	b	t	d			k	g
	p ^h		t ^h				k ^h	
Affricate			ts	dz	tʃ	dʒ		
			ts ^h		tʃ ^h			
Nasal		m		n				(ŋ)
Fricative	f	v	s	z	ʃ	ʒ	χ	ʁ h
Liquid				ɹ		l		
				r				
Glide				j				(w)

Figure 2.1: Consonant inventory for Iranian Armenian

Iranian Armenian has largely the same phonemic inventory as Eastern Armenian. For example, both utilize a three-laryngeal contrast for stops and affricates: D, T, T^h (§2.1.1). General overviews of Standard Eastern Armenian segmental phonology are found in Vaux (1998b: ch1) and Johnson (1954: ch1-3).

The lects do differ in a few aspects. In terms of rhotics (§2.1.2), Eastern has a phonemic trill /r/ and phonemic flap /r/, while Iranian Armenian has a phonemic trill /r/ and phonemic approximant /ɹ/.

Both dialects have [ŋ] as a non-phonemic allophone of /n/ before velar stops. Iranian Armenian utilizes a glide [w] as a non-contrastive epenthetic segment, while this segment is absent in Standard Eastern (§2.1.3). We show these two sounds with parenthesis in Figure 2.1.

2 Phonology

In terms of vowels (§2.1.4) in Figure 2.2, the low back vowel is unrounded /ɑ/ in Standard Eastern but rounded /ɔ/ in Iranian Armenian. Iranian Armenian also has a low front vowel /æ/ as a marginal phoneme.

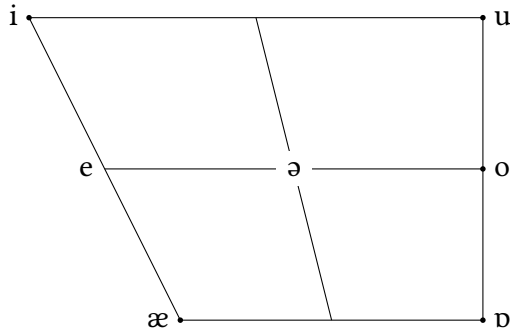


Figure 2.2: Vowel inventory

2.1.1 Laryngeal qualities of consonants

Both Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian utilize a 3-way laryngeal contrast for stops and affricates based on voice onset time (VOT). There is a phonemic contrast between prevoiced (-VOT), voiceless unaspirated (0VOT), and voiceless aspirated (+VOT) consonants. We provide near-minimal pairs in Table 2.1 from Iranian Armenian. In general, there is a separate grapheme (orthographic letter) for each type of phonemic stop/affricate. We list the graphemes in the first column, and the phonemes in the second column.

Acoustic data on the three-way contrast can be found for both Iranian Armenian (Hacopian 2003, Amirian 2017, Toparlak 2017) and Standard Eastern (Seyfarth & Garellek 2018, Seyfarth et al. forthcoming). The contrast is maintained even word-finally. However, there are very few words that are pronounced with word-final voiced obstruents. The coronals have been reported to be dental in Standard Eastern (Խաչատրյան 1988: 110), but we're unsure if they're also dental in Iranian Armenian.¹

¹NK self-reported a dental articulation for some tokens with initial coronal stops, but also reported alveolar articulation for other tokens.

Table 2.1: 3-way laryngeal contrast for stops and affricates

	Initial	Medial	Final
բ /b/	բօր ‘word’ բառ	Երբեք ‘Arabic’ արաբերէն	աբ ‘Arab’ արաբ
պ /p/	քով ‘cheese’ պանիր	քովի ‘glass’ ասակի	կոպ ‘connection’ կապ
փ /pʰ/	փք ‘elephant’ փիղ	փքել ‘to measure’ չափել	տփ ‘box’ տուփ
դ /d/	մեծ ‘century’ դար	մեծիկ ‘duckling’ բարիկ	մեծ ‘duck’ բաղ
տ /t/	տուն ‘house’ տուն	քետ ‘feather’ փետուր	ստ ‘lie’ սուտ
թ /tʰ/	թուրք ‘Turk’ թուրք	մեծիկ ‘violin’ ջութակ	կոտ ‘milk’ կաթ
գ /g/	գիրք ‘book’ գիրք	քեք ‘fast-DEF’ արագ	տեք ‘crown’ թագ
կ /k/	կարդալ ‘to read’ կարդալ	քեք ‘forehead’ ճակատ	բոք ‘yard’ բակ
ք /kʰ/	քար ‘rock’ քար	մեք ‘clean’ մաքուր	քեք ‘city’ քաղաք
ծ /d͡z/	մեծ ‘snow’ ձուռ	հոմեք ‘agreeing’ համաձայն	մեք ‘me.DAT’ ինձ
ծ /ts/	մեք ‘tree’ ծառ	քեք ‘spicy’ կծու	մեք ‘big’ մեծ
ց /tsʰ/	մեք ‘pain’ ցաւ	հոք ‘bread-GEN’ հաց	մեք ‘open’ բաց
ջ /d͡ʒ/	մեք ‘water’ ջուր	մեք ‘eraser’ ջլջիկ	քեք ‘brave’ քաջ
ն /t͡ʃ/	մեք ‘to look for’ նայել	մեք ‘to grow’ աճել	լիք ‘lake’ լիճ
չ /t͡ʃʰ/	մեք ‘evil’ չար	մեք ‘right-ABL’ աջից	մեք ‘no’ ոչ

For word-final voiceless unaspirated stops (p, t, k), it is reported that some Iranian Armenian speakers pronounce these sounds as ejectives (Fleming 2000, Toparlak 2017, Toparlak & Dolatian 2023), while some do not (Amirian 2017). For NK, we rarely heard any ejectivized tokens. Figure 2.3 shows an example of a final ejectivized unaspirated /k/, along with an un-ejectivized one. The recordings for these two words can be found in our online archive.² There is a larger debate about whether any varieties of modern or ancient Armenian possess(ed)

²https://github.com/jhdeov/iranian_armenian

2 Phonology

a glottalized or ejective series of voiceless stops; for discussion and references see [Vaux \(2022a\)](#).

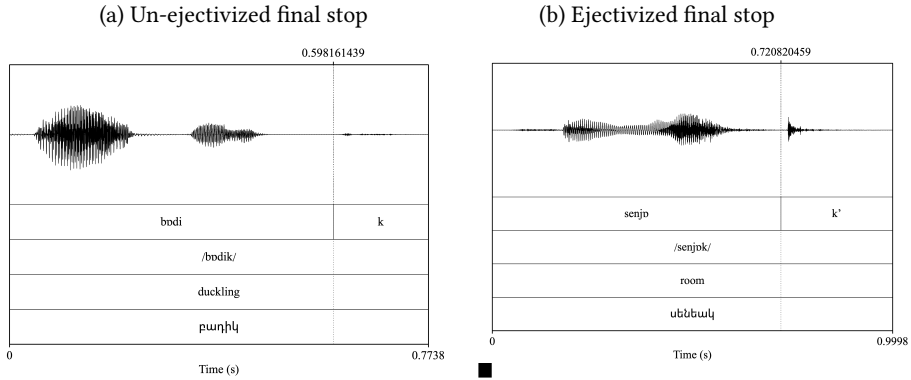


Figure 2.3: Variable ejectivization of final unaspirated stops from NK

In general, for a given morpheme that's shared between IA and SEA, the obstruents in that morpheme maintain the same laryngeal features in the two lects. That is, if a word begins with a prevoiced stop in Standard Eastern, then it also begins with a prevoiced stop in Iranian Armenian. This correspondence is the general case. But we have encountered some morphemes where the Iranian Armenian pronunciation utilizes a different laryngeal quality (Table 2.2). For example, the resultative participle suffix $-ած$ is pronounced $/-ɑts/$ in Standard Eastern, but is often pronounced as $/-ɑts^h/$ in Iranian Armenian with aspiration in some speakers. NK always uses aspiration for this morpheme, while KM reports that she rarely does so.

Table 2.2: Unexpected aspiration in Iranian Armenian from NK

	SEA	IA	
երգած	$jeɾk^h-ɑts$	$jeɾk^h-ɑts^h$	'sung (RPTCP)'
կարդացած	$kɑrt^hɑts^h-ɑts$	$kɑɾt^hɑts^h-ɑts^h$	'read (RPTCP)'

From AS's personal experience, the unexpected use of aspiration for the affricate $\delta /ts/$ varies by speaker (Table 2.3). We speculate that this variable aspiration may be connected to variable ejectivization or glottalization of voiceless unaspirates. Variable ejectivization is reported for Standard Eastern ([Schirru 2012](#), [Seyfarth & Garellek 2018](#), [Toparlak & Dolatian 2023](#)). AS likewise finds variable ejectivization for $/ts/$. We speculate that what we report as aspiration might instead be a reflex of ejectivization. More data is of course needed.

Table 2.3: Unexpected but variable aspiration of affricate /tʰs/ in Iranian Armenian from NK

	SEA	IA	
ծնունելի	tʰsən'vel	tʰsən'vel~tʰsʰənvel	'to be born'
գործածելի	gortsɑ tsel	go.tʰsɔ tsel~go.tʰsʰɔ tʰsʰel	'to use'

In NK's speech (and in her family's), there were some words where the voiced stops were (variably) devoiced in her speech, and some where voiceless stops were (variably) voiced (Table 2.3). KM felt that such variable voicing was more characteristic of heritage speakers in the diaspora than of speakers in Tehran. Note that these are all high-frequency words.

Table 2.4: High-frequency words with variable (de)voicing in NK and her family

	SEA	IA	
'(If) I come'	gam	gɔm, kɔm	գամ
'door'	dur	dur, tur	դուռ
'to put'	danel	danel, tanel	դնել
'dance'	par	pɔ.ɹ, bɑɹ	պար
'mouth'	beran	bɛ.ɹɔn, pɛ.ɹɔn	բերան
'to bring'	berel	bɛ.ɹel, pɛ.ɹel	բերել
'knife'	danak	dɔnɔk, dɔnɔg	դանակ
'yesterday'	jerek	e.ɹɛk, e.ɹɛg	երեկ, էրեկ
'drawer'	darak	dæ.ɹæk, dæ.ɹæg	դարակ

For such voicing differences, BV reports that using devoiced tokens like [tanel] instead of [danel] 'to put' is the expected outcome in non-standard dialects of Iran, such as Urmia, Khoy, and Salmast (Ասատրյան 1962: 34-40), Maragha (Աճառյան 1926: 83-89) and K'eyvan (Բաղրամյան 1985: 187). For the Tehrani, such variation in devoicing may indicate the residue of dialect shifting, or possibly a diglossic continuum between IA and SEA.

2.1.2 Rhotics

A stark difference between the two lects concerns their rhotics. Standard Eastern Armenian (SEA) has a phonemic contrast between a flap /r/ and a trill /r/. The flap is more frequent than the trill. Orthographically, the flap is represented by the grapheme ը, and the trill by ռ. Although Iranian Armenian (IA) also has a

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two-way rhotic distinction, the Standard Eastern flap corresponds to an Iranian Armenian retroflex approximant /ɹ/. We contrast the two lects in Table 2.5.³

Table 2.5: Rhotic contrasts in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	SEA /r/	IA /ɹ/	ռ	SEA /r/	IA /r/	ռ
Initial	ra'fi	ɹa'fi	'Raffi (a name)' Րաֆֆի	re'zin	re'zin	'eraser' ռեզին
				raz'mik	rɔz'mik	'Razmik (a name)' Րազմիկ
Medial	ba'rak	bɔ'ɹɔk	'thin' բարակ	'sarə	'sɔrə	'cold' սառը
	pa'rap	pɔ'ɹɔp	'available, empty' պարապ	he'ru	he'ru	'far' հեռու
Final	'sar	'sɔɹ	'mountain' սար	'bar	'bɔr	'word' բառ
	'kar	'kɔɹ	'string' կար	'tar	'tɔr	'letter' տառ

In general, if a word has a rhotic trill in Standard Eastern Armenian, then it has a trill in Iranian Armenian as well. However, there were some high-frequency words where NK preferred using a trill /r/ where Standard Eastern would use a flap /r/ (Table 2.6).

Table 2.6: High-frequency words that use a trill instead of an approximant

	SEA	IA	
'minute'	rope	rope	րոպէ
'war'	paterazm	pɔterɔzm	պատերազմ

Some high-frequency words have a rhotic in SEA, but the rhotic is optionally deleted in IA (Table 2.7). The loss of the rhotic here may be related to the loss of rhotics in the perfective converb (§3.3).

Table 2.7: High-frequency words that lose a rhotic in Iranian Armenian

	SEA	IA	
'to go'	jert ^h al, ert ^h al,	eɹ ^h t ^h ɔl, et ^h ɔl	երթալ, էրթալ, էթալ
'when'	jerp ^h	jeɹ ^h , jep ^h	երբ

³The /f/ in 'Raffi' is variably geminated. The /b/ in Iranian Armenian 'thin' is variably devoiced for NK.

The Standard Eastern flap /r/ is typically spirantized in some positions, such as word-finally (Toparlak 2019: ch5; Seyfarth et al. forthcoming). The Iranian Armenian retroflex approximant sounds similar to the American English alveolar approximant [ɹ] to our ears, but more retroflex like [ɻ]. A future acoustic or articulatory study can help in determining the exact place of articulation of this rhotic.

Cross-linguistically, it is common to find that dialects differ in the phonetic realization of rhotics (Ladefoged & Maddieson 1996, Chabot 2019). It is rather rare to find languages with a phonemic retroflex approximant [ɻ] (Arsenault 2018: 28). For example, the UCLA Phonological Segment Inventory Database (UPSID) lists only 17 out of 451 languages (3.77%) that have the phoneme /ɹ/ (Maddieson & Hanson 1990).⁴ Most of these languages are in Australia. Similar results are obtained from the PHOIBLE 2.0 database at 306 out of 3020 languages (10%) (Moran & McCloy 2019). For the alveolar approximant [ɹ], this segment is acoustically quite similar to [ɻ]. This sound is cross-linguistically rare as well at 60 languages (2%) in the PHOIBLE database. This segment is found particularly in Southeast Asia and in English.

The origins of the Iranian Armenian approximant could be due to language contact with Persian. Persian has a rhotic /r/ whose realization varies between a trill, tap, fricative, and approximant (Majidi & Ternes 1991, Rafat 2010). In a study on Persian rhotics, Rafat (2010: 675) found that when they were realized as approximants, the approximants sounded retroflex.

There is evidence that an approximant rhotic is attested in other Armenian dialects of Iran. In Vaux's translation of Աճառյան (1940)'s grammar of New Julfa (Isfahan) Armenian, Vaux uses the IPA symbol [ɹ] to transcribe the letter ը (§6). Allen (1950: 195) likewise reports a speaker of New Julfa who has a retroflex fricative that he transcribes as [ɹ]. It is an open question if the Tehrani [ɻ] and New Julfa [ɹ] are articulatorily different or the same.⁵

Although the trill is phonemic in both lects, KM reports that the Iranian Armenian trill feels 'not as trilled as in Eastern'. This suggests that the trill uses

⁴<http://menzerath.phonetik.uni-frankfurt.de/S/S0763.html>

⁵The sound /ɹ/ is sometimes reported elsewhere in the Turkey-Caucasus-Iran region: queer Turkish speakers from Istanbul (Kontovas 2012: 11), and the Muslim variety of the Hamshen dialect spoken in the village of Köprücü (Hopa province, northeastern Turkey) (Vaux 2007: 258). The sound [ɻ] is also reported in the Iranian language of Kumzari in Oman (van der Anonby Wal 2015: 25). For Turkish, it seems that approximants are generally attested in Turkish (Nichols 2016), possibly characteristic of 'white' Turkish women and also found in the northeastern parts of Turkey (Nicholas Kontovas, p.c.). But it is unclear what is the exact place of articulation, with some sources reporting an alveolar place while others report a retroflex place (Tıraş 2021: 12).

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a fewer number of tongue contacts in Iranian Armenian than in Standard Eastern. Coincidentally, some dialects like Standard Western Armenian have lost a phonemic trill for certain communities like in Lebanon (Vaux 1998b: 16).⁶ Some communities in Canada still maintain weak phonemic and weak articulatory distinctions between trills and flaps (Tahtadjian 2020). KM’s intuitions thus might indicate a slow language change towards losing the trill.⁷

2.1.3 Other consonants

For completeness, we provide the rest of the consonantal inventory of Iranian Armenian in Table 2.8. To our knowledge, the phonological properties of these remaining consonants do not differ between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian.⁸

The nasal /n/ becomes [ŋ] before velar stops /k, k^h, g/ (Table 2.9).

Table 2.9: Examples of nasal place assimilation

/zɔŋg/	→	'zɔŋg	'bell'	զանգ
/menk ^h /	→	'meŋk ^h	'we'	մենք
/ts ^h ɔŋkɔŋɔŋ/	→	ts ^h ɔŋkɔ'ŋɔŋ	'to wish'	ցանկանալ

In addition to the above consonantal phonemes, Iranian Armenian has a surface glide [w] that is used to repair vowel hiatus (1). This glide is discussed in §3.1.2. It is not a contrastive or phonemic segment.

⁶In Armenian dialectology, Jahukyan (Ջահուկյան 1972) reports feature 23 as about “confusion between /r/ and /r/ in non-preconsonantal position” in the dialects of Kutuy, Hajin, Tabriz, Tbilisi, Burdur, and Maragha).

⁷Don Stilo (p.c.) suggests that such a trajectory makes sense. Given that the modern IA rhotic pair /r, r/ likely descends from a /r, r/ pair (with a flap), it is possible that the trill is slowly simplifying to become a flap.

⁸Don Stilo (p.c.) reports that the fricative /h/ of SEA and IA sounds like a voiced form /ɦ/. We’re not sure if this impression is accurate. Instrumental work on SEA reports that the fricative is generally a voiceless [h], but it has a voiced variant [ɦ] where intervocalic (Խաչատրյան 1988: 182-4). In Armenian dialectology, early work by Adjarian (Աճարյան 1911, translated in Dolatian in review) reports a (possibly phonemic) [ɦ] in some dialects in Turkey (Erzurum/Karin, Mush, Van, Şebinkarahisar, Sebastia), but not in modern-day Armenia or Iran. Adjarian does however report in later work that the dialect of New Julfa in Iran possesses an /ɦ/ phoneme (Աճարյան 1940: §5), to which Jahukyan (Ջահուկյան 1972: 60) adds Livasian (Chaharmahal). More recent sources also report /ɦ/ in many modern Armenian varieties spoken in the Republic of Armenia (e.g. Vardenis, Ashtarak, Koghb, Ghalacha/Berdavan, and Kamo/New Bayazet/Gavar (Ջահուկյան 1972: 58-59), and many more in the provinces of Gegharkunik (Կատվայան 2018a) and Kotayk (Կատվայան 2020).

Table 2.8: Other consonants in Iranian Armenian

	Initial	Medial	Final
ɟ	/m/	'mɔtʰ	'man'
		մարդ	
ɮ	/n/	'nɔv	'ship'
		սա	
ɬ	/f/	fɔtʰi'mɔ	'Fatima'
		Ֆաթիմա	
ɮ	/v/	vor'tɛx	'where'
		որտեղ	
u	/s/	si'ɬel	'to love'
		սիրել	
q	/z/	'zɔŋg	'bell'
		զանգ	
z	/ʃ/	'ʃɛŋkʰ	'building'
		շէնք	
ɸ	/ʒ/	zɔp'tɔl	'to smile'
		ժպտալ	
ɮ	/χ/	'χɔtʰ	'cross'
		խաչ	
ŋ	/ʁ/	ʁɔzɔ'ɬɔs	'Lazarus'
		Ղազարոս	
ɮ, h	/h/	'hɔtʰ	'bread'
		հաց	
l	/l/	'lɔv	'good'
		լա	
j	/j/	'je.ɬkʰ	'song'
		երգ	
		mɔ'ɬm-itsʰ	'mom-ABL'
		մամից	
		kʰə'nel	'to sleep'
		քնել	
		ɬɔ'fi	'Raffi (name)'
		Րաֆֆի	
		tə'vox	'giver'
		տոող	
		ɔ'sel	'to say'
		ասել	
		ɔzɔ'tel	'to free'
		ազատել	
		pʰo'fi	'dust'
		փոշի	
		u'zɛx	'strong'
		ուժեղ	
		tʰɔ'xel	'to sell'
		ծախել	
		ʁɔzɔ'ɬɔs	'to send'
		ուղարկել	
		mɔ'hɔ'nɔl	'to die'
		մահանալ	
		'gɔl	'to come'
		գալ	
		tɔ'jim	'I give (subj. past)'
		տայիմ	
		'tej	'tea'
		թէյ	

(1) /kɔ'tu =e-m/ → [kɔ.'tu.wem]

cat =AUX-1SG

'I am a cat.'

Կատու եմ:

2.1.4 Vowel inventory

The vowel inventory is largely the same in both lects. We provide the basic vowel inventory in the two lects in Table 2.10. Most occurrences of the schwa are un-written.

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Table 2.10: Vowel inventory across the lects

Grapheme	Phoneme		Example			
	SEA	IA	SEA	IA		
ա	/ɑ/	/ɔ/	tɑ'ri	tɔ'ɹi	'year'	տարի
է, ե	/e/	/e/	ts ^h o'ren	ts ^h o'ɹen	'wheat'	ցորեն
ի	/i/	/i/	'khit ^h	'khit ^h	'nose'	քիթ
օ, ո	/o/	/o/	'vor	'voɹ	'that'	որ
ու	/u/	/u/	'dur	'dur	'door'	դուռ
ը	/ə/	/ə/	mart ^h ə	mɔɹt ^h ə	'the man'	մարդը
			gə'rel	gə'ɹel	'to write'	գրել

Between the two lects, the main difference is that the low back vowel is unrounded /ɑ/ in Standard Eastern but rounded /ɔ/ in Iranian Armenian. The rounding of the low vowel is likely due to contact between Iranian Armenian and Persian. Persian has a phonemic low back rounded vowel /ɔ/ (Majidi & Ternes 1991).⁹

When the low vowel /ɔ/ is next to a glide /j/, the low vowel is still rounded (Table 2.11), but we suspect that it's not as rounded as in other contexts. More data is needed with finer acoustic measurements and across multiple speakers.¹⁰

Table 2.11: The low back vowel stays rounded next to glide /j/

[hɔj]	'Armenian person'	հայ
[mɔɹtjɔm]	'Mariam'	Մարիամ

Iranian Armenian likewise utilizes a low front vowel /æ/ as a marginal phoneme (Table 2.12). This vowel appears in Persian loanwords. Some of these loanwords likewise exist in Standard Eastern (sometimes via a different route like from Turkish). But in Standard Eastern, the loanwords are nativized with the low back vowel /ɑ/. In general, the front vowel does not appear in native Armenian words,

⁹Anecdotally, BV has sometimes heard a rounded /ɔ/ in spoken Eastern Armenian in Yerevan. In modern Persian, the low back rounded vowel /ɔ/ is acoustically unstable and can approach /ɔ/ (Esfandiari et al. 2015, Mokari et al. 2017, Aronow et al. 2017, Jones 2019). In our impressions, the Iranian Armenian low vowel is much lower than the Armenian /o/. Although more acoustic data is needed, we speculate that the Iranian Armenian /ɔ/ is truly [ɔ] and not [ɔ̄].

¹⁰For the word 'voice', the Iranian Armenian word is [dzen] ձեն while the Standard Eastern word is the cognate [dʒajn] ձայն. NK reports that Iranian Armenians sometimes say the word [dʒajn] as a type of Standard Eastern borrowing, sometimes nativized as [dʒɔjn].

but we did find a few native constructions that contain it.¹¹

Table 2.12: Low front vowel /æ/ in Iranian Armenian

IA				cf. SEA
æˈɹæb	‘Arab’	արար	from Persian	ɑˈrab
mænˈʁæɫ	‘grill’	մանղալ	from Persian	manˈʁal
læmæˈd͡ʒun	‘lahmacun’	լահմացուն	from Turkish/Persian	lahmaˈd͡ʒun
dæˈɹæɡ	‘drawer’	դարակ	native	daˈrak
mæˈhæt ~ mæt	‘a one’	մի հատ	native	miˈhat

In the Armenian script, the front vowel /æ/ is represented as the symbol *ա* with umlaut in dialectological work. Because of variation across Iranian Armenian speakers, we don’t adopt this symbol in our orthographic forms, but instead use a simple *ա*.

The use of /æ/ is due to contact with Persian which has a phonemic /æ/ vowel (Mahootian 2002: 286). Although contemporary Iranian Armenian has /æ/ as a marginal phoneme, it is possible that earlier stages of Iranian Armenian did not. Zamir (1982: 368) reports that his sample of Iranian Armenians did not have a /æ/ phoneme when they spoke Persian. Their accent of Persian was characterized by replacing the Persian /æ/ with a back variant. Similarly for New Julfa Armenian in Isfahan, Աճառյան (1940: §7) reports that in the 1910s/1920s, /æ/ was slowly getting introduced in the speech of young Armenians. See the translation by Vaux (in prep). This suggests that the introduction of /æ/ as a marginal phoneme is both recent and widespread in the Armenian dialects of Iran.¹²

As an interesting diachronic fact, there are some words that are pronounced with either [uj] or [ju] in SEA, but which are pronounced with [u] in IA (Table 2.13). But this is not a general rule however because there are some words that are pronounced with [uj] or [ju] in both varieties.¹³

¹¹The word ‘drawer’ is [darak] in Standard Eastern. In Iranian Armenian, bi-dialectal KM pronounces the final stop as [k], while mono-lectal NK uses [g]. We suspect this is just individual-level variation within the diaspora.

¹²Allen (1950: 183) reports a speaker from New Julfa who only has a low vowel without any indication of rounding or fronting. This speaker does however self-report as being heavily influenced by Yerevan SEA.

¹³For SWA, the SEA [ju] sequence corresponds to [y]: [t͡sɯn] ‘snow’. Don Stilo reports that he may have heard some IA speakers use a front vowel as well [d͡ʒyn]. Unfortunately, we haven’t been able to replicate this form with our speaker pool.

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Table 2.13: Dialectal variation in [uj] and [ju] sequences

	Changing /uj/, /ju/ or [u]		Keeping /uj, ju/	
	‘sister’	‘snow’	‘color’	‘other’
SEA	[k ^h ujr]	[dʒjun]	[gujn]	[mjus]
IA	[k ^h u.ɹ]	[dʒun]	[gujn]	[mjus]
	քոյր	ծիւ	գոյւ	միւ

2.2 Suprasegmental phonology

In general, we did not find significant differences between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian in terms of syllable structure (§2.2.1) or word stress (§2.2.2). Intonational differences are however salient because Iranian Armenian has borrowed aspects of Persian intonation (§2.2.3).

2.2.1 Syllable structure

The syllable structure of Iranian Armenian is not substantially different from that of Standard Eastern (Table 2.14). In Iranian Armenian, the typical syllable is at most CVCC. Complex onsets are limited to /Cj/ clusters, and intervocalic /Cj/ clusters are usually syllabified together into the same syllable. Complex codas generally have falling sonority. The segment /k^h/ can follow any type of cluster. Phonologically, this segment is an extrasyllabic appendix.

Table 2.14: Syllable shapes in Iranian Armenian

V	‘u	‘and’	ու
CV	‘du	‘you (nominative sg.)’	դու
VC	‘ɔp ^h	‘shore’	ափ
CVC	‘p ^h iɛ	‘elephant’	փիղ
CVCC	‘mɔ.t ^h	‘man’	մարդ
CjVCC	‘kjɔŋk ^h	‘life’	կեանք
CV.CjVC	se’ŋjɔk	‘room’	սենեակ
CVCK ^h	petk ^h	‘need’	պէտք
CVCCk ^h	‘ku.tsk ^h	‘breast’	կուրծք

All the above generalizations are likewise found in Standard Eastern Armenian. For general overviews of syllable structure in Standard Eastern Armenian,

see Vaux (1998b: ch1,3). For a discussion of the final appendix $-k^h$ in Standard Eastern, see Vaux (1998b: 83), Vaux & Wolfe (2009), and Dolatian (2021a: §5).

An exception to the above generalizations concerns word-initial sibilant-stop sequences. Such clusters variably undergo schwa prothesis in both Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian (Table 2.15). In modern Eastern, the norm is for schwa prothesis to not apply. In our elicitations from Iranian Armenian speakers, most cases of sibilant-stop clusters didn't undergo prothesis. When a schwa is absent, the sibilant is analyzed as an extrasyllabic appendix (Vaux 1998b: 83ff; Vaux & Wolfe 2009; Dolatian 2023b).

Table 2.15: Schwa prothesis in sibilant-stop clusters

zgujʃ	'caution'	զգոյշ
stɒnɒl	'to receive'	ստանալ
(ə)skæsel	'to start'	սկսել
əzɡɒl	'to feel'	զգալ
skizb	'beginning'	սկիզբ

2.2.2 Lexical stress

Iranian Armenian seems to utilize the same lexical stress system as Standard Eastern Armenian. For an overview of lexical stress in Standard Eastern Armenian, see Vaux (1998b: ch4) and Dolatian (2021a).

2.2.2.1 Regular stress

Within the morphological word, stress is generally final on the rightmost non-schwa vowel (2). This means that regular stress is on the final syllable if that syllable has a non-schwa nucleus. Suffixation of non-schwa suffixes triggers stress shift.¹⁴

- (2) a. $\widehat{tʃ}ɒ'kɒt$ 'forehead' ճակատ
 $\widehat{tʃ}ɒkɒt$ -ɒ'gɪɪ 'destiny' ճակատագիր
 b. $u'ɪɒχ$ 'happy' ուրախ
 $uɪɒχ$ - $u\widehat{tʃ}^h$ un 'happiness' ուրախութիւն

If the final syllable has a schwa, then stress is on the penultimate syllable (3).

¹⁴Prescriptively, the suffix $-ութիւն$ ($-ություն$ in Standard Eastern) is pronounced as $[-ut^hjun]$. But in casual speech, the stop-glide sequence usually undergoes affrication.

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(3)	a.	$\widehat{tʃ}v'kɔt-ə$	‘forehead-DEF’ ‘the forehead’	ճակատը
		$\widehat{tʃ}v'kɔt-əs$	‘forehead-POSS.1SG’ ‘my forehead’	ճակատս
		$\widehat{tʃ}v'kɔt-ət$	‘forehead-POSS.2SG’ ‘your forehead’	ճակատդ

Besides final schwas, stress is avoided on clitics (4).

(4)	a.	$\widehat{tʃ}v'kɔt=el$	‘forehead=also’ ‘also forehead’	ճակատ էլ
		$\widehat{tʃ}v'kɔt=ɒ$	‘forehead=is’ ‘is forehead’	ճակատ ա
	b.	$u'ɪpχ=el$	‘happy=also’ ‘also happy’	ուրախ էլ
		$u'ɪpχ=ɒ$	‘happy=is’ ‘is happy’	ուրախ ա

If the word takes a cluster of clitics, stress stays inside the word (5).

(5)	a.	$\widehat{tʃ}v'kɔt=el=ɒ$	‘forehead=also=is’ ‘is also a forehead’	ճակատ էլ ա
	b.	$u'ɪpχ=el=ɒ$	‘happy=also=is’ ‘is also happy’	ուրախ էլ ա

2.2.2.2 Irregular stress

We catalog some morphological contexts which trigger exceptional non-final stress.

A systematic exception to final stress involves the negation prefix [$\widehat{tʃ}^n-$] ([$\widehat{tʃ}ə-$] before consonants), as in Table 2.16. In both periphrastic and synthetic tenses, the negation prefix attracts primary stress. For periphrastic tenses, the prefix is added to the auxiliary, and the auxiliary takes stress. In synthetic tenses, the prefix is added directly to the verb. The first syllable of the verb takes stress, even if the first syllable has a schwa.

Table 2.16: Irregular stress in negation

	Positive	Negative
‘I am singing’	je.ɫ ^h -um e-m sing-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG երգում եմ	ʃ ^h -e-m je.ɫ ^h -um NEG-AUX-1SG sing-IMPF.CVB չեմ երգում
‘He took’	ve.ɫ-tɫ ^h -ɫ-D-V take-CAUS-PST-3SG վերցրաւ	ʃ ^h -ə-ve.ɫ-tɫ ^h -D-V NEG-take-CAUS-PST-3SG չվերցրաւ
‘He did’	ɔ-ɫ-D-V do-PST-3SG արաւ	ʃ ^h -ɔ-ɫ-D-V NEG-do-PST-3SG չարաւ
‘He fell’	əŋ ^h -ɔ-D-V fall-PST-3SG ընկաւ	ʃ ^h -əŋ-ɔ-D-V NEG-fall-PST-3SG չընկաւ

Negation stress is reported in Iranian Armenian dialogues from [Shakibi & Bonyadi \(1995\)](#). In HD’s experience, negation stress is likewise attested in Standard Western Armenian in both synthetic and periphrastic tenses. However in Standard Eastern Armenian, negation attracts stress in only periphrastic tenses, not synthetic ([Մարգարյան 1997: 77](#)). The fact that Iranian Armenian has negation-sensitive stress may be due to language contact with Persian, where negation is a stressed prefix ([Kahnemuyipour 2009](#)).

Another morphological exception for final stress comes from ordinals (Table 2.17). The ordinal suffixes /-ɪ.ɔ.ɫ^h-, -e.ɪ.ɔ.ɫ^h/ assign stress to the previous syllable (cf. [Vaux 1998b: 132ff](#)). For more examples, see §5.4.2. When an inflectional suffix or clitic is added after the ordinal suffix, irregular stress is lost and we get regular stress on the rightmost non-schwa and non-clitic vowel.

Table 2.17: Irregular stress in ordinals in Iranian Armenian

a. Cardinal	‘two’	e.ɫ ^h ku	2	էրկու
	‘five’	hiŋg	5	հինգ
b. Ordinal	‘second’	ʃek-ɪ.ɔ.ɫ ^h	2-ORD	երկրորդ
	‘fifth’	hiŋg-e.ɪ.ɔ.ɫ ^h	5-ORD	հինգերորդ
c. Adding /-i/	‘to the second one’	ʃek-ɪ.ɔ.ɫ ^h -i-n	2-ORD-DAT-DEF	երկրորդին
	‘to the fifth one’	hiŋg-e.ɪ.ɔ.ɫ ^h -i-n	2-ORD-DAT-DEF	հինգերորդին
d. Adding /-ə/	‘the second one’	ʃek-ɪ.ɔ.ɫ ^h -ə	2-ORD-DEF	երկրորդը
	‘the fifth one’	hiŋg-e.ɪ.ɔ.ɫ ^h -ə	5-ORD-DEF	հինգերորդը
e. Adding clitic	‘he is second’	ʃek-ɪ.ɔ.ɫ ^h =ɔ	2-ORD-AUX	երկրորդ ա
	‘he is fifth’	hiŋg-e.ɪ.ɔ.ɫ ^h =ɔ	5-ORD-AUX	հինգերորդ ա

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Beyond this section, we generally avoid marking stress in order to reduce clutter. Unless otherwise stated, stress is on the rightmost non-schwa and non-clitic vowel.

2.2.3 Prosodic phonology and intonation

Above the word, there is relatively little known about the prosodic structure of phrases and clauses in any Armenian lect (Fairbanks 1948: 27ff; Johnson 1954: 14ff; Ղուկասյան 1990; Toparlak & Dolatian 2022; Dolatian 2022b). There is however one aspect of Iranian Armenian prosodic phonology which stands out from Standard Eastern Armenian. This concerns the intonational structure of questions. We briefly overview the main properties of Iranian Armenian interrogatives, using common notation from the autosegmental-metrical tradition on intonational phonology (Pierrehumbert 1980, Ladd 1986, Jun 2005). The recordings from this subsection can be found in the online archive.¹⁵

In a basic SOV sentence in the present tense (6a), verbal inflection is periphrastic. The verb is in the form of the imperfective converb, and tense-agreement marking is on an auxiliary. If the object is morphologically bare, then it carries sentential stress (nuclear stress, underlined). The auxiliary is cliticized to the bare object.¹⁶ Declarative sentences end in falling intonation.

- (6) a. *Declarative SOV sentence with an auxiliary*
- i. marja-n girk^h =e kart^h-um ↘ (SEA)
Մարիան գիրք է կարդում:
- ii. md.jɔv-n giɽk^h =ɔ kv.t^h-um ↘ (IA)
Maria-DEF book =AUX read-IMPF.CVB
'Maria is reading books.'
Մարիան գիրք ա կարդում:
- b. *Polar question*
- i. marja-n girk^h ↗ =e kart^h-um ↘ (SEA)
Մարիան գիրք է կարդում:
- ii. md.jɔv-n giɽk^h ↗ =ɔ kv.t^h-um ↗ (IA)
Maria-DEF book =AUX read-IMPF.CVB
'Is Maria reading books?'
Մարիան գիրք ա կարդում:

¹⁵https://github.com/jhdeov/iranian_armenian

¹⁶The distribution of this auxiliary is complex in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian (§3.3.1). For further data and discussion, see Tamrazian (1994), Megerdooimian (2009), Kahnemuyipour & Megerdooimian (2011, 2017).

To form polar questions, the only strategy in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian is intonational. In Standard Eastern Armenian, there is a significant rise in pitch on the bare object in (6b-i). The sentence ends in falling intonation (cf. Ղուկասյան 1990, 1999). In contrast in Iranian Armenian, there is both a rise on the object and a sentence-final rise (6b-ii).

For illustration, Figure 2.5 shows the pitch track of the declarative sentence (6a) and its corresponding polar question (6b) in both Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian. The Iranian Armenian recordings are from NK. The Standard Eastern Armenian recordings are from AT. We annotate the perceived nuclear with the H* symbol, sentence-final fall with L%, and sentence-final rise with H%.

As is clear, both declarative sentences end in L%. The Iranian Armenian polar question has H%. For Standard Eastern, both the declarative and polar question end in a L%. The main difference is the level of pitch on the nuclear stressed word [girk^h] ‘book’.

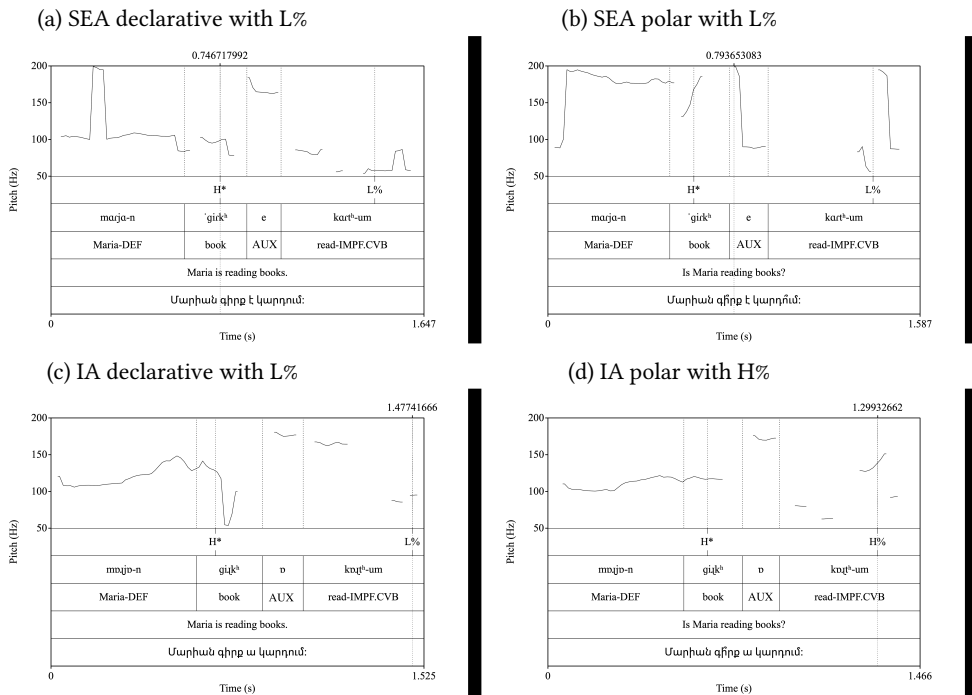


Figure 2.5: Pitch track of declarative (6a) and polar question (6b) in Standard Eastern (SEA) and Iranian Armenian (IA)

The use of a sentence-final rise is likely due to two factors: one language-internal, and one language contact with Persian.

2 Phonology

In Persian, polar questions end in a sentence-final rise as a type of Intonational Phrase boundary H% (Sadat-Tehrani 2007, 2011: 111; Mahjani 2003: 55). Furthermore, AS reports that some Iranian Armenian speakers draw out the last syllable, i.e. they apply sentence-final lengthening. This is also reported in Persian polar questions (Sadat-Tehrani 2011: 113).

As for language-internal factors, prescriptively, Standard Eastern Armenian uses L% for polar questions when nuclear stress is on a non-final word. However, AT informs us that Colloquial Eastern Armenian (as spoken in Yerevan) does allow a final H%. The use of this H% is socially judged as ‘improper’. We provide a pitch track in Figure 2.7. Another parallelism is that Colloquial Eastern Armenian can also use the colloquial auxiliary [ɑ] (like IA) instead of the standard [e].

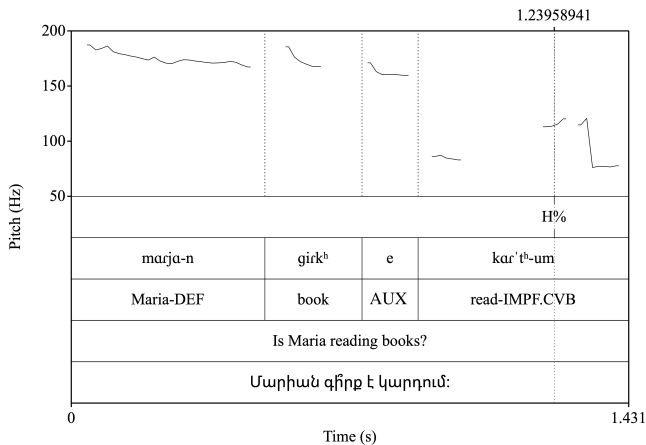


Figure 2.7: Polar question in Standard Eastern (6a-i) with optional H%

For Iranian Armenian, the final syllable in a polar question can be considerably lengthened in order to indicate politeness. AS reports that final lengthening in Iranian Armenian is common in order to indicate a non-aggressive and polite inquiry.

Phonologically, the sentence-final H% is on the final syllable of the polar question, regardless of whether that syllable carries lexical stress. For example, consider the following declarative sentence and its polar question form (7a). Morphologically, the sentence consists of a verb in a non-finite form, plus a cliticized auxiliary. In the declarative, lexical stress and nuclear stress H* are on the last syllable of the verb, while the clitic is unstressed and carries L%.

- (7) a. *Declarative V-Aux with lexical stress on the V*

- i. $\widehat{\text{tsəχ-um}}$ =e-s\downarrow (SEA)
 ii. $\widehat{\text{tsəχ-um}}$ =e-s\downarrow (IA)
 smoke-IMPF.CVB AUX-2SG
 ‘You smoke.’
 Մխում էս:
- b. *Polar question*
- i. $\widehat{\text{tsəχ-um}}\nearrow$ =e-s\downarrow (SEA)
 ii. $\widehat{\text{tsəχ-um}}$ =e-s\nearrow (IA)
 smoke-IMPF.CVB AUX-2SG
 ‘Do you smoke?’
 Մխում էս:

In the polar form, the Standard Eastern version simply makes the nuclear stress more prominent, while the clitic keeps its L% tone. But in Iranian Armenian, sentence-final H% is placed on the clitic. The proximity of H% and the verb causes the verb to lose its nuclear stress. We show a pitch track for these sentences in Figure 2.8 from NK and AT.

2 Phonology

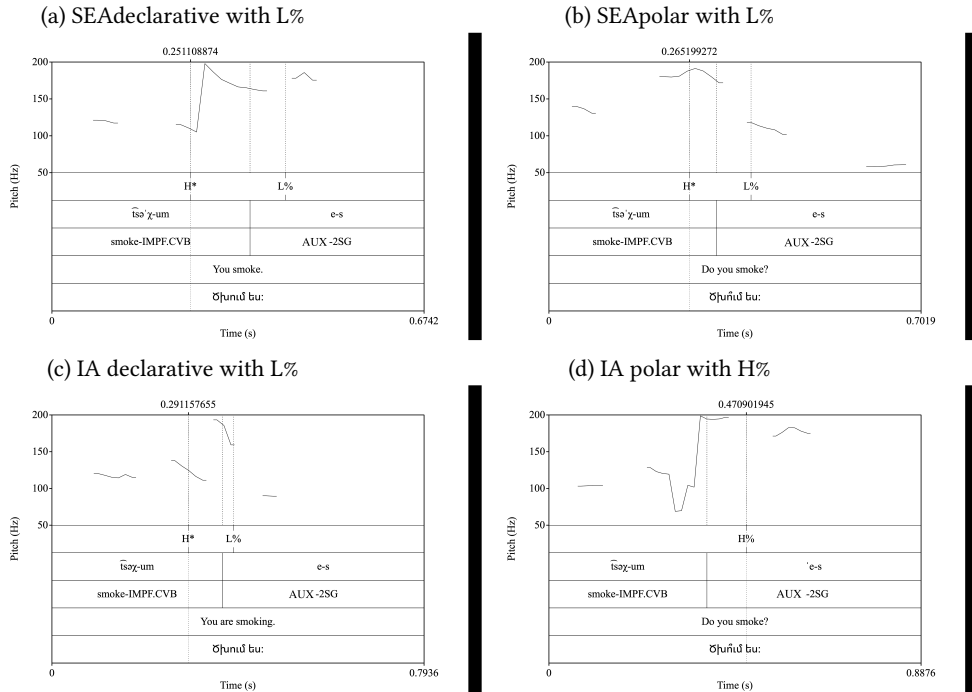


Figure 2.8: Pitch track of declarative (7a) and polar question (7b) in Standard Eastern (SEA) and Iranian Armenian (IA)

Such lengthening and rising are also found in *wh*-questions (8). In a subject *wh*-question in the present tense, the subject is replaced by the *wh*-word, takes nuclear stress, and is cliticized with the inflected auxiliary. There is a significant rise on the *wh*-word. The sentence ends with a falling intonation in Standard Eastern (Johnson 1954: 15). For Iranian Armenian, the sentence can end in a falling intonation in casual speech. However, speakers can also apply a sentence-final rise in order to indicate a degree of politeness.

(8) Subject *wh*-question

- a. $\underline{ov} \nearrow =e$ $girk^h$ $kart^h-um \searrow$ (SEA)
 Ո՞վ է գիրք կարդում:
- b. $\underline{ov} \nearrow =D$ $gi:k^h$ $kd:t^h-um \searrow$ (IA - Casual)
- c. $\underline{ov} \nearrow =D$ $gi:k^h$ $kd:t^h-um \nearrow$ (IA - Polite)
 who =AUX book read-IMPF.CVB
 ‘Who is reading books?’
 Ո՞վ ա գիրք կարդում:

Figure 2.10 shows the recordings for the above wh-question, one with a final fall L%, and one with a final rise H%. Data is from NK. She at first produced the falling sentence, but in subsequent elicitations preferred the rising sentence.

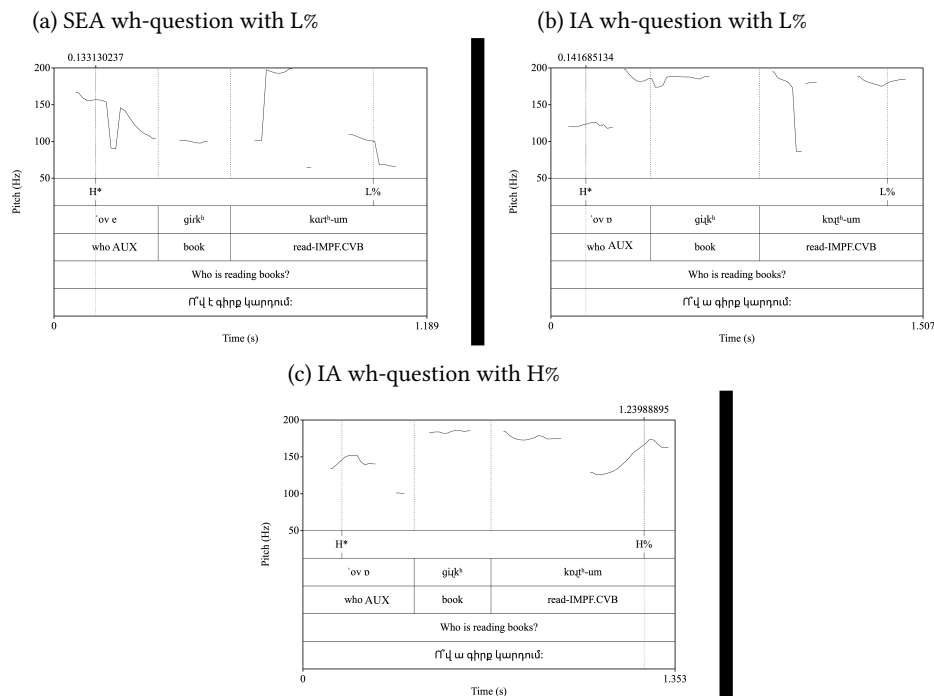


Figure 2.10: Pitch track of wh-question from (8) with a final fall (8-a,b) or with a final rise (8-c) in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

In Persian, wh-questions likewise end in falling intonation (Sadat-Tehrani 2011: 118). Such questions can undergo a final rise and lengthening in order to indicate politeness, curiosity, or a sense of not asserting the question (Sadat-Tehrani, p.c.). The use of a final rise in wh-questions seems to have become somewhat grammaticalized in Iranian Armenian. For example, NK produced some wh-questions with final rises, and some wh-questions with final falls. But she more often used final rises than final falls. More data is however needed to establish the frequency of using sentence-final rises vs. falls in wh-questions across multiple speakers.

Finally, recall that Standard Eastern Armenian is used by the Armenian community in Iran as a formal register. It is possible that a contributing factor to the intonational difference between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian is the fact that Persian utilizes lower pitch in formal contexts (Falahati 2020). Thus,

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Iranian Armenian might have grammaticalized the use of sentence-final rises in order to further reinforce the sociolinguistic distinction between formal Standard Eastern and informal Iranian Armenian.

In sum, Iranian Armenian has adopted aspects of Persian intonation. Such aspects are not due to code switching. It seems that in general, Iranian Armenian speakers born in the diaspora (like NK) do not acquire Persian at the home.

3 Morphophonology

In terms of the interaction between morphology and phonology, we go over morphologically-induced phonological processes (§3.1), phonologically-conditioned allomorphy (§3.2), and a phonosyntactic process that references both phonology and syntax (§3.3).

3.1 Morphophonological alternations

Besides general phonology, Armenian dialects show various morphophonological rules which operate at morpheme boundaries. This includes root-initial glide insertion (§3.1.1), vowel hiatus repair under suffixation/cliticization (§3.1.2), and high vowel vowel reduction under suffixation (§3.1.3).

In general, morphophonological processes that are attested in Standard Eastern Armenian are also attested in Iranian Armenian. But in the judgments of KM, “phonological changes at morpheme boundaries are becoming simpler in Iranian Armenian.” This ‘simplicity’ suggests that such processes apply less often in Iranian Armenian than in Standard Eastern Armenian. For an overview of such morphophonological processes in Standard Eastern and Western Armenian, see Vaux (1998b: ch1) and Dolatian (2020: ch2).

3.1.1 Root-initial glide insertion

Armenian is primarily suffixing, and there are few morphophonological rules that are sensitive to prefix boundaries. The most noticeable process is root-initial ‘diphthongization’ or glide-insertion.

The Classical Armenian grapheme *t* was a mid vowel *e* (Macak 2017). In the diachronic development from Classical Armenian to modern Armenian, this grapheme later underwent root-initial glide insertion (Weitenberg 2008). For example in Standard Eastern Armenian, the word-initial pronunciation of this grapheme is [je] (Table 3.1). In Standard Eastern, the glide is prescriptively supposed to delete after inflectional prefixes like the synthetic future *k-* and negative *tʃⁿ-*, but the retention of the glide has become more common in Colloquial Eastern Armenian (Dum-Tragut 2009: 15). For Iranian Armenian, the retention seems obligatory

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based on our elicitations, at least for NK and her family. Note how these prefixes trigger schwa epenthesis before a consonant.

Table 3.1: Root-initial glide insertion from NK

	SEA	IA		
երգել	jerk ^h -e-l	je.ɫk ^h -e-l	√ ⁻ -TH-INF	‘to sing’
երգեմ	jerk ^h -e-m	je.ɫk ^h -e-m	√ ⁻ -TH-1SG	‘I sing (subj.)’
կերգեմ	k-erk ^h -e-m		FUT-√ ⁻ -TH-1SG	‘I will sing’
չերգեմ	kə-jerk ^h -e-m	kə-je.ɫk ^h -e-m	NEG-√ ⁻ -TH-1SG	‘I don’t sing (subj.)’
	tʃ ^h -erk ^h -e-m	tʃ ^h ə-je.ɫk ^h -e-m		

However, there are some lexemes which have the initial <#t> [#je] in Standard Eastern Armenian, but where the glide is lost in Iranian Armenian (Table 3.2). For some of these lexemes, Colloquial Eastern Armenian also has dialectal forms without the glide. The loss of the glide in Iranian Armenian is likely a sporadic and idiosyncratic diachronic process because the relevant lexemes are high-frequency words, and oftentimes function words.¹

Table 3.2: Loss of initial glides in Iranian Armenian

	SEA	IA	
երեկ	jerek ~ erek	e.ɫek, e.ɫek	‘yesterday’
երթալ	jert ^h al ~ ert ^h al ~ et ^h al	e.ɫt ^h ɔl ~ et ^h ɔl	‘to go’
երկու	jerku ~ erku	e.ɫku	‘two’
եփել	jep ^h el ~ ep ^h el	ep ^h el	‘to cook’
ելնել	jelnel ~ elnel	elnel	‘to rise’ (SEA); ‘to be’ (IA)
ելլել	jekel ~ ekel	ekel ~ eke.ɫ	‘to come (RPTCP)’

For the words that show this glide-zero change, they are all polysyllabic. We have found monosyllabic words that have an invariant glide, such as [je.p^h] ‘when’ երբ and [je.ɫk^h] ‘song’ երգ. But we haven’t been able to find monosyllabic roots where the glide is deleted. It’s possible that glide deletion is only allowed in polysyllabic roots.

When glide insertion applies word-initially, the orthographic convention is to write the word with an initial letter <t>. When the glide is absent, the convention

¹For the word ‘yesterday’ in Iranian Armenian, NK and her family tend to say this word as [e.ɫeg], while KM and AS report [e.ɫek].

is to use the letter <փ>. For example, the word ‘to cook’ with a glide [jep^hel] is spelled ԷփԷլ, while the glide-less form [ep^hel] is spelled ԷփԷլ.

A related process is how the letters ո, օ are pronounced [vo, o] root-initially, but both as [o] root-medially (Table 3.3). For the letter ո, it seems that this letter is always pronounced as [vo] word-initially in both monosyllables and polysyllables. In Standard Eastern Armenian, a root-initial and word-medial [vo] changes to [o] in prefixation, but Colloquial Eastern Armenian and Iranian Armenian prefer keeping this root-initial [vo] as [vo] (Dum-Tragut 2009: 16). But more data is needed to verify these tendencies.

Table 3.3: Maintaining initial [v] in Iranian Armenian

	SEA	CEA	IA	
նսս	vosp	vosp	vosp	‘lentil’
որոշել	vorofel	vorofel	vo.ʁofel	‘to decide’
որոշել	k-oroʃem	kə-voroʃem	kə-vo.ʁofem	‘I will decide’

3.1.2 Vowel hiatus repair

Within the word, vowel-vowel sequences (vowel hiatus) are typically repaired, such as via [j] epenthesis or by changing [u] to [v]. Iranian Armenian seems to utilize all the vowel hiatus repair rules that are used by Standard Eastern. Iranian Armenian is however innovative in that it can also epenthesize a [w] glide.

Across the stem-inflection boundary in Standard Eastern Armenian, pre-vocalic /i/ tends to delete (1a) while pre-vocalic /u/ tends to de-vocalize or change to [v] (1b). Less common strategies are to epenthesize a glide [j] in these contexts. The following data uses the instrumental suffix /-ov/.

(1) /u/ devocalization and /i/ deletion in vowel hiatus

	SEA	IA		
a.	ɑjgi	ɑjgi	‘garden’	ɑjɑɸ
	ɑjg-ov	ɑjg-ov	‘garden-INS’	ɑjɑɸɸ
	ɑjgi-jov	ɑjgi-jov		ɑjɑɸɸɸ
b.	lezu	lezu	‘tongue’	lɛɑɸ
	lezv-ov	lezv-ov	‘tongue-INS’	lɛɑɸɸ (Reformed), lɛɑɸɸɸ (Classical)
	lezu-jov	lezu-jov		lɛɑɸɸɸ

In KM’s judgments for pre-vocalic /u/, Iranian Armenian utilizes /u/-devocalization and /i/ deletion less often than Standard Eastern, while Iranian Armenian utilizes /j/-insertion more often than Standard Eastern.

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Unlike Standard Eastern, Iranian Armenian utilizes [w] insertion to repair vowel hiatus in a cliticized /u=V/ sequence (2). Inserting a glide *w* is obligatory if the /u/ is part of the future converb. The second vowel is part of the inflected auxiliary, and the vowel can be /e, ɒ, i/. We provide stress markings to reinforce the fact that the final vowel is a clitic. We don't provide a finer segmentation for the auxiliary.

- (2) *[w] insertion for cliticized future converbs*
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| /je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u=e-m/ | je.ɫk ^h e.'lu.wem | 'I will sing'
երգելու եմ |
| /je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u=i.ɫ/ | je.ɫk ^h e.'lu.wi.ɫ | 'you were going to sing'
երգելու իր |
| /je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u=ɒ/ | je.ɫk ^h e.'lu.wɒ | 'he will sing'
երգելու ա |
| √-TH-INF-FUT.CVB=AUX | | |

Rule 1 is a rule for vowel hiatus repair in the future converb.

Rule 1. Morpheme-specific rule of *w-epenthesis*

$$\emptyset \rightarrow [w] \quad / u_1 _ V_2$$

where /u₁/ is future converb suffix,
and /V₂/ is the auxiliary

Insertion of *w* is also attested outside of the future converb (3). When an enclitic is attached to a /u/-final noun, the typical vowel hiatus repair rule is to insert [j]. But NK and AS report that [w] insertion is also possible.

- (3) *[w] insertion outside of the future converb*
- a. /kɒtu=e-m/
kɒ.'tu.jem or kɒ.'tu.wem
cat=AUX-1SG
'I am a cat.'
Կառու եմ:
 - b. /kɒtu=eɫ=e-m/
kɒ.'tu.je.lem or kɒ.'tu.we.lem
cat=also=AUX-1SG
'I am also a cat.'
Կառու էլ եմ:

It is possible that Iranian Armenian innovated a rule of *w*-insertion because of contact with Persian. Persian allows various types of vowel hiatus repair rules (Ariyae & Jurgec 2021: 3). One such rule is inserting the glide [w] after a back vowel /u/ (Dehghan & Kambuziya 2012: 20).

3.1.3 Destressed high vowel reduction

Armenian utilizes a process of destressed high vowel reduction (Vaux 1998b; Khanjian 2009; Dolatian 2020, 2021a). When a root undergoes suffixation, regular final stress typically shifts to the suffix (Table 3.4). In Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian, destressed high vowels from the root reduce before derivational suffixes, but generally not before consonant-initial inflectional suffixes. Some words exceptionally reduce before the consonant-initial *-neɹ*.²

Table 3.4: Destressed high vowel reduction

SEA	IA		
amu'sin	ɔmu'sin	'husband'	ամուսին
amusn-u ^h jun	ɔmusn-u ^h jun	'marriage'	ամուսնութիւն
amusin'-ner	ɔmusin'-neɹ	'husbands'	ամուսիններ
'skizb	'skizb	'beginning'	սկիզբ
skizb'-ner	skizb'-neɹ	'beginnings'	սկիզբներ
skəzb'-ner	skəzb'-neɹ	'beginnings'	սկզբներ

Before vowel-initial inflectional suffixes, the tendency in Standard Eastern Armenian is for reduction to apply (4). For Iranian Armenian, KM feels that reduction applies less often in this context than in Standard Eastern.

(4) Variation in vowel reduction before V-initial inflection

- a. kɔm'uɪdʒ 'bridge' կամուրջ
 kɔmuɪdʒ-its^h 'bridge-ABL' կամուրջից
 kɔmɔɪdʒ-its^h կամրջից
- b. jeɹkiɹ 'world' երկիր
 jeɹkiɹ-um 'world-LOC' երկիրում
 jeɹk'ɹ-um երկրում
- c. 'tun 'house' տուն
 tu'n-um 'house-LOC' տունում
 tə'n-um տնում

Before vowel-initial inflectional suffixes, there is widespread cross-dialectal and lexical variation in the application of high vowel reduction (Ղարազյուլյան 1974, Մարգարյան 1997). For an overview, see Dum-Tragut (2009: 41ff) and Dolatian (2021a: ch2.7).

²See footnote 14 on the difference in the pronunciation of the suffix suffix /-u^hjun/.

3.2 Phonologically-conditioned allomorphy

This section goes over some examples of phonologically-conditioned allomorphy in Iranian Armenian. These include syllable-counting allomorphy of the plural suffix (§3.2.1), schwa-zero and schwa-nasal alternations for the possessive and definite suffixes (§3.2.2), and variable voicing assimilation in the synthetic future prefixes (§3.2.3)

3.2.1 Syllable counting allomorphy of the plural suffix

For the plural, the regular suffix is *-eɹ* for monosyllabic bases, and *-neɹ* for polysyllabic bases (Vaux 2003, Dolatian 2021b). This is a relatively straightforward case of syllable-counting allomorphy, as a form of phonologically-conditioned allomorphy (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Distribution of regular plural suffixes

Monosyllabic			Polysyllabic		
bɔr	‘word’	բառ	senjɔk	‘room’	սենեակ
bɔr-eɹ	‘words’	բառեր	senjɔk-neɹ	‘rooms’	սենեակներ

Words that have only one syllable and the appendix *-k^h* count as monosyllabic for plural-counting (Table 3.6). Words with an initial appendix */s/* + a syllable are treated as polysyllabic.

Table 3.6: Pluralization of exceptional syllable structures

syllable + <i>/-k^h/</i>			<i>/s/</i> + syllable		
pɔ.ɹtk ^h	‘debt’	պարտք	skizb	‘beginning’	սկիզբ
pɔ.ɹtk ^h -eɹ	‘debts’	պարտքեր	skizb-neɹ	‘beginnings’	սկիզբներ
			skəzb-neɹ		սկզբներ
ku.ɹtsk ^h	‘breast’	կուրծք			
ku.ɹtsk ^h -eɹ	‘breasts’	կուրծքեր			

3.2.2 Schwa alternations in the determiner slot

In nominal inflection, the determiner slot is occupied by either a possessive suffix or a definite suffix. Both types of suffixes display allomorphy conditioned by

3.2 Phonologically-conditioned allomorphy

consonant- vs. vowel-final stems. The definite suffix likewise displays outwardly-conditioned allomorphy to subsequent vowels.

The possessive suffixes are *-s*, *-t* for vowel-final bases. A schwa is epenthesized after consonant-final bases (Table 3.7). The epenthetic schwa is maintained between a C-final base and a V-initial clitic.

Table 3.7: Allomorphy in possessive marking

No epenthesis after V-final base			
kɔtu		‘cat’	կատու
kɔtu-s	cat-POSS.1SG	‘my cat’	կատուս
kɔtu-s=el	cat-POSS.1SG=also	‘also my cat’	կատուս է
kɔtu-t	cat-POSS.2SG	‘your cat’	կատուդ
kɔtu-t=el	cat-POSS.2SG=also	‘also your cat’	կատուդ էլ
Schwa epenthesis after C-final base			
gʊmɔɹ		‘amount’	գումար
gʊmɔɹ-əs	amount-POSS.1SG	‘my amount’	գումարս
gʊmɔɹ-əs=el	amount-POSS.1SG=also	‘also my amount’	գումարս էլ
gʊmɔɹ-ət	amount-POSS.2SG	‘your amount’	գումարդ
gʊmɔɹ-ət=el	amount-POSS.2SG=also	‘also your amount’	գումարդ էլ

The definite suffix has three allomorphs: *-ə*, *-n*, *-ən* (Table 3.8). The choice of suffix is conditioned by the preceding segment and the following segment. When there is no following segment, the suffix is *-n* after vowel-final bases, but *-ə* after consonant-final stems.

Table 3.8: Forms of the definite suffix in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	SEA	IA			
	kɑ'tu	kɔ'tu		‘cat’	կատու
V_	kɑ'tu-n	kɔ'tu-n	cat-DEF	‘the cat’	կատուն
V_V	kɑ'tu-n=el	kɔ'tu-n=el	cat-DEF=also'	‘also the cat’	կատուն էլ
	kɑ'tu-n=e	kɔ'tu-n=ɒ	cat-DEF=AUX'	‘is the cat’	կատուն է/ա
	gʊ'mɑr	gʊ'mɔɹ		‘amount’	գումար
C_	gʊ'mɑr-ə	gʊ'mɔɹ-ə	amount-DEF	‘the amount’	գումարը
C_V	gʊ'mɑr-n=el	gʊ'mɔɹ-ən=el	amount-DEF=also	‘also the amount’	գումարն էլ
	gʊ'mɑr-n=e	gʊ'mɔɹ-ən=ɒ	amount-DEF=AUX	‘is the amount’	գումարն է/ա

The lects differ when the definite suffix is between a C-final base and V-initial clitic (5). In this context, Standard Eastern Armenian uses the *-n* form of the definite. In Iranian Armenian, the form is *-ən*. More examples are shown below.

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(5) *Other examples of the /-ən/ form before clitics in Iranian Armenian*

'mɔ.tʰ-ən=ɔ	man-DEF=AUX	'(he) is the man'	մարդն ա
'iŋkʰ-ən=ɔ	he-DEF=AUX	'it is he'	ինքն ա
dɔ'no.k-ən=ɔ	knife-DEF=AUX	(it) is the knife'	դանակն ա

Iranian Armenian also uses the *-ən* form between a C-final word and a V-initial word (6).

(6) *Use of -ən before a V-initial word*

- a. 'iŋkʰ-ən iɹ
 him-DEF he.GEN
 'himself' (KM)
 ինքն իր
- b. mɔ.tʰ-ən ɔ.tʰn-ɔ-tsʰ-ɔ-v
 man-DEF wake.up-LV-AOR-PST-3SG
 'The man woke up.' (KM)
 Մարդն արթնացաւ:

The form [ən] is attested in colloquial Western Armenian speech (Dolatian 2022a), so it is likely that Iranian Armenian developed its [ən] via language-internal grammaticalization. BV also reports that he's come across [ən] forms in published texts from some Iran-adjacent areas such as Astrakhan (Ախսվերդեան 1852: 121)³ which has had close trade connections with Armenians in New Julfa, Isfahan. It is an open question how widespread this [ən] form is for Iranian communities outside of Tehran.⁴

Note that prosodic phrasing and pauses can block the use of the *-ən* form between a C-final word and V-initial word (7). For example, in the sentence below, it is common to have a pause between the subject and the object. The presence of a pause blocks the *-ən* form.

- (7) dʒɔn-ə indz mɔkʰɹ-ɔ-v
 John-DEF me.dat clean-PST-3SG
 'John cleaned me.' (NK)
 Ջոնը ինձ մաքրաւ:

³See the accessible page at [Google Books](#).

⁴Stevick (1955) documents a speaker from Tabriz/Tehran who seems to largely speak in Standard Eastern Armenian, such as by not using the suffix /-m/ for the aorist 1SG (p.19). But this speaker does show minor traces of Iranian Armenian morphophonology, such as by using the definite suffix /-ən/ (p.3,27).

In sum, the shape of the definite suffix is sensitive to the type of the preceding and following segment and to prosodic pauses. This amounts to a case of phrasal allomorphy that is outwardly-sensitive. Such phenomena are cross-linguistically rare (Paster 2006). For an analysis of the definite suffix in Iranian Armenian and other Armenian lects, see Dolatian (2022a).

3.2.3 Voicing assimilation in the synthetic future prefix

There are reports of limited phonologically-conditioned allomorphy for the synthetic future prefix. See §6.5.3 for a morphological description of this prefix.

Some speakers seem to have this process, some do not. The process resembles a mildly long-distance assimilation process whereby velar stops in a /CV-C/ context can assimilate in voice. For some speakers this process is limited to a few or no lexical items, while for others it's more widespread.

The synthetic future prefix is underlyingly /k-/ (8a). Before a consonant, schwa epenthesis resolves the consonant cluster. Before a voiced velar stop [g], AS reports that the prefix assimilates to [gə-] for some speakers (8b). However, one consultant (NK) does not produce any alternation (8c) Though for the word *gvm* 'I come', NK's family reports variable voicing changes (8d).

- (8) *Voicing assimilation for synthetic future prefix /k-/*
- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| a. | k-ւլքօնոմ | 'I will be happy' | կուրախանամ |
| | kə-tesnem | 'I will see' | կը տեսնեմ |
| b. | From AS's contacts | | |
| | gə-gəւem | 'I will write' | կը գրեմ |
| | gə-gvm | 'I will come' | կը գամ |
| c. | From NK | | |
| | kə-kəւt ^h ոմ | 'I will read' | կը կարդամ |
| | kə-gəւem | 'I will write' | կը գրեմ |
| | kə-k ^h ənem | 'I will sleep' | կը քնեմ |
| d. | From NK's family | | |
| | kə-gvm | 'I will come' | կը գամ |
| | gə-gvm | 'I will come' | |
| | gə-kոմ | 'I will come' | |

The cognate of this prefix assimilates in voicing and aspiration to a root-initial consonant in many varieties of modern Armenian, including Ararat (the set of varieties to which the Yerevan dialect belongs; Մարկոսյան 1989: 150) Goris (Մարգարյան 1975), Karabakh (Աճառեան 1911: 68), New Nakhichevan (Աճառեան

1925, Աճառյան 1961: 85), and in Iran in Maragha (Աճառյան 1926: 273-274) and New Julfa (Vaux 1997, 1998a, 1998b: 39, 215ff; Աճառյան 1940: §287, translated in Vaux in prep: 287). It is possible that the traces of this process in (Tehrani) Iranian Armenian ultimately come from one of these Iranian varieties.

3.3 Phonosyntax: Auxiliary-induced segment deletion

We examine the behavior of the final segment of the perfective converb suffix: *-el* or *-eɫ*. This phenomenon is the most complex morphophonological process that we describe in this grammar, because it involves syntax-phonology interactions. Phonologically, this segment can delete in different morphosyntactic contexts. To make this segment surface, we find that the ultimate conditioning factor is syntactic and long-distance. This factor is that the suffix has to precede the auxiliary ‘to be’ within the same clause or verb phrase. The suffix and auxiliary can be adjacent or non-adjacent.

This section focuses on describing as much as we can about this suffix’s behavior. This process counts as a phonosyntactic or syntax-sensitive phonological process (perhaps syntax-sensitive allomorphy) because of the deep interaction between the phonology and syntax. We postpone a complete theoretical analysis to future work.

We go over some basics of Armenian syntax, with regards to the mobile auxiliary (§3.3.1). We then discuss the basic data on liquid deletion in §3.3.2. Long-distance factors are examined in §3.3.3. An identical deletion process is attested from irregular imperfectives (§3.3.4). We discuss the diachronic origin of liquid deletion from Standard Eastern Armenian (§3.3.5).

Note that there are other Armenian lects in Iran which alternate in the form of the perfective converb suffix based on whether the auxiliary is to the right vs. the left of the verb.⁵ For Tehrani Iranian Armenian, this difference manifests in the presence/absence of the final liquid: *V-el/eɫ* vs. *V-e*. But in Iran, there are other Armenian lects where the difference is manifested in using a completely different allomorph for the alternating suffix. For example in Salmast (Vaux 2022b: 53), the pre-auxiliary form of the imperfective converb is *V-s*, while the post-auxiliary form is *V-li*. Other such dialects include Urmia (Ղարիբյան 1941: 275). It is an open question whether all the generalizations for Tehrani Armenian likewise extend to these other Armenian varieties of this sort.

⁵The alternation is also attested in Armenian lects that developed outside of Iran, such as the Karin or Erzurum dialect which developed in modern-day Turkey (Bezrukov 2022: 120).

3.3.1 Background on the mobile auxiliary

Before we discuss the main morphophonological process, we overview the basic features of Iranian Armenian syntax. We focus on the use of converbs and the mobile auxiliary. The syntactic data has been discussed in previous works on Standard Eastern Armenian, but previous analyses extend to Iranian Armenian (Comrie 1984, Kahnemuyipour & Megerdooimian 2011, 2017).

Like in Standard Eastern Armenian, many verbal tenses are marked by periphrasis. For example, the present indicative is marked by using the form of the verb that we call the ‘imperfective converb’ (9). Tense and agreement is marked on the auxiliary ‘to be’. See §6.3.1 for full morphological paradigms.

- (9) a. *jes gi.ɫk^h-ə gə.ɫ-um =e-m*
 I book-DEF write-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG
 ‘I am writing the book.’ (NK)
 Ես գիրքը գրում եմ:
- b. *du gi.ɫk^h-ə kp.ɫ^h-um =e-s*
 you book-DEF read-IMPF.CVB AUX-2SG
 ‘You are reading the book.’ (NK)
 Դու գիրքը կարդում ես:

Throughout this section we underline the relevant converb form. We highlight the auxiliary. We mark the nuclear stress of the sentence via boldface, and this information is quite relevant to the syntax of the auxiliary. In the above sentences, nuclear stress is on the verb.

Note that the auxiliary is phonologically cliticized to the word to its left, i.e., the converb. Evidence is that the auxiliary is syllabified with the converb: [gə.ɫu.mem] ‘I am writing’. In terms of stress, the auxiliary is an unstressed clitic in general (§2.2.2).⁶

In the simple sentences above, the auxiliary is by default after the verb. However, in more complex types of sentences, we find that this auxiliary can shift or move leftwards. Hosts for the mobile clitic include negation (10).

- (10) *jes gi.ɫk^h-ə tʃ^h =e-m gə.ɫ-um*
 I book-DEF NEG=AUX-1SG write-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I am not writing the book.’ (NK)
 Ես գիրքը չեմ գրում:

⁶The auxiliary takes stress when it’s negated, as seen in (10).

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Negation is marked by using the prefix tj^h . When the verb is periphrastic, the negation prefix is placed directly before the verb, and then the auxiliary moves leftwards and attaches to the prefix. The prefix-auxiliary combination acts as its own phonological word, and carries the nuclear stress of the sentence.

Another context for leftward movement involves bare objects. In the above sentences, the object of the verb is definite and resists taking nuclear stress. But if the object lacks any morphological markers for definiteness or indefiniteness, then the object is considered bare, takes nuclear stress, and takes the auxiliary (11).

- (11) jes $gi\dot{t}k^h$ **=e-m** $gə\dot{t}$ -um
 I book =AUX-1SG write-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I am writing books.’ (NK)
 Ես գիրք եմ գրում:

For descriptions and analyses of bare objects in other Armenian lects, see Standard Eastern (Comrie 1984, Megerdooimian 2009, Yeghiazaryan 2010, Crum 2020) and Standard Western (Sigler 1997, Sağ 2019, Kalomoiros 2022)

Another context is narrow focus. If a word has narrow focus and precedes the verb, then the auxiliary moves and attaches to that focused word (12).

- (12) a. jes $gi\dot{t}k^h$ -ə**n** **=e-m** $gə\dot{t}$ -um
 I book-DEF =be-1SG write-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I am writing THE BOOK.’ (NK)
 Ես գիրքն եմ գրում:
- b. jes **=e-m** $gi\dot{t}k^h$ -ə $gə\dot{t}$ -um
 I =AUX-1SG book-DEF write-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I am writing the book.’ (NK)
 Ես եմ գիրքը գրում:
- c. $eso\dot{t}$ **=e-m** $gi\dot{t}k^h$ -ə $gə\dot{t}$ -um
 today =AUX-1SG book-DEF write-IMPF.CVB
 ‘TODAY, I am writing the book.’ (NK)
 Էսօր եմ գիրքը գրում:

It is obvious that there are strong correlations between auxiliary movement and nuclear stress. Essentially, the auxiliary moves to the pre-verbal phrase that carries nuclear stress. Such correlations have been modeled in the past with

various frameworks and analyses (Tamrazian 1994, Megerdooonian 2009, Kahnemuyipour 2009, Kahnemuyipour & Megerdooonian 2011, 2017, Giorgi & Haroutyunian 2016, Hodgson 2019a). We do not analyze or provide a larger catalog of contexts for auxiliary movement. For our purposes, we focus on the effects of auxiliary movement on converbs.

3.3.2 Non-constant form of the perfective converb

Having overviewed the syntax of auxiliaries, this section shows how auxiliary movement interacts with the morphophonology of the perfective converb suffix.

The imperfective converb suffix *-um* is phonologically constant. Its segments never delete or change, regardless of whether the suffix precedes the auxiliary or not. In contrast, the perfective converb is formed with the suffix *-el* or *-eɬ*. The liquid deletes when the auxiliary has moved.

When the perfective converb suffix precedes the auxiliary, some speakers produce this suffix as *-el*, some as *-eɬ*, and some as either (13). The choice of liquid varies by speaker and generation. For consistency, we mostly use the *-eɬ* form in this chapter because HD's main consultant NK preferred it.

- (13) *jes giɬk^h-ə ɡəɬ-el/eɬ =e-m*
 I book-DEF write-PERF.CVB =AUX-1SG
 'I have written the book.' (NK)
 Ես գիրքը գրել եմ:
 Ես գիրքը գրեի եմ:

When the auxiliary is attached to the suffix, the auxiliary is syllabified with the suffix: [ɡə..ɬe.ləm] or [ɡə..ɬe..ɬem].

When the auxiliary shifts leftwards, the perfective converb suffix loses its liquid (14). We find deletion in configurations involving negation (14a), bare objects (14b), or narrow focus (14c-14d), among others.

- (14) a. *jes giɬk^h-ə tʃⁿ=e-m ɡəɬ-e*
 I book-DEF NEG=AUX-1SG write-PERF.CVB
 'I have not written the book.' (NK)
 Ես գիրքը չեմ գրել:
 b. *jes giɬk^h =e-m ɡəɬ-e*
 I book =AUX-1SG write-PERF.CVB
 'I have written books.' (NK)
 Ես գիրք եմ գրել:

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- c. **jes =e-m** giɫk^h-ə gəɫ-e
 I AUX-1SG book-DEF write-PERF.CVB
 ‘I have written the book.’ (NK)
 Ես եմ գիրքը գրէ:
- d. **esoɫ =e-m** giɫk^h-ə gəɫ-e
 today AUX-1SG book-DEF write-PERF.CVB
 ‘**TODAY**, I have written the book.’ (NK)
 Էսօր եմ գիրքը գրէ:

Note that in the above sentences, the final liquid of the suffix has deleted. NK sometimes would produce sentences where the deleted liquid was replaced with what HD and NK heard as an [h]. However, this [h] was so weak that it may be an extragrammatical sentence-final voiceless interval rather than an allomorph of the underlying final liquid.

As we discuss in §6.3.2, the perfective converb is analyzable as a suffix /e<ɫ>/ or /-e<l>/ with a floating segment. This segment surfaces based on the location of the auxiliary.

Auxiliary movement and liquid deletion is quite common in answers to wh-questions which naturally create narrow focus, as the following set of questions and answers illustrate (15). Focus is on the wh-word *intj^h* in the question (15a), and on the focused word ‘song’ in the answer (15a). Because the verb is encliticized, the final liquid is either dropped or pronounced as [h]. It seems that the choice of deletion vs. [h] is unpredictable and to random chance.

- (15) a. **intj^h =e-s** jeɫk^h-e(h)
 what =AUX-2SG sing-PERF.CVB
 ‘What have you sung?’ (NK)
 Ինչ ես երգէ:
- b. **jes es jeɫk^h-ən =e-m** jeɫk^h-e(h)
 I this song-DEF =AUX-1SG sing-PERF.CVB
 ‘I have song this song.’ (NK)
 Ես չս երգս եմ երգէ:

The deletion of the liquid is not a prosodic process. It is not conditioned by the sentence-final pause. For example, in the following ditransitive constructions (16), the verb is between two noun phrases in a focus-neutral declarative sentence (16a). In the corresponding interrogative sentence, the auxiliary moves leftward and is placed on the wh-word. The verb can be sentence-final (16b) or sentence-medial (16c). In both cases, the verb lacks a final liquid.

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- (16) a. es gi.ɬk^h-ə təv-e.ɬ =e-m dʒon-i-n
 this book-DEF give-PERF.CVB =AUX-1SG John-DAT-DEF
 ‘I have given this book to John.’ (NK)
 Էս գիրքը տուեր էմ Ջոնին:
- b. es gi.ɬk^h-ə um-i-n =e-s təv-e
 this book-DEF who-DAT-DEF AUX-2SG give-PERF.CVB
 ‘Who have you given this book to?’ (NK)
 Էս գիրքը ումին ես տուէ:
- c. um-i-n =e-s təv-e es gi.ɬk^h-ə
 who-DAT-DEF =AUX-2SG give-PERF.CVB this book-DEF
 ‘Who have you given this book to?’ (NK)
 Ումին ես տուէ Էս գիրքը:

In (16c) the post-verbal word starts with a vowel /e/, but this vowel does not block liquid deletion. Vowel hiatus between the suffix [-e] and the subsequent word [es] ‘this’ is not repaired by glide epenthesis. In our recordings, we notice a very slight transitional glide: [... təv-e¹es..].

When a word is focused, the most typical situation is to place the focused word before the verb (17a). In this case, the auxiliary shifts onto the focused word. The direct object is optional and can be added at the end of the sentence. If the sentence is negated (17b), we again find auxiliary shift and liquid deletion. Thus, the uncliticized verb surfaces without the final liquid, regardless of whether it is sentence-medial or sentence-final (17a).

- (17) a. jes dʒon-i-n =e-m təv-e (es gi.ɬk^h-ə)
 I John-DAT-DEF =AUX-1SG give-PERF.CVB this book-DEF
 ‘I have given this book to JOHN.’ (NK, KM)
 Ես Ջոնին էմ տուէ (Էս գիրքը):
- b. jes dʒon-i-n tʃ^h=e-m təv-e (es gi.ɬk^h-ə)
 I John-DAT-DEF NEG=AUX-1SG give-PERF.CVB this book-DEF
 ‘I have not given this book to John.’ (NK, KM)
 Ես Ջոնին էմ տուէ (Էս գիրքը):

An alternative construction places the focused answer after the verb (18). In this case, the auxiliary does not shift leftwards and it remains cliticized to the verb. Thus, the verb surfaces with a liquid.⁷

⁷Note that the auxiliary can never move rightward from the verb. That is, we cannot have a construction like V+X+Aux.

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- (18) es gi.ɬk^h-ə təv-e.ɬ =e-m dʒon-i-n
 this book-DEF give-PERF.CVB =AUX-1SG John-DAT-DEF
 ‘I have given this book to JOHN.’ (NK)
 Էս գիրքը տուեր եմ Ջոնին:

Similarly, the following question-answer set again shows that the uncliticized converb loses its liquid in sentence-medial position (19).

- (19) a. je.ɬp^h =e-s gi.ɬk^h-ə təv-e dʒon-i-n
 when =AUX-2SG book-DEF give-PERF.CVB John-DAT-DEF
 ‘When have you given John the book.’ (NK)
 Երբ ես գիրքը տուի Ջոնին:
- b. jes eso.ɬ =e-m təv-e dʒon-i-n
 I today =AUX-1SG give-PERF.CVB John-DAT-DEF
 ‘I have given it to John TODAY.’ (NK)
 Ես էսօր եմ տուի Ջոնին:

AS’s fieldwork likewise reports the deletion of the liquid in uncliticized converbs, and the retention of the liquid in cliticized forms (20),

- (20) a. vo.ɬteɔ =e-s tsən-v-e
 where =AUX-2SG birth-PASS-PERF.CVB
 ‘Where were you born?’ (AS)
 Որտեղ ես ծնուի:
- b. ek-e.ɬ =e-Ø-ɬ, ek-e.ɬ =Ø-i-m
 come-PERF.CVB =AUX-PST-3SG, come-PERF.CVB =AUX-PST-1SG
 ‘He had come. I had come.’ (AS)
 Էկեր էր, էկեր իմ:
- c. gəʒ-v-e.ɬ =e-n
 insane-PASS-PERF.CVB =AUX-3PL
 ‘They have gone insane’ (AS)
 Գժուեր են:

3.3.3 Long-distance conditions

So far, we’ve seen cases where the liquid is dropped when the auxiliary shifts leftward. Based on the data so far, one could hypothesize that the liquid surfaces when the auxiliary is *immediately* to the right. We find evidence against this

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hypothesis. In order for the liquid to surface, the liquid doesn't need to be adjacent to the auxiliary, just (non-immediately) before it. Data comes from intervening coordination and clitics. The data constitutes a type of suspended affixation (Kabak 2007, Kornfilt 2012, Erschler 2018, Fenger 2020, Dolatian 2023c).

In simple cases of coordination, two verbs can be coordinated each with their own auxiliary. In a sentence such as (21a), the liquids of both verbs surface because each is before an auxiliary.

(21) Coordination and liquid deletion

- | | Verb1 | Aux | Conj | Verb2 | Aux | |
|----|-------------------------------|-------------|------|-----------------|-------------|------|
| a. | <u>χəm-e.ɹ</u> | =e-m | kɔm | <u>ke.ɹ-e.ɹ</u> | =e-m | |
| | drink-PERF.CVB | =AUX-1SG | or | eat-PERF.CVB | =AUX-1SG | |
| | 'I have drunk or have eaten.' | | | | | (NK) |
| | Խմեր եմ կամ կերեր եմ: | | | | | |
| b. | <u>χəm-e.ɹ</u> | | kɔm | <u>ke.ɹ-e.ɹ</u> | =e-m | |
| | drink-PERF.CVB | | or | eat-PERF.CVB | =AUX-1SG | |
| | 'I have drunk or eaten.' | | | | | (NK) |
| | Խմեր կամ կերեր եմ: | | | | | |

But this sentence can be paraphrased with a simpler type of coordination which we call reduced coordination (21b). In reduced coordination, only one auxiliary is used. The auxiliary follows the second verb, and it licenses the liquids of both verbs. Note how this auxiliary licenses the liquid of the first verb (Verb1) even though they are not adjacent.

In the positive form, some speakers prefer repeating the conjunction on both verbs (22a). The single auxiliary licenses the liquids on both verbs. Also when negating reduced coordination, an alternative construction is to delete the conjunction entirely (22b). Again this doesn't matter and we see liquid deletion.

- (22) a. kɔm χəm-el kɔm ke.ɹ-el **=e-m**
or drink-PERF.CVB or drink-PERF.CVB be-1SG
'I have drunk or driven.' (KM)
Կամ խմել կամ կերել եմ:
- b. tʃⁿ **=e-m** ke.ɹ-e χəm-e
NEG=be-1SG eat-PERF.CVB drink-PERF.CVB
'I have not eaten or drunk.' (KM)
Չեմ կերի՛լ խմի՛լ:

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The generalization so far is that, in reduced coordination, the single auxiliary can license the liquids of both verbs without being adjacent to both of them. Similarly behavior is found in clitics.

The clitic [=e] is polysemous and can mean a host of meanings based on its position and presence of negation. We gloss it as ‘also’ because that is its basic meaning. For verbs without negation, the clitic can appear between the verb and auxiliary (23a), or after the auxiliary (23b). In neither case does the clitic prevent the liquid from surfacing. This is because the auxiliary is to the right of the liquid.

(23) Liquid deletion and clitics without negation

- a. $\underline{ke}_{\perp}\text{-e}_{\perp}$ =el =e-m
 eat-PERF.CVB =also =AUX-1SG
 ‘I have also eaten.’ (NK)
 Կերեր էլ եմ:
- b. $\underline{ke}_{\perp}\text{-e}_{\perp}$ =e-m =el
 eat-PERF.CVB =AUX-1SG =also
 ‘I have eaten already!’⁸ (NK)
 Կերեր եմ էլ:

In contrast for verbs with negation, the clitic can be placed after either the auxiliary (24a) or after the verb (24b). In both cases, the liquid is deleted for NK and KM because the auxiliary shifted leftward. The clitic is vowel-initial and in the same prosodic word as the suffix; but the clitic cannot license the liquid.

(24) Liquid deletion and clitics with negation

- a. $\overset{h}{tʃ}$ =e-m =el $\underline{ke}_{\perp}\text{-e}$
 NEG=AUX-1SG =also eat-PERF.CVB
 ‘Also, I have not eaten.’ (NK, KM)
 Չեմ էլ կերի:
- b. $\overset{h}{tʃ}$ =e-m $\underline{ke}_{\perp}\text{-e}$ =el
 NEG=AUX-1SG eat-PERF.CVB =also
 ‘I have not eaten anymore.’ (NK, KM)
 Չեմ կերի էլ:

We have found some speaker variation in cases where the suffix is after the auxiliary but before a clitic. Whereas NK and KM drop the liquid (24b), Garoun

⁸NK found the Aux-Clitic sequence rather odd but acceptable, while KM felt it too odd.

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Engström (GE) reports that she can maintain the liquid: [tʰ^h-e-m ke.ɫ-el =el]. GE likewise reports that in cases of reduced coordination like V+*kdm*+V+Aux (22), she also maintains the liquid. Thus for some speakers, the rule is that the liquid is licensed either long-distance by the auxiliary, or locally by an adjacent clitic. At this point, we don't have enough data and resources to construct a large-scale variationist study on the phonosyntax of this process across multiple speakers, but it is a worthwhile future endeavor.

Setting aside microvariations between speakers, the data can be categorized in theoretical terms in terms of a post-lexical rule that is syntactically conditioned. Such cases are relatively rarer than purely prosodic rules, but still attested (Selkirk 1986, Kaisse 1985). However, to our knowledge, most attested cases of syntax-sensitive phonology involve adjacency between the target and trigger/blocker. For example, such locality or adjacency constraints are common for phonosyntactic processes in Romance and Germanic (Ackema & Neeleman 2003, Ackema & Neeleman 2004, Sampson 2016, Weisser 2019).

The Iranian Armenian data is thus cross-linguistically rare in allowing long-distance conditioning. To our knowledge, the closest attested case of long-distance syntax-sensitive phonology is long-distance and discontinuous vowel harmony in Wolof (Sy 2005) and Guébie (Dąbkowski & Sande 2021).⁹ For Wolof (25), vowel harmony applies across words, specifically between a head and its complement. This makes vowel harmony a type of syntax-sensitive phonology. Harmony can ignore certain intervening words between the source and target vowels. This invisibility of intervening words is what makes Wolof a case of long-distance syntax-sensitive phonology.

(25) Long-distance ATR agreement in Wolof, taken from Sy (2005: 95:ex1)

<p>a. [-ATR] [-ATR] [-ATR]</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">xaj b- u weex b- ale</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">dog CL-REL be.white CL-DEM.DIST</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">‘that white dog’</p>	<p>b. [+ATR] [+ATR] [+ATR]</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">béy w- u réy w- ëlé</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">goat CL-REL be.big CL-DEM.DIST</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">‘that big goat’</p>
--	---

3.3.4 Irregular imperfective converb

All the preceding data focused on the perfective converb suffix. This suffix shows an inconstant form, with or without a final liquid: [-el/ɫ] or [-e]. Whether a liquid surfaced or not is based on the presence and location of the auxiliary. We find exactly the same behavior in another suffix: the irregular imperfective [-i(s)].

⁹We thank Kie Zuraw for bringing the Wolof case to our attention. Another potential case is iterative or pervasive propagination in the Verbicaro dialect of Italian (Silvestri 2022: 7).

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For regular verbs and most irregular verbs, the imperfective converb is formed by adding the suffix *-um* onto the verb root or stem. In contrast, there are two irregular verbs ‘to give’ and ‘to come’ which form their imperfective converb by adding the suffix *-is* to the infinitive (Table 3.9). Paradigms for these irregular verbs are given in §6.7.2.¹⁰

Table 3.9: Formation of regular and irregular imperfective converbs

	Regular ‘to sing’		Irregular ‘to give’ ‘to come’		
Infinitive	je.ɫk ^h -e-l երգել	√-TH-INF	t-ɒ-l տալ	g-ɒ-l գալ	√-TH-INF
Impf. converb	je.ɫk ^h -um երգում	√-IMPF.CVB	t-ɒ-l-is տալիս	g-ɒ-l-is գալիս	√-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB

In §3.3.1, we saw that the regular suffix *-um* has a constant form and never alternates. In contrast, the irregular suffix surfaces as *-is* when before the auxiliary, and as *-i* when the auxiliary has shifted leftwards (26).

- (26) a. jes gi.ɫk^h-ə t-ɒ-l-is =e-m
 I book-DEF give-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB =AUX-1SG
 ‘I am giving the book.’ (NK)
 Ես գիրքը տալիս եմ:
- b. jes gi.ɫk^h-ə tʃⁿ =e-m t-ɒ-l-i
 I book-DEF NEG=AUX-1SG give-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I am not giving the book.’ (NK)
 Ես գիրքը չեմ տալի:
- c. jes gi.ɫk^h =e-m t-ɒ-l-i
 I book =AUX-1SG give-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I am giving books.’ (NK)
 Ես գիրք եմ տալի:
- d. jes =e-m gi.ɫk^h-ə t-ɒ-l-i
 I AUX-1SG book-DEF give-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I am giving the book.’ (NK)
 Ես եմ գիրքը տալի:

¹⁰Standard Eastern Armenian utilizes the same irregular imperfective forms for the verbs ‘to come’ [g-a-l], ‘to give’ [t-a-l], and ‘to cry’ [l-a-l]. But in Iranian Armenian, the verb [l-a-l] ‘to cry’ is replaced by regular [lɒts^h-e-l] ‘to cry’ which forms the imperfective converb with *-um*: [lɒts^h-um]. See §6.7.4 for discussion of this verb.

3.3 Phonosyntax: Auxiliary-induced segment deletion

The imperfective [-is]~[-i] alternation happens in the same contexts for the perfective [-el/.i]~[-e] alternation. We report additional data from AS's work (27). The same generalization stands: if the auxiliary has shifted leftwards, then the suffix [-is] alternates with [-i].

- (27) a. **uf** **=e-n** g-D-l-i
 late =AUX-3PL come-TH-INF-IMPV.CVB
 'They are coming late.' (AS)
 Ուշ են գալի:
- b. **mez** **=e-n** t-D-l-i
 us.DAT =AUX-3PL give-TH-INF-IMPV.CVB
 'They are giving it to us.' (AS)
 Մեզ են տալի:
- c. **jes** dzez-i **χosk^h** **=e-m** t-D-l-i **vo.i**
 I you.PL-DAT promise =AUX-3PL give-TH-INF-IMPV.CVB that
 Ծախտիկ-əs el je.ɪp^hek^h sent^h bɒn-er tʃ^h-i-∅
 daughter-POSS.1SG ever never these thing-PL NEG-AUX-3SG
 ɒn-e-l-u
 doTH-INF-FUT.CVB
 'I promise you that my daughter will never do these things.' (AS)
 Ես ձեզի խօսք եմ տալի որ աղջիկս էլ երբէք սենց բաներ չի անելու:

We likewise see the same long-distance conditions in reduced coordination (28). The suffix surfaces as [-is] when the auxiliary is to the right within the phrase, even if not adjacent to the suffix. The suffix surfaces as [-s] when the auxiliary shifts leftwards.

- (28) a. t-D-l-is **=e-m** **kɒm** tsoχ-um **=e-m**
 give-TH-INF-IMPV.CVB =AUX-1SG OR sell-IMPV.CVB =AUX-1SG
 'I am giving or am selling.' (NK)
 Տալիս եմ կամ ծախում եմ:
- b. t-D-l-is **kɒm** tsoχ-um **=e-m**
 give-TH-INF-IMPV.CVB OR sell-IMPV.CVB =AUX-1SG
 'I am giving or selling.' (NK)
 Տալիս կամ ծախում եմ:

3.3.5 Diachronic origins and effects of adjacency

The previous section examined the synchronic behavior of the perfective converb suffix *-el/eł* and how this suffix loses its liquid when the auxiliary has shifted. This section describes the diachronic origins of this behavior from Standard and Colloquial Eastern Armenian.

In Standard Eastern Armenian, the perfective converb suffix is *-el*, and the irregular imperfective converb suffix is *-is*. Whereas these suffixes alternate in Iranian Armenian, they do not in Standard Eastern (29). The forms of the suffixes remain constant regardless of whether the auxiliary has shifted leftwards.

(29) Constant forms in Standard Eastern Armenian

- a. gər-el =e-m, t-a-l-is =e-m
 write-PERF.CVB =AUX-1SG, give-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB =AUX-1SG
 ‘I have written, I am giving.’
 Գրել եմ, տալիս եմ:
- b. tʃ^h=e-m gər-el, tʃ^h=e-m t-a-l-is
 NEG=AUX-1SG write-PERF.CVB, NEG=AUX-1SG give-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I have not written, I am not giving.’
 Չեմ գրել, չեմ տալիս:

The Iranian Armenian suffix [-el/-eł] developed from the same historical source as the Standard Eastern suffix. It is reported that across Armenian lects, the perfective suffix’s liquid can sometimes change from /l/ to a rhotic (Գրիգորյան 2018; dialectological feature #85 in Ջահուկյան 1972: 101).

However in Colloquial Eastern Armenian (CEA) as spoken in Yerevan, it is reported that speakers can optionally drop the liquid /l/ and the fricative /s/ when the auxiliary has shifted (30) (Ղարազոյսյան 1981: 101; Dum-Tragut 2009: 213,223; Ղամոյան et al. 2014: 37).

(30) Optional deletion in Colloquial Eastern Armenian

- a. gər-el =e-m, t-a-l-is =e-m
 write-PERF.CVB =AUX-1SG, give-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB =AUX-1SG
 ‘I have written, I am giving.’
 Գրել եմ, տալիս եմ:
- b. tʃ^h=e-m gər-e(l), tʃ^h=e-m t-a-l-i(s)
 NEG=AUX-1SG write-PERF.CVB, NEG=AUX-1SG give-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I have not written, I am not giving.’
 Չեմ գրել, չեմ տալիս:

3.3 Phonosyntax: Auxiliary-induced segment deletion

The deletion of the final liquid is reported to be unique to the perfective con- verb suffix [-el] in Colloquial Eastern Armenian. This colloquial process is like- wise attested in the Colloquial Eastern Armenian spoken by immigrant commu- nities in Los Angeles (Karapetian 2014: 72).

There is some experimental evidence that this optional deletion process in Colloquial Eastern Armenian has some correlations with the prosodic weakening of liquids (Գրիգորյան 2018).

One speaker of CEA (VP) informed us that the clitic [=el] ‘also, even’ can also optionally delete its liquid in CEA (31).

- (31) jes e(l) k^hez =e-m spas-um
 I also you.SG.DAT =AUX-1SG wait-IMP.F.CVB
 ‘I am also waiting for you.’ (VP)
 Ես էլ քեզ եմ սպասում:

For Colloquial Eastern Armenian, we’ve asked young speakers from Armenia (around 20-40 years old) for their sociolinguistic intuitions about the optional deletion in the suffixes [-el] and [-is] (Table 3.10). Some speakers told us that they themselves do this optional process, some told us they don’t do it all. Some told us that this process is common, while others told us that it’s judged as ‘vulgar’ and uncommon. Some told us that they can apply the deletion for some verbs, but not others.

Table 3.10: Consultants on Colloquial Eastern Armenian and their meta-linguistic judgments

Speaker	Age	Sex	What verbs?	Social judgment?
MA	late-20s	F	‘open’, ‘close’, ‘eat’, ‘drink’	“it’s colloquial”
VP	mid-30s	M	any verb	“any social class/region”
HH	early-20s	M	N/A	“it’s colloquial and vulgar”

The above reports suggest that this colloquial process is attested but stigma- tized. The use of this process varies by speaker, and sometimes by the verb. There is little to no work on the variationist sociolinguistics of Armenian,¹¹ thus we do not know if any demographic factors are correlated with this deletion process.

Diachronically, there is an obvious path of historical development for the per- fective suffix in Iranian Armenian. 1) In some stage of the dialect, there was no deletion at all [-el] (like modern SEA). 2) Later on, the dialect developed optional

¹¹To our knowledge, the closest work is Zakaryan (Հաքարյան 1981), a study of social factors in different Armenian morphophonological choices.

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deletion [-e(l)] (like modern CEA). 3) And finally, the deletion become obligatory [-e] (as in modern IA). As we also discuss below, stages 2 (for CEA) and 3 (for IA) also seem to differ in terms of adjacency requirements between the suffix and the auxiliary.

Data on this colloquial process is sparse, but we suspect that Colloquial Eastern and Iranian Armenian differ in the role of adjacency between the verb and auxiliary. Briefly, in Iranian Armenian, non-adjacent auxiliaries cause the liquid to surface, while non-adjacent auxiliaries can cause the liquid to delete. We illustrate below.

Consider the sentences in (32), in both Colloquial Eastern and Iranian Armenian. In (32a), the sentence has un-reduced coordination with two verbs and two auxiliaries. The verb's liquid surfaces in both dialects. But in reduced coordination (32b) with just one auxiliary, Verb1 keeps its liquid in Iranian Armenian but can optionally delete in Colloquial Eastern Armenian. No deletion is found in Standard Eastern. We use -P, =be instead of -PERF.CVB, =be-1SG.

(32) Effect of verb-auxiliary adjacency in Colloquial Eastern and Iranian Armenian

- a. Un-reduced coordination with two auxiliaries
- | | Verb1 | Aux | Conj | Verb2 | Aux | | |
|-----|---------------|------|------|---------------|------|-------|----------|
| i. | <u>χəm-el</u> | =e-m | kam | <u>ker-el</u> | =e-m | (SEA) | (MA, VP) |
| ii. | <u>χəm-el</u> | =e-m | kam | <u>ker-el</u> | =e-m | (CEA) | (MA, VP) |
- Խմել եմ կամ կերել եմ:
- | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|-----|-----------------|------|------|------|
| iii. | <u>χəm-e-l</u> | =e-m | kəm | <u>ke-l-e-l</u> | =e-m | (IA) | (NK) |
| | drink-P | =be | or | eat-P | =be | | |
- ‘I have drunk or have eaten.’
- Խմեր եմ կամ կերեր եմ:
- b. Reduced coordination with one auxiliary
- | | Verb1 | Conj | Verb2 | Aux | | |
|-----|-----------------|------|---------------|------|-------|----------|
| i. | <u>χəm-el</u> | kam | <u>ker-el</u> | =e-m | (SEA) | (MA, VP) |
| ii. | <u>χəm-e(l)</u> | kam | <u>ker-el</u> | =e-m | (CEA) | (MA, VP) |
- Խմել կամ կերել եմ:
- | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------|-----|-----------------|------|------|------|
| iii. | <u>χəm-e-l</u> | kəm | <u>ke-l-e-l</u> | =e-m | (IA) | (NK) |
| | drink-P | or | eat-P | =be | | |
- ‘I have drunk or eaten.’
- Խմեր կամ կերեր եմ:

When reduced coordination is negated, Standard Eastern keeps the liquid in Verb1, while Iranian Armenian deletes the liquids in both Verb1 and Verb2 (33).

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For Colloquial Eastern Armenian, either both liquids surface or both delete. Other permutations are not possible for our informants (liquid + no liquid, no liquid + liquid).

(33) Reduced coordination with negation and consonant-initial conjunction

	Neg-Aux	Verb1	Conj	Verb2		
i.	$\widehat{tj^h} = e - m$	$\underline{\chi\acute{a}m - el}$	kam	$\underline{ker - el}$	(SEA)	(MA, VP)
ii.	$\widehat{tj^h} = e - m$	$\underline{\chi\acute{a}m - el}$	kam	$\underline{ker - el}$	(CEA)	(MA, VP)
	$\widehat{tj^h} = e - m$	$\underline{\chi\acute{a}m - e}$	kam	$\underline{ker - e}$		(MA, VP)
	* $\widehat{tj^h} = e - m$	$\underline{\chi\acute{a}m - e}$	kam	$\underline{ker - el}$		(*MA, *VP)
	* $\widehat{tj^h} = e - m$	$\underline{\chi\acute{a}m - el}$	kam	$\underline{ker - e}$		(*MA, *VP)
	Չեմ խմել կամ կերել:					
iii.	$\widehat{tj^h} = e - m$	$\underline{\chi\acute{a}m - e}$	kəm	$\underline{ke.ɫ - e}$	(IA)	(NK)
	NEG=be	drink-P	or	eat-P		
	‘I have not drunk or eaten.’					
	Չեմ խմէ կամ կերէ:					

The generalization so far is the following. In both Iranian Armenian and Colloquial Eastern Armenian, the auxiliary licenses the floating liquid of the perfective converb. In Iranian Armenian, the suffix and auxiliary don’t need to be adjacent, but they do need to be adjacent in Colloquial Eastern Armenian.

The above generalization however is too simplified for Colloquial Eastern Armenian, because we have found some variation across speakers. In reduced coordination with a vowel-initial conjunction, one Standard Eastern speakers told us that they can delete the liquid on Verb1 (VP), while another said that they couldn’t (MA). This data suggests that some speakers can allow other adjacent vowel-initial words to license the perfective liquid (34).

(34) Effect of other vowel-initial words in Colloquial Eastern Armenian and in Iranian Armenian

a.	Un-reduced coordination with two auxiliaries					
	Verb1	Aux	Conj	Verb2	Aux	
i.	$\underline{\chi\acute{a}m - el}$	$\underline{=e - m}$	u	$\underline{ker - el}$	$\underline{=e - m}$	(SEA)
ii.	$\underline{\chi\acute{a}m - el}$	$\underline{=e - m}$	u	$\underline{ker - el}$	$\underline{=e - m}$	(CEA)
	խմել եմ ու կերել եմ:					
iii.	$\underline{\chi\acute{a}m - e.ɫ}$	$\underline{=e - m}$	u	$\underline{ke.ɫ - e.ɫ}$	$\underline{=e - m}$	(IA) (NK)
	drink-P	=be	and	eat-P	=be	
	‘I have drunk and have eaten.’					
	խմեր եմ ու կերեր եմ:					

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b. Reduced coordination with one auxiliary						
	Verb1	Conj	Verb2	Aux		
i.	<u>χəm-el</u>	u	<u>ker-el</u>	=e-m	(SEA)	(MA, VP)
ii.	<u>χəm-el</u>	u	<u>ker-el</u>	=e-m	(CEA)	(VP, MA)
	<u>χəm-e</u>	u	<u>ker-el</u>	=e-m	(CEA)	(VP, *MA)
	Խմել կամ կերել եմ:					
iii.	<u>χəm-e.լ</u>	u	<u>ke.լ-e.լ</u>	=e-m	(IA)	(NK)
	drink-P	and	eat-P	=be		
	‘I have drunk and eaten.’					
	Խմեր ու կերեր եմ:					

The variation can cause ineffability or unutterability when reduced coordination involves negation and a vowel-initial conjunction (35). In the sentences below, the auxiliary has to shift because of negation, and Verb1 precedes a vowel. Our consultants VP and MA are fine with deleting neither liquid. VP is fine with deleting both liquids, but MA is not. Neither speaker is fine with deleting only one liquid. For IA, our main consultant required deletion in both verbs. However, another speaker (GE) reports that deletion on the first liquid is optional.

(35) Reduced coordination with negation and vowel-initial conjunction

	Neg-Aux	Verb1	Conj	Verb2		
i.	tʃ^h=e-m	<u>χəm-el</u>	u	<u>ker-el</u>	(SEA)	(VP, MA)
ii.	tʃ^h=e-m	<u>χəm-el</u>	u	<u>ker-el</u>	(CEA)	(VP, MA)
	tʃ^h=e-m	<u>χəm-e</u>	u	<u>ker-e</u>		(VP, *MA)
	*tʃ^h=e-m	<u>χəm-e</u>	u	<u>ker-el</u>		(*VP, *MA)
	*tʃ^h=e-m	<u>χəm-el</u>	u	<u>ker-e</u>		(*VP, *MA)
	Չեմ խմել ու կերել:					
iii.	tʃ^h=e-m	<u>χəm-e</u>	u	<u>ke.լ-e</u>	(IA)	(NK)
	tʃ^h=e-m	<u>χəm-e(l)</u>	u	<u>ke.լ-e</u>	(IA)	(GE)
	NEG=be	drink-P	and	eat-P		
	‘I have not drunk and eaten.’					
	Չեմ խմէ ու կերէ:					

The data from Colloquial Eastern Armenian and Iranian Armenian are quite complicated and our analysis is incomplete. More variation-oriented data is required from larger pools of people from different areas and generations. But crucially, the overarching generalization is that whereas IA allows non-local conditioning between the suffix and the auxiliary, CEA seems to require local

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conditioning. Some IA speakers also allow both generalizations simultaneously (non-local or local conditioning).

4 Nominal morphology

This chapter goes through the basics of nominal inflection in Iranian Armenian. In general, we have not found any significant differences between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian in this domain. We thus keep this chapter brief, with an overview of basic paradigms. For larger paradigms and for work on the noun phrase of Armenian, we refer readers to other sources for Standard Eastern Armenian (Kozintseva 1995, Yeghiazaryan 2010; Tamrazian 1994: ch4; Megerdooomian 2009: ch5; Dum-Tragut 2009: ch2.1; Hodgson 2019b: ch2.1.1) and Standard Western Armenian (Sigler 1997; Khanjian 2013: ch2.3).

4.1 Basic template for nominal inflection

Nominal inflection is agglutinative for number, case, possession, and definite marking. The basic template for nominal inflection is Table 4.1. The rightmost column is dedicated to possessive and definiteness marking, which we refer to collectively as a Determiner slot. We list productive suffixes within each cell, including suffixal allomorphs.

Table 4.1: Template for nominal inflection and the set of productive suffixes

N	Number	Case (κ)	Determiner (DET)
	SG -∅	NOM/ACC -∅	unmarked -∅
	PL -e.լ -եր	DAT/GEN -i -ի	POSS.1SG -(ə)s -u
	-ne.լ -ներ	ABL -its ^h -ից	POSS.2SG -(ə)t -դ
		INS -ov -ով	DEF -ə -ը
		LOC -um -ով	-ն -ն
			-ən -ն

Some of the above morphemes have multiple realizations due to phonologically conditioned allomorphy. Such allomorphy is discussed in §3.2.

To illustrate nominal inflection, we show the paradigms of a singular case-marked noun, a plural case-marked noun, and a plural case-marked possessed noun (Table 4.2). Note how possessive marking follows case marking.

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Table 4.2: Paradigm for singular noun, plural noun, and plural possessed noun

	N-K	N-PL-K	N-PL-K-POSS.1SG
NOM/ACC	senjɔk սենյակ	senjɔk-ne.ɫ սենյակներ	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-əs սենյակներս
DAT/GEN	senjɔk-i սենյակի	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-i սենյակների	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-i-s սենյակներիս
ABL	senjɔk-its ^h սենյակից	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-its ^h սենյակներից	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-its ^h -əs սենյակներիցս
INS	senjɔk-ov սենյակով	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-ov սենյակներով	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-ov-əs սենյակներովս
LOC	senjɔk-um սենյակում	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-um սենյակներում	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-um-əs սենյակներումս
	‘room’	‘rooms’	‘my rooms’

In Standard Eastern Armenian, the name for case is /holov/ հոլով. The names of the different cases are in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Names of cases in Standard Eastern Armenian

Nominative	սեռական	նուղական
Accusative	հայտնական	հայցական
Genitive	սերական	սեռական
Dative	տեռական	տրական
Ablative	բատնական	բացառական
Instrumental	գործիական	գործիական
Locative	ներգոյական	ներգոյական

In terms of syncretism and exponence, nominative and accusative are zero-marked, singular number is unmarked, and dative and genitive are syncretic for common nouns. The syncretism however does not appear for personal pronouns, which we discuss in §5.1.

Standard Eastern Armenian can use the instrumental case marker *-ov* to denote either the meaning of ‘to use X as an instrument’ or ‘to go along with X’. The latter meaning is considered a comitative meaning (Dum-Tragut 2009: 93). SWA can likewise use the instrumental as a comitative. However in Iranian Armenian, the comitative meaning of the instrumental suffix is considered atypical

and odd. Speakers prefer to express the comitative meaning through an alternative postpositional construction.¹

For example, sentence (1a) places an instrumental suffix on the noun. The intended interpretation is comitative: to go along with the sister. Such a meaning is possible for some speakers in Standard Eastern Armenian, but not in Iranian Armenian. The typical Iranian Armenian reading would be purely instrumental: to go to the cinema by using the sister. To express the comitative meaning, speakers strongly prefer using the postposition *het* (1b).²

- (1) a. k^hə.ɫ-otʰ^h-ov-əs gən-ɔ-ts^h-i-ŋk^h sinemɔ
 sister-DAT-INS-POSS.1SG go-TH-AOR-PST-1PL cinema
 Intended meaning: ‘We went to the cinema along with my sister.’
 Actual meaning: ‘We went to the cinema by using my sister.’
 Բրոջովս զնացիկս սինեմա: (KM)
- b. k^hə.ɫ-otʰ^h-əs het gən-ɔ-ts^h-i-ŋk^h sinemɔ
 sister-GEN-POSS.1SG with go-TH-AOR-PST-1PL cinema
 ‘We went to the cinema along with my sister.’
 Բրոջս հետ զնացիկս սինեմա: (KM)

The suffixes in Table 4.1 are the regular or default for the corresponding morphosyntactic features. Iranian Armenian has limited morphologically-conditioned allomorphy with irregular suffixes. We have not found any significant differences for irregular inflection in Iranian Armenian vs. Standard Eastern Armenian. At most, it seems that Iranian Armenian is slowly leveling out irregular inflection.

To illustrate, the regular dative/genitive suffix is *-i*. In both Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian, the dative/genitive suffix has a wide set of irregular allomorphs or realizations. For example, the suffix *-nɪpʰɪl* /-ut^hjɪn/ is a productive nominalizer (2). This suffix forms an irregular dative/genitive by using a different allomorph for the entire nominalizer suffix: *-nɪpʰɛwɪl* /-ut^hjɔn/. The use of this

¹A reviewer however states that a possibly more accurate description of SEA is that the instrumental can be used for activities that are carried as a group (like as a family), and not alongside a person. If we take this description of SEA as accurate, then both SEA and IA lack comitative instrumentals, while SWA has them. However, KM did report that she experienced such comitative readings in SEA before, so it’s possible that there is variation among SEA speakers. Our SEA consultant AT said that such a comitative reading is ‘not okay’ but that it’s possible that someone might use it in a disparaging way, e.g., a misogynist can use the comitative instrumental for ‘sister’.

²For the word ‘sister’, the nominative form is [k^hu.ɫ] քուր. In the dative/genitive, the word uses an irregular allomorph for both the root and the suffix: [k^hə.ɫ-otʰ^h]. The dative/genitive stem is then further inflected to form the instrumental. Note that prescriptive form of the irregular dative/genitive suffix is [-odʒ], but in Iranian Armenian it is more often pronounced as [-otʰ^h].

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allomorph is the prescriptive rule in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian, but KM reports that Iranian Armenian speakers much more frequently apply a regularized form /-ut^hjun-i/.

(2) *Leveling out of irregular dative/genitive of /-ut^hjun/*

a.	u.ɪpχ		'happy'	ուրախ
	u.ɪpχ-ut ^h jun	happy-NMLZ	'happiness'	ուրախութիւն
b.	u.ɪpχ-utjun	happy-NMLZ.DAT/GEN	'of/to happiness'	ուրախութեան
c.	u.ɪpχ-ut ^h jun-i	happy-NMLZ-DAT/GEN	'of/to happiness'	ուրախութիւնի

For complete paradigms of these irregular declensions in Standard Eastern Armenian, see [Dum-Tragut \(2009: ch2.1.2\)](#). These paradigms apply to the formal prescriptive speech of Iranian Armenians. But in casual speech, KM and AS report the loss of various irregular case suffixes.

4.2 Constraints on definite marking and case marking

The determiner slot can be realized by either nothing, the 1SG possessive, 2SG possessive, or the definite suffix. The possessive 1SG and possessive 2SG can follow any type of case marker. This was illustrated in section §4.1 in [Table 4.2](#) for the 1SG possessive. However, the definite suffix cannot follow the genitive, ablative, or instrumental ([Dum-Tragut 2009: 104](#); [Yeghiazaryan 2010: 7](#); [Hodgson 2019b: 48, 2022](#)).³

To illustrate, [Table 4.4](#) shows definite marking on singular and plural nouns. For the genitive, ablative, and instrumental, the noun is semantically ambiguous in terms of being definite or not. Note the gloss κ is a placeholder for case marking.⁴

³Note that we treat the definite and possessive morphemes as suffixes and not clitics. Morphosyntactically, there's no obvious evidence to treat them as separate words (clitics) instead of suffixes. Phonologically, these morphemes are unstressed (like clitics). But because these morphemes lack a non-schwa vowel, a suffix account already correctly predicts that they're unstressable (§2.2.2.1).

⁴The morpheme sequence of instrumental-definite is judged as ungrammatical by NK. In SEA it is also judged as odd. However, BV found around 29 instances of this morpheme sequence as [senjak-um-ə] 'in the room' սենյակումը on the EANC. Victoria Khurshudyan reported that such a sequene can be uttered, "but it will be clearly perceived as a non-standard form".

4.2 Constraints on definite marking and case marking

Table 4.4: Paradigm of definite singular noun and definite plural noun

	N-K-DEF		N-PL-K-DEF	
NOM/ACC	senjɔk-ə	սենեակը	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-ə	սենեակները
DAT	senjɔk-i-n	սենեակին	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-i-n	սենեակներին
GEN	senjɔk-i	սենեակի	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-i	սենեակների
	* senjɔk-i-n		* senjɔk-ne.ɫ-i-n	
ABL	senjɔk-its ^h	սենեակից	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-its ^h	սենեակներից
	* senjɔk-its ^h -ə		* senjɔk-ne.ɫ-its ^h -ə	
INS	senjɔk-ov	սենեակով	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-ov	սենեակներով
	* senjɔk-ov-ə		* senjɔk-ne.ɫ-ov-ə	
LOC	senjɔk-um	սենեակում	senjɔk-ne.ɫ-um	սենեակներում
	* senjɔk-um-ə		* senjɔk-ne.ɫ-um-ə	
	‘the room’		‘the rooms’	

It is interesting that the dative and genitive are syncretic with the suffix *-i*. However, the definite suffix can be used after the dative form, but not the genitive form. This is illustrated in the following sentences.

In sentence (3a), the suffix *-i* marks dative case. It can take the definite suffix *-n*. But in (3b), the suffix *-i* marks genitive case. It cannot be followed by the definite suffix.

- (3) a. senjɔk-i-n gi.ɫk^h təv-ɒ-m
 room-DAT-DEF book give-PST-1SG
 ‘I gave books to the room.’ (NK)
 Սենեակին գիրք տուամ:
- b. senjɔk-i(*-n) gujn-ə
 room-GEN-*DEF color-DEF
 ‘the color of the room’ (*NK)
 սենեակի գոյնը

The co-occurrence restriction applies equally to both non-human nouns and to human nouns, such as the given name Aram (4).

- (4) a. ɒɫɒm-i-n gi.ɫk^h təv-ɒ-m
 Aram-DAT-DEF book give-PST-1SG
 ‘I gave books to Aram.’ (NK)
 Արամին գիրք տուամ:

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- b. Եւրմ-ի(*-ն) ցւկ^h-օ
room-GEN-*DEF book-DEF
'the book of Aram'
Արամի գիրքը (NK)

The co-occurrence restriction between the genitive and the definite suffix is limited to just the definite suffix (5). Other determiner suffixes like the 1SG possessive can freely co-occur with either the dative *-i* or the genitive *-i*.

- (5) a. senjɔk-i-s ցւկ^h təv-ɔ-m
room-DAT-POSS.1SG book give-PST-1SG
'I gave books to my room.'
Սենյակիս գիրք տուամ: (NK)
- b. senjɔk-i-s ցւյն-օ
room-GEN-POSS.1SG color-DEF
'the color of my room'
սենյակիս գոյնը (NK)

The definite suffix has an additional function of aiding to mark third person possessives. This is discussed next.

4.3 Constraints on possessive marking

The determiner slot can be occupied by either the possessive suffixes or the definite suffix. There are likewise co-dependencies between this slot and the possessive pronouns.

Iranian Armenian has a set of 8 genitive/possessive pronouns which mark possession. The 3SG and 3PL each have two members. One member is intensive or emphatic, while the other member is non-intensive or non-emphatic. This is discussed in §5.1.

If a noun is possessed by the 1st person, then the noun can surface in one of three forms (6a). It can surface without a possessive pronoun and with the 1SG possessive suffix. Or, it can surface with the possessive pronoun and the 1SG possessive suffix. Or, it can surface with the possessive pronoun but with the definite suffix. Similar options are found for 2nd person possessives (6b).

- (6) a. *Variation in 1SG possessive marking*

4.4 Synthetic constructions for plural possessors

- a. senjɔk-əs սենեակս
 room-POSS.1SG
- b. **im** senjɔk-əs իմ սենեակս
 my room-POSS.1SG
- c. **im** senjɔk-ə իմ սենեակը
 my room-DEF
 ‘my room’
- b. *Variation in 2SG possessive marking*
- a. senjɔk-ət սենեակդ
 room-POSS.2SG
- b. **k^ho** senjɔk-ət քո սենեակս
 my room-POSS.2SG
- c. **k^ho** senjɔk-ə քո սենեակը
 my room-DEF
 ‘your room’

Sociolinguistically, the simultaneous use of the possessive pronoun and the possessive suffix is deemed as prescriptively incorrect (Dum-Tragut 2009: 113). The use of both the pronoun and possessive suffix is instead restricted to colloquial speech and often stigmatized. But it is the preferred strategy for casual speech in Iranian Armenian.

For the other combinations of person and number, there is no dedicated possessive suffix (Table 4.5). Instead, the possessed noun takes the genitive/possessive pronoun and the definite suffix.

Table 4.5: Possessive marking for person-number combinations beyond 1SG-2SG

3SG	i.ɥ	senjɔk-ə	‘his room’	իրա սենեակը
	nə.ɥ	senjɔk-ə	‘his room’	նրա սենեակը
1PL	me.ɫ	senjɔk-ə	‘our room’	մեր սենեակը
2PL	dze.ɫ	senjɔk-ə	‘your.PL room’	ձեր սենեակը
3PL	i.ɥɔnts ^h	senjɔk-ə	‘their room’	իրանց սենեակը
	nə.ɥɔnts ^h	senjɔk-ə	‘their room’	նրանց սենեակը
	PRO.GEN	room-DEF		

4.4 Synthetic constructions for plural possessors

When the noun has a plural possessor, the most typical construction is to use a genitive pronoun and the definite suffix (7a). Both SEA and IA allow a synthetic

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alternative that is very restricted in usage (Dum-Tragut 2009: 113-114). In SEA, one can use the plural suffix *-ner* to encode a plural possessor (7b).

(7) SEA (adapted from Khurshudian (2020: 339,340))

- a. $me\check{r}$ $\alpha t\check{f}^h k^h\text{-}er\text{-}\check{\alpha}$, $me\check{r}$ $het\text{-}\check{\alpha}$
US.GEN eye-PL-DEF, US.GEN with-DEF
'our eyes, with us'
մեր աչքերը, մեր հետը
- b. $\alpha t\check{f}^h k^h\text{-}ner\text{-}\check{\alpha}s$, $het\text{-}ner\text{-}\check{\alpha}s$
eye-PL-POSS.1SG, with-PL-POSS.1SG
'our eyes, with us'
աչքներս, հետներս

For SEA, note how the plural *-ner* suffix is supposed to attach to only polysyllabic stems, while the allomorph *-er* attaches to monosyllables. But the suffix *-ner* is exceptionally used to mark plural possession on monosyllables in the above examples (§3.2.1).

In SEA, the use of this synthetic construction for plural possessors is quite unproductive, and limited to concepts such as body parts and adpositions. In contrast, such constructions are more productive in Standard Western Armenian using different morphological templates (Arregi et al. 2013, Bezrukov 2016).

The SEA-style of plural possessives is also attested in IA (8).⁵

(8) IA

- a. $me\check{r}$ $\alpha t\check{f}^h k^h\text{-}e\check{r}\text{-}\check{\alpha}$, $me\check{r}$ $het\text{-}\check{\alpha}$
US.GEN eye-PL-DEF, US.GEN with-DEF
'our eyes, with us' (NK)
մեր աչքերը, մեր հետը
- b. $\alpha t\check{f}^h k^h\text{-}ne\check{r}\text{-}\check{\alpha}s$, $het\text{-}ne\check{r}\text{-}\check{\alpha}s$
eye-PL-POSS.1SG, with-PL-POSS.1SG
'our eyes, with us' (NK)
աչքներս, հետներս

⁵Note that in SEA, the prescriptive norm is that the postposition /het/ 'with' assigns dative case to its argument. In contrast, CEA uses genitive marking (Dum-Tragut 2009: 297-9). IA also uses genitive marking.

This construction seems particularly common for body parts which come in pairs, like feet or eyes (9).⁶

(9) IA

- a. me.ɫ votk^h-e.ɫ-ə, me.ɫ dzer-e.ɫ-ə
 us.GEN foot-PL-DEF, us.GEN hand-PL-DEF
 ‘our feet, our hands’ (NK)
 մեր ոտքերը, մեր ձեռքերը
- b. votk^h-ne.ɫ-əs, dzer-ne.ɫ-əs
 foot-PL-POSS.1SG, hand-PL-POSS.1SG
 ‘our feet, our hands’ (NK)
 ոտքներս, ձեռներս

As in SEA, this construction is restricted and unproductive in IA (10). NK found it odd and ‘improper’ to add it to nouns that were animals.

(10) IA

- a. me.ɫ muk-ə, me.ɫ kov-ə, me.ɫ kɔtu-n
 us.GEN mouse-DEF, us.GEN cow-DEF, us.GEN cat-DEF
 ‘our mouse, our cow, our cat’ (NK)
 մեր մուկը, մեր կովը, մեր կատուն
- b. *muk-ne.ɫ-əs, kov-ne.ɫ-əs, kɔtu-ne.ɫ-əs
 mouse-PL-POSS.1SG, cow-PL-POSS.1SG, cat-PL-POSS.1SG
 Intended: ‘our mouse, our cow, our cat’ (*NK)

4.5 Differential object marking

In object position, common nouns take covert accusative case. In contrast, human nouns in object position take dative *-i* as a form of differential object marking. The same pattern occurs in Standard Eastern Armenian (Dum-Tragut 2009: 61; Scala 2011) and the Iranian dialect of Maragha (Աճառյան 1926: 160).

To illustrate, consider the sentences in (11). If the object is a non-human (11a), then the noun takes covert accusative case. If the object is a human, such as the given name Aram (11b), then the object must take dative case. Our consultants

⁶AS reports that for the word ‘foot’, the default form is /votk^h/, as in [votk^h-er-əs]. However, the form /vot/ can be used as well: [vot-e.ɫ-əs]. Though he suspects that such a form is more permissible if the preceding genitive pronoun is singular and not plural. That is, this smaller form is used when there is no plural possessor: /im vot-e.ɫ-əs/ ‘my feet’.

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felt that if the dative marker was absent (11c), then the sentence reads as if Aram was a non-human entity.

- (11) a. *senjɔk-ə mɔk^h.ɹ-ɔ-m*
room-DEF clean-PST-1SG
'I cleaned the room.' (NK)
Սենյակը մաքրամ:
- b. *ɔ.ɹɔm-i-n mɔk^h.ɹ-ɔ-m*
Aram-DAT-DEF clean-PST-1SG
'I cleaned Aram.' (NK)
Արամին մաքրամ:
- c. **ɔ.ɹɔm-ə mɔk^h.ɹ-ɔ-m*
Aram-DEF clean-PST-1SG
Intended: 'I cleaned Aram'.
Actual: 'I cleaned some entity called an "Aram".'

Note that the above discussion focused on humans vs. inanimates. Differential object marking on animals is more complicated (Dum-Tragut 2009: §2.1.1.1).

4.6 Indefinites and classifiers

Like Standard Eastern Armenian, Iranian Armenian has grammaticalized the numeral 'one' into an indefinite proclitic. Iranian Armenian likewise utilizes a classifier [hɔt] for counting. The combination of the indefinite and classifier have some semantic and phonological idiosyncrasies (Hodgson 2020a, Sargsyan 2022).

The numeral 'one' in Iranian Armenian is [mek]. The *k* segment is retained in citation form (12a). But when the numeral is used as a modifier, the *k* can be dropped: *me rope* 'one minute' (12b).⁷ The *me* morph is also grammaticalized as an indefinite proclitic (12c). It is spelled as մի <mi> because the Standard Eastern equivalent is [mi].

- (12) a. *mek*
one
'one' (KM)
մէկ

⁷For the word 'minute', the rhotic is a flap [rope] in Standard Eastern Armenian, but it is a trill in NK and KM's speech [rope] (§2.1.2).

- b. mek/me rope
 one minute
 ‘one minute’ (NK, KM)
 մէկ ըրպէ
- c. me bօն
 INDF thing
 ‘A thing; something’ (NK)
 մի բան

The indefinite morph /me/ is also the indefinite article in some of the traditional dialects of Iran (Khoy/Urmia: Ասատրյան 1962: 84; Maragha: Աճառյան 1926: 1.78; and Salmast.⁸

The indefinite can be used alongside the classifier *hvt* (13) (Sigler 2003, Sağ 2019). The classifier *hvt* can also be used as a noun meaning ‘piece’ (13a). As in Standard Eastern and Western Armenian, the classifier is used in number + noun constructions. Here, the *me* is on the surface ambiguous between an indefinite proclitic and a numeral (13b). But when it precedes the classifier *hvt*, the morpheme *me* is unambiguously a numeral (13c).

- (13) a. me hvt
 INDF/one piece
 ‘a piece; one’ (KM)
 մի հատ
- b. me mԾ.t^h
 INDF/one man
 ‘a/one man’ (KM)
 մի մարդ
- c. me hvt mԾ.t^h
 one CLF man
 ‘one man’ (KM)
 մի հատ մարդ

The construction *me hvt* can undergo vowel lowering and fronting as *mæ hæt* (14). This phrase can be further reduced into a single morph *mæt*. Note the use of [æ] which is otherwise a marginal phoneme in Iranian Armenian.

⁸For Salmast, BV found an example of an indefinite /me/ in a newspaper article called Խայր Լաճ from the periodical Պսակ (date October 11, 1880, volume 30): [https://tert.nla.am/archive/NLA%20TERT/Psak/1880/1880\(30\).pdf](https://tert.nla.am/archive/NLA%20TERT/Psak/1880/1880(30).pdf)

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- (14) a. {mæt / mæ hæʔ} mɔ.ɫ^h
 INDF.CLF / INDF CLF man
 ‘a man’ (NK)
 մի հատ մարդ
- b. {mæt / mæ hæʔ} ɣɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔ^h
 INDF.CLF / INDF CLF toy
 ‘a toy’ (AS)
 մի հատ խաղալիք
- c. vɔɔ-ə k-e.ɫ^h-ɔ-m ɣɔɔnut^h-iʔ^h mæt ɣɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔ^h
 tomorrow-DEF FUT-go-TH-1SG store-ABL INDF.CLF toy
 ve.ɫ-ʔ^h-e-m i.ɔ zɔvɔk-ne.ɫ-i hɔmɔ.ɫ
 buy-CAUS-TH-1SG he.GEN child-PL-DAT for
 ‘Tomorrow I’m going to go pick up a toy for his children from the store’ (AS)
 Վաղը կէրթամ խանութից մի հատ խաղալիք վերցնեմ իրա զաւակների համար:

The combination of indefinite + classifier is also used as an adverb to denote a sense of transience, roughly translatable to ‘for a moment’ or ‘a little bit’ (15).

- (15) a. mæt ɔ.ɫi ste
 INDF.CLF come.IMP.2SG here
 ‘Come here for a moment.’ (AS)
 Մի հատ արի ստէ:
- b. mæt mətɔʔ^h-i mjus-i zɔvɔʔ^hmuɔk^h-ne.ɫ-i mɔs-i-n
 INDF.CLF think-IMP.2SG other-GEN feeling-PL-GEN about-GEN-DEF
 ‘Think a little bit about the other person’s feelings.’ (AS)
 Մի հատ մտածէ միսի զգացմունքների մասին:
- c. mæt hɔɔɔɔɔɔʔ^h-u senjɔk-um-əʔ
 INDF.CLF relax-IMP.2SG room-LOC-POSS.2SG
 ‘Rest for a while in your room.’ (AS)
 Մի հատ հանգստացրո՛ւ սենեակումդ:

5 Function words

We go over basic function words in this chapter, including personal pronouns (5.1), demonstratives (5.2), interrogative pronouns or wh-words (5.3), numerals (5.4), other function words (5.5). We have not found many significant differences between Iranian Armenian and Standard Eastern Armenian when it comes to pronouns.

5.1 Personal pronouns

Iranian Armenian utilizes the personal pronouns in Table 5.1. Whereas common nouns are syncretic for dative and genitive, pronouns distinguish the two cases. The Iranian Armenian pronouns do not significantly differ from Standard Eastern (Dum-Tragut 2009: 123) except that the intensive 3SG dative is *iren* in Standard Eastern but *iɽn* in Iranian Armenian. The form [iran] is attested in CEA (Dum-Tragut 2009: 128).

Table 5.1: Paradigm of personal pronouns in Iranian Armenian

	Nominative PRO	Acc/Dative PRO-(DAT)	Genitive PRO	Ablative PRO-(NX)-ABL	Instrumental PRO-(NX)-INS	Locative PRO-(NX)-LOC
1SG	jes ես	indz, indz-i ինձ, ինձի	im իմ	indz-ɽn-its ^h ինձանկից	indz-ɽn-ov ինձանով	indz-ɽn-um ինձանում
2SG	du դու	k ^h ez, k ^h ez-i քեզ, քեզի	k ^h o քո	k ^h ez-ɽn-its ^h քեզանկից	k ^h ez-ɽn-ov քեզանով	k ^h ez-ɽn-um քեզանում
3SG	iɽk ^h -ə ինքը նո սա	iɽn իրան նա.ɽn սրան	iɽ իրա նա.ɽ սրա	iɽn-its ^h իրանկից նա.ɽn-its ^h սրանկից	iɽn-ov իրանով նա.ɽn-ov սրանով	iɽn-um իրանում նա.ɽn-um սրանում
1PL	meɽk ^h մեյք	mez, mez-i մեզ, մեզի	me.ɽ մեր	mez-ɽn-its ^h մեզանկից	mez-ɽn-ov մեզանով	mez-ɽn-um մեզանում
2PL	duk ^h դուք	dzez, dzez-i ձեզ, ձեզի	dze.ɽ ձեր	dzez-ɽn-its ^h ձեզանկից	dzez-ɽn-ov ձեզանով	dzez-ɽn-um ձեզանում
3PL	iɽɽk ^h իրանք նա.ɽɽk ^h սրանք	iɽɽnts ^h իրանց նա.ɽɽnts ^h սրանց	iɽɽnts ^h իրանց նա.ɽɽnts ^h սրանց	iɽɽnts ^h -its ^h իրանցից նա.ɽɽnts ^h -its ^h սրանցից	iɽɽnts ^h -ov իրանցով նա.ɽɽnts ^h -ov սրանցով	iɽɽnts ^h -um իրանցում նա.ɽɽnts ^h -um սրանցում

5 Function words

For the 3SG and 3PL, there are two series of pronouns. One series is intensive (Dum-Tragut 2009: 126) or emphatic (Donabédian 2018) and starts with the segment *i*, while the other series is a generic 3rd person pronoun and starts with *n*. For the syntactic distribution of Armenian pronouns, see Sigler (2001), Donabédian-Demopoulos (2007). For both NK and KM, the intensive pronoun is considered more ‘conversational’, while the non-intensive pronoun feels more formal. For the 3PL non-intensive, the initial /nə.ɪp-/ sequence was often lenited in NK’s speech, e.g., ACC/DAT/GEN plural [nə.ɪpnts^h] or lenited [nɔnts^h] ‘they’. Compare New Julfa ACC/DAT/GEN plural [nuots^h] ʏnɪg, and in its Indian subdialect is [nants^han] ʏʏlɪgʏʏl ‘those over there.ACC/DAT/GEN’, ablative [nants^hane] ʏʏlɪgʏʏlɪt ‘from those’ (Աճառյան 1940: §266).

For the accusative/dative series, outside of the 3rd person, the pronoun has two forms: one bare and one suffixed with *-i*. For example, accusative/dative 1SG is *indz* or *indz-i*. The bare form is the more common form, but there is significant speaker variation on the preferred form. For example, NK almost always used the bare form in our elicitations, while AS reports that his consultants often used the suffixed form.

In pronouns, the accusative is syncretic with the dative. This syncretism is shown in the following sentences (1).

- (1) a. $\widehat{d}z\widehat{v}n\text{-}\widehat{ə}$ $\widehat{i}ndz$ $m\widehat{o}k^h\text{-}\widehat{\iota}\text{-}\widehat{v}$
 John-DEF me.DAT clean-PST-3SG
 ‘John cleaned me.’ (NK)
 Զոնը ինձ մաքրաւ:
- b. $\widehat{d}z\widehat{v}n\text{-}\widehat{ə}$ $\widehat{i}ndz$ $g\widehat{i}\text{-}\widehat{\iota}k^h$ $t\widehat{ə}v\text{-}\widehat{v}$
 John-DEF me.DAT book give-PST-3SG
 ‘John gave a book to me.’ (NK)
 Զոնը ինձ գիրք տուաւ:

Morphotactically, the ablative, instrumental, and locative are built on top of the dative form. For the non-third person series, the dative form and the added case suffix are separated by the meaningless morph *-vn-*. This morph sequence can be weakened to either *-ən-* or *-n-*: [*indz-vn-its^h*, *indz-n-its^h*] ‘I-NX-ABL’.

We have received conflicting judgments on the frequency of such weakening. NK always lenited the 1SG obliques to *-ən-*, e.g. 1SG ablative *indz-ən-its^h*. Yet she always lenited the other non-third person series to just *-n-*, e.g., dative 2SG *k^hez-n-its^h*. In contrast, AS reports that for speakers in Iran, the deletion of /v/ is not frequent.

For the instrumental and locative series, it is quite difficult to elicit them in natural speech. Alternative syntactic strategies are preferred. For example, for instrumentals, the comitative meaning of the instrumental ('to go alongside X') is expressed by using a postpositional construction with the genitive pronoun (5.2). Similarly, the locative meaning is instead expressed by using a postposition [metʰ] 'in' սէջ.

Table 5.2: Expressing comitative-instrumental with postpositions

1SG	im	het	'with me'	իմ հետ
2SG	k ^h o	het	'with you.SG'	քո հետ
3SG	iɽ	het	'with him'	իրա հետ
	nəɽ	het	'with him'	նրա հետ
1PL	meɽ	het	'with us'	մեր հետ
2PL	dzeɽ	het	'with you.PL'	ձեր հետ
3PL	iɽntʰ	het	'with them'	իրանց հետ
	nəɽntʰ	het	'with them'	նրանց հետ
	PRO.GEN	with		

5.2 Demonstratives

Iranian Armenian uses a small set of demonstrative pronouns. These show a 3-way contrast for deixis: proximal, medial, and distal. There are different forms for when the pronoun is a modifier in a noun phrase vs. when the pronoun stands on its own as a substantive.

For illustration, we focus on the proximal series (2). This series is characterized by starting with the segmental sequence /es-/ or /s/. When the proximal pronoun is a modifier in a noun phrase, it is realized as [es]. It can modify either a singular or plural noun.

- (2) a. es giɽk^h-ə
 this book-DEF
 'this book'
 էս գիրքը
- b. es giɽk^h-eɽ-ə
 this book-PL-DEF
 'these books'
 էս գիրքերը

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Table 5.3 shows the set of demonstrative pronouns when the pronoun is a modifier.

Table 5.3: Demonstrative pronouns when acting as a modifier

	Proximal	Medial	Distal
	es էս	et էտ	en էն
	‘this’	‘that (close)’	‘that (yonder)’
Usage	The item is by the speaker	The item is by the listener	The item is not by the speaker or listener

Note that in SEA, these demonstratives have cognate forms that are phonologically larger. For example, the proximal-medial-distal series in SEA is {/ɑjs/, /ɑjd/ or /ɑjt/, ɑjn} (այս, այդ, այն). The IA forms /es, et, en/ are likely diachronically reduced versions of these larger SEA forms. A reviewer informs us that these reduced forms are also attested in Colloquial Eastern Armenian in Armenia. BV reports that this is just the regular change of Classical /ɑj/ <ay, այ > to /e/ in Eastern dialects.

When the pronoun is substantivized and stands for an entire noun phrase, it can be realized in one of three forms (3). For the proximal pronoun, the singular forms are *es*, *esi*, and *esikə*. The plural form of the substantivized pronoun is *սֵս*.

- (3) a. *es/esi/esikə* ցիւկ^h Ծ
 this book-DEF AUX
 ‘This is a book.’ (NK)
 Էս/էսի/էսիկը գիրք ա:
- b. *սֵս* ցիւկ^h-Է՛լ e-n
 these book-PL AUX-3PL
 ‘These are books.’ (NK)
 Սրանք գիրքեր են:

The final schwa of the long pronoun *esikə* is likely part of the definite suffix (4). Evidence for this is that the schwa becomes a schwa-nasal sequence when cliticized. See similar patterns for the definite suffix in §3.2.2.

- (4) *esik-ən* e-m uz-um
 this-DEF AUX-1SG want-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I want this one.’ (NK)
 Էսիկն եմ ուզում:

Etymologically, it is possible that forms like /esik-ə/ ‘this’ derive by adding the definite suffix onto a hypothetical earlier form like *esik (cf. Աճարդյան 1954: 195ff). Alternatively, BV suggests that the modern complex form /esik-ə/ may have a more complicated origin. First, the form was *esikv. Second, the form underwent final vowel reduction to *esikə. Third, the form underwent morphological reanalysis as /esik-ə/ with a definite suffix. But Hrach Martirosyan (p.c.) suggests the first is more probable.

When these demonstratives are substantivized, they inflect for case (5).

- (5) a. səɹɒn tʃɒʃ təv-ɒ-m
 this.DAT food give-PST-1SG
 ‘I gave food to this one.’ (NK)
 Սրան ճաշ տուամ:
- b. səɹɒ gujn-ə
 this.GEN color-DEF
 ‘the color of this one’ (NK)
 սրա գոյնը

Table 5.4 shows the paradigm of substantivized demonstratives. Note that the inflected forms of the substantivized distal are identical to the non-intensive third-person personal pronouns from Table 5.1. The Iranian Armenian paradigm does not significantly differ from that of Standard Eastern Armenian (Dum-Tragut 2009: 129). For the medial series, the plurals and the case-marked forms use [d] in Standard Eastern Armenian: [dərəŋk^h, dərəŋ]. Some Iranian Armenian speakers like KM use [d] too, while some Iranian Armenian speakers like NK use [t].

Table 5.4: Paradigm for substantivized demonstratives

	Nom/Acc PRO	Dative PRO	Genitive PRO	Ablative PRO-ABL	Instrumental PRO-INS	Locative PRO-LOC
Singular Prox.	es, esi, esikə էս, էսի, էսիկը	սօլոն սրան	սօլո սրա	սօլոն-իտ՝ս ^h սրանից	սօլոն-օվ սրանով	սօլոն-ում սրանում
Med.	et, eti, etikə էտ, էտի, էտիկը	ժօլոն տօլոն դրան	ժօլո տօլո դրա	ժօլոն-իտ՝ս ^h տօլոն-իտ՝ս ^h դրանից	ժօլոն-օվ տօլոն-օվ դրանով	ժօլոն-ում տօլոն-ում դրանում
Dist.	en, eni, enikə էն, էնի, էնիկը	նօլոն նրան	նօլո նրա	նօլոն-իտ՝ս ^h նրանից	նօլոն-օվ նրանով	նօլոն-ում նրանում
Plural Prox.	սօլոյկ ^h սրանք	սօլոնտ՝ս ^h սրանց	սօլոնտ՝ս ^h սրանց	սօլոնտ՝ս ^h -իտ՝ս ^h սրանցիս	սօլոնտ՝ս ^h -օվ սրանցով	սօլոնտ՝ս ^h -ում սրանցում
Med.	ժօլոյկ ^h տօլոյկ ^h դրանք	ժօլոնտ՝ս ^h տօլոնտ՝ս ^h դրանց	ժօլոնտ՝ս ^h տօլոնտ՝ս ^h դրանց	ժօլոնտ՝ս ^h -իտ՝ս ^h տօլոնտ՝ս ^h -իտ՝ս ^h դրանցիս	ժօլոնտ՝ս ^h -օվ տօլոնտ՝ս ^h -օվ դրանցով	ժօլոնտ՝ս ^h -ում տօլոնտ՝ս ^h -ում դրանցում
Dist.	նօլոյկ ^h նրանք	նօլոնտ՝ս ^h նրանց	նօլոնտ՝ս ^h նրանց	նօլոնտ՝ս ^h -իտ՝ս ^h նրանցիս	նօլոնտ՝ս ^h -օվ նրանցով	նօլոնտ՝ս ^h -ում նրանցում

5.3 Interrogative pronouns

Iranian Armenian seems to use the same set of interrogative pronouns (wh-words) as Standard Eastern Armenian (Dum-Tragut 2009: 247). Full declension paradigms are found in the Dum-Tragut grammar for Standard Eastern Armenian. We have not found significant differences between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian when it comes to the use or form of these interrogative pronouns, and therefore keep this section rather brief. In the following sentences, we provide an example for the different types of interrogative pronouns in bold.

The pronoun ‘who’ (6) is [ov] in the nominative (6a). But it uses a different root allomorph *um* when case suffixes are added.¹ Instrumentals and locative suffixes are generally avoided, and replaced with postpositional constructions.

- (6) a. **օվ** Ծ սլոյխ
 who AUX happy
 ‘Who is happy?’ (NK)
 Ո՞վ ա ուրախ:

¹This allomorph /um/ is actually the genitive-dative form of this morpheme in SEA (Dum-Tragut 2009: 148).

- b. **um-i-n** e-s mbk^h.ɿ-um
 who-DAT-DEF AUX-2SG clean-IMP.F.CVB
 ‘Who are you washing?’ (NK)
 Ումի՞ն ես մաքրում:
- c. gi.ɿk^h-ə **um-i-n** e-s t-D-l-i
 bookDEF who-DAT-DEF AUX-2SG give-TH-INF-IMP.F.CVB
 ‘Who do you give the book to?’ (NK)
 Գիրքը ումի՞ն ես տալի:
- d. **um-i** gi.ɿk^h-ə
 who-GEN bookDEF
 ‘Whose book?’ (NK)
 Ումի՞ գիրքը:
- e. **um-its^h**
 who-ABL
 ‘From who?’ (NK)
 Ումի՞ց:
- f. **um-i** het, **um-i** met^h
 who-GEN with, who-GEN in
 ‘With who? In who?’ (NK)
 Ումի՞ հետ: Ումի՞ մէջ:

The pronoun ‘what’ is [int^h], and there is no case-conditioned allomorphy involved (7).

- (7) a. **int^h** Ծ kɔput. **int^h** e-s uz-um
 what AUX blue. what AUX-2SG want-IMP.F.CVB
 ‘What is blue? What do you want?’ (NK)
 Ի՞նչ ա կապուտ: Ի՞նչ ես ուզում:
- b. **int^h-i(-n)** e-s t-D-l-i gi.ɿk^h-ə
 what-DAT(-DEF) AUX-2SG give-TH-INF-IMP.F.CVB book-DEF
 ‘To what do you give the book?’ (NK)
 Ինչի՞ն/ինչի՞ն ես տալի գիրքը:
- c. **int^h-i** gujn-ə
 what-GEN color-DEF
 ‘What’s color?’ (NK)
 Ինչի՞ գոյնը:

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- d. $\text{intj}^{\text{h}}\text{-its}^{\text{h}}$, $\text{intj}^{\text{h}}\text{-ov}$, $\text{intj}^{\text{h}}\text{-um}$
 what-ABL, what-INS, what-LOC
 ‘From what? With what? In what?’ (NK)
 Ինչի՞ց: Ինչո՞վ: Ինչո՞ւմ

The word for ‘where’ can vary between [vo.ɹteɤ] and [u.ɹ]. NK reports that [u.ɹ] feels more informal (8).

- (8) a. $\text{ke.ɹpku.ɹ-ə vo.ɹteɤ}$ Ծ
 food-DEF where AUX
 ‘Where is the food?’ (NK)
 Կերակուրը որտե՞ղ ա:
- b. ke.ɹpku.ɹ-ə u.ɹ Ծ
 food-DEF where AUX
 ‘Where is the food?’ (NK)
 Կերակուրը ո՞ր ա:
- c. $\text{vo.ɹteɤ-its}^{\text{h}}$. vo.ɹteɤ-um e-s $\widehat{\text{tsən-v-e}}$
 where-ABL. where-LOC AUX-2SG born-PASS-IMPF.CVB
 ‘From where? Where were you born?’ (NK)
 Որտեղի՞ց: Որտեղում ես ծնու՞լ:

The pronoun ‘when’ is prescriptively [je.ɹp^h], but the rhotic can be deleted in colloquial speech [jep^h] (9a). The pronoun takes a special dative/genitive suffix *-vɔn* or *-vɔ* (9b). This suffix is also used before oblique case suffixes like the ablative (9c), as a type of oblique stem.

- (9) a. $\text{tɔ.ɹɛdɔ.ɹts}^{\text{h}}\text{-ət}$ $\text{je.ɹp}^{\text{h}}/\text{jep}^{\text{h}}$ Ծ
 birthday-POSS.2SG when AUX
 ‘When is your birthday?’ (NK)
 Տարեդարձդ ե՞րբ ա:
- b. $\text{je.ɹp}^{\text{h}}\text{-vɔ}$
 when-GEN
 ‘Of when?’ (NK)
 Երբու՞մ:
- c. $\text{je.ɹp}^{\text{h}}\text{-vɔn-its}^{\text{h}}$
 when-DAT-ABL
 ‘From when?’ (NK)
 Երբուանի՞ց:

For the pronoun ‘why’ (10), the Eastern Armenian version is [intʃ^hu]. This word is used by the Iranian Armeinan community as well, but it has a formal connotation. A common colloquial version is [he.ɹ] հեր, which Sargsyan et al. (Սարգսյան et al. 2001: vol. 4: p. 227) report for New Nakhichevan and several dialects around Lake Van (Moks, Shatakh, Mush, Van). Adjarian (Աճարեան 1926) cites a form /her/ հեր for Tabriz (p. 658) and Maragha (p. 119) and derives it from Classical Armenian /ēɹ/ էր, also meaning ‘why’. Given the presence of [he.ɹ] հեր in so many of the neighboring southeastern dialects, particularly in Iran, we should not be surprised to come across it in Tehran.

- (10) a. **intʃ^hu**
 why
 ‘Why?’ (NK)
 Ինչո՞ւ:
- b. **he.ɹ** uʃ-ɔ-ts^h-ɔ-n
 why late-LV-AOR-PST-3PL
 ‘Why are they late?’ (AS)
 Յէ՞ր ուշացաւ:

NK reports that her family uses [he.ɹ] more often than [intʃ^hu] (11). She further reports that [intʃ^hu] is restricted to more formal speech.

- (11) a. **he.ɹ** e-s et hɔk^h-e
 why AUX-2SG that wear-PERF.CVB
 ‘Why are you wearing that?’ (NK)
 Յէ՞ր ես էտ հագէ:
- b. **he.ɹ** e-s et ut-um
 why AUX-2SG that eat-IMPF.CVB
 ‘Why are you eating that?’ (NK)
 Յէ՞ր ես էտ ուտում:
- c. **he.ɹ** tʃ^h-e-s zɔŋg-um
 why NEG-AUX-2SG call-IMPF.CVB
 ‘Why don’t you call?’ (NK)
 Յէ՞ր չես զանգում:

For the pronoun ‘how’, SEA uses [intʃ^hpes] while CEA uses [vonts^h] (Dum-Tragut 2009: 154). IA uses [intʃ^hpes] (12). The modifier version is [intʃ^hpesi].

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- (12) a. ke.ɽpku.ɽ-ət intʃ^hpes ɒ
food-POSS.2SG how AUX
'How is your food?' (NK)
Կերակուրդ ինչպէ՞ս ա:
- b. intʃ^hpesi mɒ.ɽt^h ɒ
what.kind man AUX
'What kind of man is he?' (NK)
Ինչպէ՞սի մարդ ա:

5.4 Numerals

Iranian Armenian uses essentially the same set of numerals and morphological operations to create complex numerals, as does SEA. We focus on cardinals (§5.4.1) and ordinals (5.4.2). For cardinals, there are only minor lexical differences between Standard Eastern Armenian and Iranian Armenian. For ordinals, Iranian Armenian displays a variable difference from SEA in the use of irregular morphology in complex numerals. All numeral data in this section was gathered from NK. She gave useful meta-linguistic judgements on variation within the Iranian Armenian community in Los Angeles. SEA forms were taken from Wiktionary and double-checked against grammars, the EANC's lexicon,² and speakers.

5.4.1 Cardinal numerals

Table 5.5 lists the basic numerals from 0 to 10. Numeral 9 includes the definite suffix /-ə/. We include stress markers because ordinals will later present exceptional stress patterns.

²<https://bitbucket.org/timarkh/uniparser-grammar-eastern-armenian/src/master/>

Table 5.5: Cardinal numerals 0-10

Value	Iranian Armenian			cf. SEA		
0	ze'ɔ	zero	զէրօ	zə'ro	zero	զրո
1	'mek	one	մէկ	'mek	one	մեկ
2	e.ɹ'ku	two	էրկու	jer'ku	two	երկու
3	je'ɹek ^h	three	երեք	jerek ^h	three	երեք
4	tʃ ^h o.ɹs	four	չորս	tʃ ^h oɹs	four	չորս
5	'hiŋg	five	հինգ	'hiŋg	five	հինգ
6	'vets ^h	six	վեց	'vets ^h	six	վեց
7	'jot ^h	seven	եօթ	'jot ^h	seven	յօթ
8	'ut ^h	eight	ութ	'ut ^h	eight	ութ
9	'inn-ə	nine-DEF	ինևը	'in-ə	nine-DEF	ինը
10	'tɔs	ten	տաս	'tas-ə	10-DEF	տասը

Some minor points of difference: a) the numeral 0 has different vowels in SEA and IA, b) the numeral 2 has an initial glide in SEA [jerku] but not in IA [e.ɹku],³ c) the numeral 9 has an extra nasal [inn-ə] in IA, and d) numeral 10 includes a definite suffix in SEA but not IA. Note however that an unsuffixed form [tas] in attested in Colloquial Eastern Armenian.

Note that the final schwa in these cardinals is morphologically the definite suffix, that's being used meaninglessly here. One cannot add another definite suffix on top of these suffixed roots. And also, this schwa /-ə/ shows the same allomorphy patterns as the definite suffix (§3.2.2), such as a prevocalic /-n-/ (13).

- (13) tas-n =e (SEA)
 tɔs-n =ɒ (SEA)
 ten-DEF AUX
 '(The time) is ten.'
 Տասն է/ա:

For numerals 11-19, Iranian Armenian admits more variability than SEA (Table 5.6). In SEA, a number like 11 is expressed by concatenating the numerals for 10 [tas] and 1 [mek]; the two numerals are separated by the definite suffix /-n-/ and a meaningless connective suffix /-ə-/: [tas-n-ə-mek]. Colloquial Eastern Armenian allows using a simpler construction whereby the intervening 'DEF-CON' morphs are omitted: [tas-mek]. NK reports that in her Iranian Armenian community,

³As discussed in §3.1.1, many polysyllabic words start with /je/ in SEA but an initial /e/ in IA. It is odd how the numerals 2 and 3 are both bisyllabic but behave differently.

5 *Function words*

both strategies are attested, and she feels that neither is dominant over the other. She herself reports that she uses the ‘DEF-CON’ template more often for 15 than for 16. Note that she also had vowel hiatus in words like 12.

Table 5.6: Cardinal numerals 11-19 in Iranian Armenian

Value	Using SEA-style template			Using CEA-style template		
11	tɔs-n-ə-mek	10-DEF-CON-1	տասնմէկ	tɔs-mek	10-1	տասմէկ
12	tɔs-n-ə-e.ɫku	10-DEF-CON-2	տասէրկու	tɔs-e.ɫku	10-2	տասէրկու
13	tɔs-n-ə-je.ɫek ^h	10-DEF-CON-3	տասներեք	tɔs-je.ɫek ^h	10-3	տասերեք
14	tɔs-n-ə-tʰo.ɫs	10-DEF-CON-4	տասնչորս	tɔs-tʰo.ɫs	10-4	տասչորս
15	tɔs-n-ə-hing	10-DEF-CON-5	տասնհինգ	tɔs-hing	10-5	տասհինգ
16	tɔs-n-ə-veʃ ^h	10-DEF-CON-6	տասնվեց	tɔs-veʃ ^h	10-6	տասվեց
17	tɔs-n-ə-jot ^h	10-DEF-CON-7	տասնեօթ	tɔs-jot ^h	10-7	տասեօթ
18	tɔs-n-ə-ut ^h	10-DEF-CON-8	տասնութ	tɔs-ut ^h	10-8	տասութ
19	tɔs-n-ə-inn-ə	10-DEF-CON-9-DEF	տասնինը	tɔs-inn-ə	10-9-DEF	տասինը

A point of difference between IA and SEA concerns numerals 12, 13, 18 where the one’s digit starts with a glide or vowel: SEA 2 [jerku], 3 [jerek^h], 8 [ut^h]. For SEA, the connective schwa and glide are absent: 12 [tas-n-erku], 13 [tas-n-erek^h], 18 [tas-n-ut^h]. CEA allows the retention of the schwa and the numeral’s glide: 12 [tas-n-ə-jerku], 13 [tas-n-ə-jerek^h], 18 [tas-n-ə-ut^h]. Iranian Armenian patterns like CEA in keeping the connective and glide, except for 12.⁴

Moving onto the higher numbers (Table 5.7), most decades like 30 consist of a root and suffix /-sun/. For illustration, we don’t separately segment the root and suffix because their allomorphy is quite opaque.

Table 5.7: Higher cardinal numerals (decades, 100, 1000) in Iranian Armenian

20	k ^h sɔn	twenty	քան
30	je.ɫe’sun	thirty	երեսուն
40	k ^h ɔrɔ’sun	forty	քառասուն
50	hi’ts ^h un	fifty	յիսուն
60	vɔ’ts ^h un	sixty	վաթսուն
70	jot ^h ɔnɔ’sun	seventy	եօթանասուն
80	ut’ts ^h un	eighty	ութսուն
90	innə’sun	ninety	ինսուն
100	hɔ’ɫu.ɫ	hundred	հարուր
1000	hɔ’zɔ.ɫ	thousand	հազար

⁴No such differences arise for numeral 17: SEA [tas-n-ə-jot^h] and IA [tɔs-n-ə-jot^h].

Numbers 20, 100, and 1000 have their own special forms. For the decade 20, the initial consonant cluster can use a schwa in careful speech [k^həʂɔn], but it is usually omitted in natural speech (cf. SEA data from [Hovakimyan 2016](#)). NK never produced a schwa for this form.

A point of departure between the lects is for numerals 50, 60, 80, 100. For SEA, these numerals end in /sun/: 50 [hi-sun], 60 [vat^h-sun], 80 [ut^h-sun]. In CEA, it's possible to affricate the /s/ in these numerals, such as [hit^hun, vat^hun, ut^hun]. Iranian Armenian speaker NK always affricates these numerals, sometimes also including a /t/ before the affricate: [hi-ts^hun, vɔts^hun, utts^hun].

For number 100, SEA uses [harjur] with a glide while IA uses [hɔ.ɹuɹ] without a glide.

To create complex cardinals, IA and SEA use the same strategy as English. Numerals are concatenated from the highest number to the lowest. For example, number 35 is just a concatenation of the numerals 30 and 5: [je.ɹesun je.ɹek^h] երեսուն երեք. Our archive includes more examples of complex cardinals that we elicited.

As a final note, these cardinals can act as nouns and take nominal inflection (14a). When the numeral 2 takes inflection, it uses a special allomorph [e.ɹkus] (14b).

- (14) a. je.ɹek^h-ən e-m uz-um
 three-DEF AUX-1SG want-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I want the three of them.’ (NK)
 Երեքն են ուզում:
- b. e.ɹkus-ən e-m uz-um
 two-DEF AUX-1SG want-IMPF.CVB
 ‘I want the two of them.’ (NK)
 Էրկունս են ուզում:

5.4.2 Ordinal numerals

Iranian Armenian uses essentially the same set of ordinal numerals and ordinal morphology as Standard Eastern Armenian. However, the two varieties differ in the use of irregular allomorphy in complex ordinals ([Stump 2010](#), [Dolatian 2023a](#)). Briefly, the numeral one displays allomorphy for ‘first’ but not for higher numerals. Numerals 2-4 show allomorphy for their simple ordinals, but their allomorphy is variably percolated to higher numbers.

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First, consider numerals 1-10 (Table 5.8). The ordinal of 1 [mek] is a special suppletive lexeme [ɔrɔtʃ^hin].⁵ The ordinals of 5-10 are formed by combining the cardinal root with the ordinal suffix /-e.ɬo.ɬ^h/: 5 [hing] and 5th [hing-e.ɬo.ɬ^h]. The ordinal suffix is morphologically exceptional because it is prosodically prestressing (§2.2.2.2).

Table 5.8: Ordinal numerals 1-10

Value	Iranian Armenian			cf. SEA	
1 st	ɔrɔtʃ ^h in	first	առաջին	araʃ ^h in	առաջին
2 nd	'jek-ɬo.ɬ ^h	two-ORD	երկրորդ	'jerk-rort ^h	երկրորդ
3 rd	'je-ɬo.ɬ ^h	three-ORD	երրորդ	'jer-rort ^h	երրորդ
4 th	ʃ ^h o-ɬo.ɬ ^h	four-ORD	չորրորդ	ʃ ^h or-rort ^h	չորրորդ
5 th	'hing-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	five-ORD	հինգերորդ	'hing-erort ^h	հինգերորդ
6 th	'vets ^h -e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	six-ORD	վեցերորդ	'vets ^h -erort ^h	վեցերորդ
7 th	'jot ^h -e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	seven-ORD	եօթերորդ	'jot ^h -erort ^h	յոթերորդ
8 th	'ut ^h -e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	six-ORD	ութերորդ	'ut ^h -erort ^h	ութերորդ
9 th	'inn-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	nine-ORD	իններորդ	'in-n-erort ^h	իններորդ
10 th	'tɔs-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	ten-ORD	տասերորդ	'tas-n-erort ^h	տասներորդ

Numerals 2-4 utilize allomorphy with a special root allomorph and short suffix allomorph /-ɬo.ɬ^h/ . For example, 2 is [e.ɬku] but 2nd is [jek-ɬo.ɬ^h].⁶

SEA uses essentially the same morphemes with some additional segments for ordinals 2-4, cf. SEA [jerk-rort^h] against IA [jek-rort^h] ‘2nd’. Ordinals 9 and 10 include the definite suffix /-n-/ in SEA.

The ordinal suffix /-e.ɬo.ɬ^h/ is the default suffix for ordinal formation. Higher numbers like decades use this suffix as well (Table 5.9).

⁵The ordinal [ɔrɔtʃ^hin] ‘first’ is morphologically related to the word [ɔrɔtʃ^h] which means ‘forward, before’ in the modern language. In Classical Armenian, the word also had other meanings like ‘previous’, while the root had other meanings like ‘front’. The etymological connection between these words is cross-linguistically common (Veselinova 1997: 441).

⁶For 2, NK uses a glide in the ordinal but not the cardinal. AM reports more ordinal variation as [je(ɬ)g-ɬo.ɬ^h, je(ɬ)k-ɬo.ɬ^h].

Table 5.9: Higher ordinal numerals (decades, 100, 1000) in Iranian Armenian

20 th	k ^h sɒn-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	twenty-ORD	քամներորդ
30 th	je.ɬe'sun-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	thirty-ORD	երեսներորդ
40 th	k ^h ɒrɒ'sun-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	forty-ORD	քառասներորդ
50 th	hi'ts ^h un-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	fifty-ORD	յիսներորդ
60 th	vɒ'ts ^h un-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	sixty-ORD	վաթսներորդ
70 th	jot ^h ɒnɒ'sun-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	seventy-ORD	եօթանասներորդ
80 th	ut'ts ^h un-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	eighty-ORD	ութսներորդ
90 th	innə'sun-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	ninety-ORD	իննսներորդ
100 th	hɒ'ɬu.ɬ-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	hundred-ORD	հարուրերորդ
1000 th	hɒ'zɒ.ɬ-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	thousand-ORD	հազարերորդ

For complex numbers like 35, the default strategy is to add the ordinal suffix /-e.ɬo.ɬ^h/ to the entire complex cardinal. For example, 35 is [je.ɬesun hiŋg] երեսն հինգ, thus the ordinal ‘thirty-fifth’ is [je.ɬesun hiŋg-e.ɬo.ɬ^h] երեսն հինգերորդ.

Complications arise for complex numerals where the one’s digit is 1-4. Recall that for the numeral 1, the cardinal is [mek] and the ordinal is [ɒrɒtʰin]. For numerals 2-4, the cardinal is one root allomorph like 2 [e.ɬku], while the ordinal uses special root and suffix allomorphs [jek-ɬo.ɬ^h]. These two groups of numerals differ in whether their allomorphy is inherited by higher complex cardinals.

First consider the numeral 1 and its higher forms (Table 5.10). For complex ordinals like 31st, we simply add the ordinal suffix without using the lexeme [ɒrɒtʰin], such as [je.ɬesun-mek-e.ɬo.ɬ^h]. The lexeme [ɒrɒtʰin] is not used for higher forms **je.ɬesun-ɒrɒtʰin*.

Table 5.10: Allomorphy of numeral 1 in complex ordinals in Iranian Armenian

1	mek	1	մէկ
1 st	ara'tʰin	first	առաջին
21	k ^h sɒn-'mek	20-1	քամ մէկ
21 st	k ^h sɒn-'mek-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	20-1-ORD	քամ մէկերորդ
31	je.ɬesun-'mek	30-1	երեսն մէկ
31 st	je.ɬesun-'mek-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	30-1-ORD	երեսն մէկերորդ
41	k ^h ɒrɒsun-'mek	40-1	քառասուն մէկ
41 st	k ^h ɒrɒsun-'mek-e.ɬo.ɬ ^h	40-1-ORD	քառասուն մէկերորդ

Such patterns of limited allomorphy in higher numbers has been called exter-

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nal marking (Stump 2010). The idea is that the ordinal of a complex cardinal like 31 is treated as an exocentric construction, and that the component 1 numeral cannot use its special allomorph in complex cardinals.

Note that SEA shows the same patterns for the non-use of [aratʰin] in higher numbers (Dum-Tragut 2009: 120). For example, 21st in SEA is simply [jeresun-mek-erortʰ] and not **jeresun-aratʰin*.

Different behavior is found for complex ordinals where the ones digit is 2-4. Consider the numeral 2 [e.ɬku]. Its ordinal is [jek-ɬo.ɬtʰ] with special root-suffix allomorphs. NK reports that she uses the same allomorphs for both simplex ordinals like 2 and complex ordinals like 32: [je.ɬesun-jek-ɬo.ɬtʰ] (Table 5.11). Such patterns are typologically called internal-marking (Stump 2010), metaphorically meaning that the complex ordinal is treated like an endocentric compound.

Table 5.11: Allomorphy of numerals 2-4 in complex ordinals in Iranian Armenian from NK

2	e.ɹ'ku	2	էրկու
2 nd	'jek-ɹo.ɹt ^h	2-ORD	երկրորդ
22	k ^h sɔn-e.ɹ'ku	20-2	քսան էրկու
22 nd	k ^h sɔn-'jek-ɹo.ɹt ^h	20-2-ORD	քսան երկրորդ
32	je.ɹesun-e.ɹ'ku	30-2	երեսուն էրկու
32 nd	je.ɹesun-'jek-ɹo.ɹt ^h	30-2-ORD	երեսուն երկրորդ
42	k ^h ɔrɔsun-e.ɹ'ku	40-2	քառասուն էրկու
42 nd	k ^h ɔrɔsun-'jek-ɹo.ɹt ^h	40-2-ORD	քառասուն երկրորդ
3	je'ɹek ^h	3	երեք
3 rd	'je-ɹo.ɹt ^h	3-ORD	երրորդ
23	k ^h sɔn-je'ɹek ^h	20-3	քսան երեք
23 rd	k ^h sɔn-'je-ɹo.ɹt ^h	20-3-ORD	քսան երրորդ
33	je.ɹesun-je'ɹek ^h	30-3	երեսուն երեք
33 rd	je.ɹesun-'je-ɹo.ɹt ^h	30-3-ORD	երեսուն երրորդ
43	k ^h ɔrɔsun-je'ɹek ^h	40-3	քառասուն երեք
43 rd	k ^h ɔrɔsun-'je-ɹo.ɹt ^h	40-3-ORD	քառասուն երրորդ
4	tʃ ^h o.ɹs	4	չորս
4 th	tʃ ^h o-ɹo.ɹt ^h	4-ORD	չորրորդ
24	k ^h sɔn-tʃ ^h o.ɹs	20-4	քսան չորս
24 th	k ^h sɔn-tʃ ^h o-ɹo.ɹt ^h	20-4-ORD	քսան չորրորդ
34	je.ɹesun-tʃ ^h o.ɹs	30-4	երեսուն չորս
34 th	je.ɹesun-tʃ ^h o-ɹo.ɹt ^h	30-4-ORD	երեսուն չորրորդ
44	k ^h ɔrɔsun-tʃ ^h o.ɹs	40-4	քառասուն չորս
44 th	k ^h ɔrɔsun-tʃ ^h o-ɹo.ɹt ^h	40-4-ORD	քառասուն չորրորդ

Note that Standard Eastern Armenian crucially differs from NK's IA ideolect in this regard. In SEA, a numeral like 2 [jerku] cannot percolate its irregular form [jerk-ɹort^h] to higher numerals. Thus, the ordinal of 32 in SEA is [jeresun-erku-erort^h] with the default ordinal suffix, and not **jeresun-erk-ɹort^h* with the special allomorphs (Սարգսյան 1985: 209, Hagopian 2005: 308). For discussion on such ordinal variation in Armenian, see Dolatian (2023a).

Because of this difference between SEA and Iranian Armenian, NK informs us that her colleagues and family gave her contradictory judgments on the correct formation of complex ordinals like 32. Some recommended the use of the SEA-style ordinal with the default ordinal suffix /-e.ɹo.ɹt^h/ (like [je.ɹesun-e.ɹku-e.ɹo.ɹt^h]),

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while her own judgments and those of her friends preferred the use of the irregular ordinal suffix /-լօւիth/ (like [je.ɽesun-jek-լօւիth]). Anooshik Melikian (AM, an Iranian Armenian speaker from Tehran) likewise reports that NK’s colloquial constructions are attested across educated and non-educated speakers in Tehran. The use of the SEA-style construction is obviously due to the prestige of SEA, as a form of prescriptivism.

5.5 Other function words

The following are lists of function words that we have elicited which do not neatly fit into the previous sections. As of writing this grammar, we have not been able to study these function words extensively.

Iranian Armenian uses the following adverbial function words in Table 5.12 to indicate location, e.g., the equivalent of English ‘here’ and ‘there’. As with demonstratives, these locational words distinguish between proximal, medial, and distal locations. We specify the source of the items.

Table 5.12: Location adverbs in Iranian Armenian

Proximal	estex (KM, NK), ste (AS), stex (AS) էստեղ, ստեղ, ստէ	‘this place’
Medial	ettex (AS, NK) էդտեղ	‘that place’
Distal	əndex (AS), ənde (AS), ənnex (NK, KM), ənnex (KM) ընտեղ, ընտէ, ըննէ, ըննեղ	‘that place yonder’

All these words like [estex] ‘this place’ are morphologically derived from a demonstrative like [es] ‘this’ and the word ‘place’ [tex]. Note how the [t] becomes [d] after the nasal in [əndex] ‘that place yonder’. Post-nasal voicing seems limited to such function words.

To illustrate, the following sentence shows a location adverb (15).

- (15) ցան-ժ ənne
go-TH there’
‘Go over there.’ (NK)
Գսա ըննէ:

We likewise elicited the following adverbs of manner (Table 5.13).

Table 5.13: Manner adverbs in Iranian Armenian

Proximal	esents ^h (AS), sents ^{hi} (AS)	‘like this’
	էսենց, սենց	
Medial	etents ^h (AS), tents ^{hi} (AS)	‘like that’
	էտենց, տենց	
Distal	nents ^{hi} (AS)	‘like that yonder’
	նենց	

An additional adverb of manner is [hents^h] that has a broad range of uses, often translatable to the English word ‘just’ (16).

- (16) a. hents^h et
 just that
 ‘That’s it’ (NK)
 Զէնց էտ:
 b. hents^h himɔ
 just now
 ‘Right now’ (NK)
 Զէնց հիմա:

Iranian Armenian has a modal word [piti] that roughly translates to ‘must’ (17). It is used to create a debitive or obligative mood (Dum-Tragut 2009: 263).

- (17) a. piti et^h-ɔ-m
 must go-TH-1SG
 ‘I have to go.’ (NK)
 Պիտի էթամ:
 b. piti ut-e-m
 must eat-TH-1SG
 ‘I have to eat.’ (NK)
 Պիտի ուտեմ:

This word is related to the syntactic construction [pet^hk ɔ] which is used to mean ‘it is needed’ or ‘it is necessary’ (18).

- (18) a. petk^h ɔ
 need AUX
 ‘It is needed.’ (NK)
 Պէտք ա:

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- b. petk^h ɒ ut-e-m
need AUX eat-TH-1SG

‘I have to eat.’

Literally: ‘It is needed that I eat.’

Պէտք ա ունեմ:

(NK)

6 Verbal morphology

In Iranian Armenian, regular verbs are divided into simple verbs and complex verbs. In their infinitive citation form, simple verbs consist of a root, theme vowel, and infinitive suffix. Of these simple verbs, there are two conjugation classes based on the theme vowel. Complex verbs include a valency-changing morpheme. These include passives, causatives, and inchoatives. In contrast, irregular verbs can be divided into four categories: nasal-infixed verbs, suppletive verbs, defective verbs, and miscellaneous verbs.

When comparing Iranian Armenian with other Armenian lects, Iranian Armenian is close to Standard Eastern Armenian. Like Standard Eastern, Iranian Armenian widely uses periphrasis for various inflectional paradigm cells. Periphrasis is used for the indicative present, indicative past imperfective, and various complex tenses (present perfect, past perfect, future). Periphrasis involves the use of a non-finite converb (which carries lexical meaning) alongside an inflected auxiliary that carries tense/agreement marking. Synthesis is used for less frequent inflectional cells, such as subjunctives, conditionals, futures, and imperatives. The most common synthetic form is the past perfective, also called the aorist.

There is a larger literature on the verbal morphology of other Armenian lects. For Standard Western Armenian morphotactics, see [Donabédian 1997](#), [Boyacioglu \(2010\)](#), [Boyacioglu & Dolatian \(2020\)](#), [Dolatian & Guekguezian \(2022b,a\)](#), and [Karakaş et al. \(2021\)](#). For Standard Eastern Armenian, most work on verbal morphology is on the semantics of various paradigm cells ([Kozintseva 1995](#), [Dum-Tragut 2009](#)). For Iranian Armenian, we focus on providing complete paradigms for the different conjugation classes. We provide a complete segmentation of all inflectional morphology.

For reference, Iranian Armenian shows the following significant differences from Standard Eastern Armenian in terms of verbal morphology.

- The 1SG marker /-m/ is used in both the present and past paradigms (§6.2.2)
- The present 3SG auxiliary is /v/ in Iranian Armenian, /e/ in Standard Eastern (§6.2.1). The form [ɑ] is also attested in Colloquial Eastern Armenian.
- Iranian Armenian deletes the auxiliary /e/ or theme vowel /e/ before the past marker /i/ (§6.2.2,6.4.2).

- There is optional leveling of the negated copula and negated auxiliary (§6.2.3).
- The perfective converb suffix displays liquid-zero alternations, briefly illustrated in §6.3.2, discussed more in §3.3.
- The past perfective or aorist system has been significantly altered, by promoting the past morph /-v/ from a restricted marked allomorph to an elsewhere allomorph (§6.4.1).
- The imperative 2SG suffix differs across the lects (§6.4.3).
- Some irregular verbs in Standard Eastern have become leveled or lost in Iranian Armenian (§6.7).

For contrast, we often show the verbal paradigms of both Standard Eastern Armenian and Iranian Armenian. This chapter provides complete paradigms for the simplex verbs, and partial paradigms for complex and irregular verbs. Complete paradigms are found in our online archive.¹

Across Armenian varieties, the conjugation classes utilize different stems when forming the different paradigm cells. These are often called the present stem and the past/aorist stem. The aorist stem can be formed via various morphological strategies, such as root allomorphy and affix deletion. The aorist stem can include either an overt aorist suffix $-\widehat{ts}^h$ - or a covert aorist suffix $-\emptyset$ -. Due to space limitations, we do not explicitly discuss the formation of present vs. aorist stems in Iranian Armenian. Our paradigms indicate the use of the aorist stem and aorist suffix $-\widehat{ts}^h/\emptyset$ - in both the past perfective and other paradigm cells as AOR. When used in the past perfective, the aorist morpheme contributes perfective meaning; but it is used meaninglessly as a morphomic element in other paradigm cells (cf. Aronoff 1994). For discussion of the formation of aorist stems in Standard Armenian, see Dolatian & Guekguezian (2022a).

6.1 Simple verbs and their classes

Like in Standard Eastern Armenian, regular simple verbs in Iranian Armenian are classified into two classes based on the choice of theme vowel: $-e-$, $-v-$ (6.1). We call these classes E-Class and A-Class. The citation form is the infinitive, called the [anorof derbaj] ‘indefinite participle’ անորոշ դերբայ in Standard Eastern Armenian.

¹https://github.com/jhdeov/iranian_armenian

Table 6.1: Simple infinitives from the two regular classes

E-Class		A-Class		$\sqrt{\text{-TH-INF}}$
je.ɫk ^h -e-l 'to sing'	ɒp.ɫ-e-l 'to live'	kɒ.ɫt ^h -ɒ-l 'to read'	χos-ɒ-l 'to speak'	
Երգել	ապրել	կարդալ	խօսալ	

Standard Eastern Armenian uses the same conjugation classes. In general, a given verb belongs to the same conjugation class in both lects. There are some exceptions though. For example, the verb 'to speak' uses the root $\chi os-$. In Iranian Armenian, this verb belongs to the A-Class: $\chi os-\text{ɒ-l}$ 'to speak'. In contrast in Standard Eastern Armenian, this verb belongs to the E-Class: $\chi os-e-l$.²

In terms of morphological structure, we treat theme vowels as meaningless empty morphs (Aronoff 1994). The choice of theme-vowel is root-conditioned and meaningless. For a theoretical analysis of Armenian theme vowels, see Guekguegian & Dolatian (forthcoming). Their Standard Western Armenian analysis can easily extend to Iranian Armenian.

Having set up the basic classes, the next sections describes verbal inflection. Like Standard Eastern Armenian, verbal inflection Iranian Armenian is highly periphrastic. Before we describe these periphrastic forms, we first describe the auxiliary system in Iranian Armenian.

6.2 Auxiliaries

The verb 'to be' acts as both a copula in predicate sentences (1a), and as an auxiliary in periphrastic forms (1b).

- (1) a. mɒ.ɫt^h-ə təχu.ɫ ɒ
 man-DEF sad AUX.PRS.3SG
 'The man is sad.' (NK)
 Մարդը տխուր ւ:

²It is possible that these few deviations have a diachronic reason. Modern Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian utilize only two theme vowels: $-e-$ and $-a/v-$. But Classical Armenian had two additional theme vowels $-i-$ and $-u-$. Reflexes of verbs with these theme vowels are assigned to one of the surviving classes, usually to the E-Class. For example, 'to speak' was an I-Class verb in Classical Armenian: $\chi os-i-l$. The fact that this verb became E-Class in Standard Eastern Armenian, but A-Class in Iranian Armenian suggests that more deviations would be found in the reflexes of Classical verbs with obsolete theme vowels.

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- b. $\text{m}\text{d}\text{.}\text{t}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\text{ə}\ \text{j}\text{e}\text{.}\text{k}^{\text{h}}\text{-um}\ \text{v}$
 man-DEF sing-IMPF.CVB AUX.PRS.3SG
 ‘The man is singing.’ (NK)
 Մարդը երգում ւ:

In this section, we gloss the present 3SG auxiliary [v] as ‘AUX.PRS.3SG’ for explanation. But throughout the rest of the grammar, we usually just gloss it as AUX.

In periphrastic constructions, the verb is in a converb form, e.g., the imperfective converb in (1b). Before discussing these converbs, we first lay out the paradigm of the auxiliary. The name of the auxiliary is [oʒandak baj] օժանդակ բայ ‘helper verb’ in Standard Eastern Armenian.

6.2.1 Present auxiliary

We show the present tense paradigm of the auxiliary in Table 6.2. Because the auxiliary can also function as a copula, we gloss both as AUX. In the present tense, the auxiliary consists of the auxiliary’s marker *-e-*, and then a fused tense-agreement marker (T/AGR or just AGR). In the 3SG, there is no T/Agr marker. Instead, the inflected auxiliary is just the auxiliary marker /e/ in Standard Eastern Armenian. In contrast in Iranian Armenian, the 3SG present uses an allomorph /v/ of the auxiliary.

Table 6.2: Paradigm of the present auxiliary and copula in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Standard Eastern		Iranian Armenian	
1SG	e-m	եմ	e-m	եմ
	‘I am’		‘I am’	
2SG	e-s	ես	e-s	ես
3SG	e	է	v	ւ
1PL	e-ηk ^h	ենք	e-ηk ^h	ենք
2PL	e-k ^h	եք	e-k ^h	եք
3PL	e-n	են	e-n	են
	AUX-AGR			

The Iranian Armenian 3SG form /v/ is likely diachronically derived from an earlier /e/ form. In fact, the 3SG auxiliary /v/ is found in the colloquial speech of Standard Eastern speakers in Armenia as /ɑ/. For Iranian Armenian, the low-vowel form /v/ form is simply grammaticalized as the only realization of the present 3SG auxiliary.

We utilize the following rules for Iranian Armenian (Rule 2). Tense and agreement are expressed via a single marker in the present.

Rule 2. Rules for marking present agreement

1SG	↔	-m
2SG, present	↔	-s
3SG, present	↔	-∅
1PL	↔	-nk ^h
2PL	↔	-k ^h
3PL	↔	-n

Note that the 1PL suffix is underlyingly /-nk^h/ and the nasal assimilates in place to become [-ŋk^h] (§2.1.3). This plural morpheme is a reflex of Classical *-m-k^h. Compare modern [eŋk^h] against Classical Էմք <emk'> (Thomson 1989: 26).

The markers of the 1SG and the plurals do not specify tense. As we see later, these markers are used throughout Iranian Armenian for these person-number combinations.

As for the auxiliary itself (3), it has allomorphs /e/ and /ɒ/. For the present 3SG, the auxiliary is expressed by /ɒ/ without an extra tense marker. We later revise the marker rules for the auxiliary.

Rule 3. Rules for the form of the auxiliary verb ‘to be’ in the present (to be revised)

‘be’ or AUX	↔	ɒ-	/ _PRS.3SG
		e-	/ elsewhere

6.2.2 Past auxiliary

For the present auxiliary, Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian have few differences. But in the past form of the auxiliary, we find two major differences between the two lects. In Table 6.3, we provide zero markers for easier illustration. Note the glide is epenthetic.

Table 6.3: Paradigm of the past auxiliary in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Without zero markers				With zero markers	
	SEA		IA		SEA	IA
1SG	ej-i 'I was'	տի	i-m 'I was'	իմ	ej-i-∅	∅-i-m
2SG	ej-i-ր	տիր	i-լ	իր	ej-i-ր	∅-i-լ
3SG	e-ր	տր	e-լ	լր	e-∅-ր	e-∅-լ
1PL	ej-i-րկ ^h	տիւք	i-րկ ^h	իւք	ej-i-րկ ^h	∅-i-րկ ^h
2PL	ej-i-k ^h	տիք	i-k ^h	իք	ej-i-k ^h	∅-i-k ^h
3PL	ej-i-n	տիւ	i-n	իւ	ej-i-n	∅-i-n
					AUX-PST-AGR	

Consider first the non-3SG forms. In Standard Eastern Armenian, the past form of the auxiliary is made up of three overt morphs: the auxiliary *e*, a past suffix *-i*, and then agreement. Tense and agreement are thus separate suffixes in the past. Vowel hiatus between the auxiliary and past suffix triggers glide epenthesis: 1PL /*e-i-nk^h*/ → [ej-i-րկ^h]. In contrast in Iranian Armenian, the auxiliary morpheme is covert in these contexts. Outside of the 3SG, there are only two overt morphs and these are the past suffix and the agreement suffix. For example, 1PL is [ej-i-րկ^h] in Standard Eastern but [i-րկ^h] in Iranian Armenian.

We analyze this difference as due to a morpheme-specific rule of vowel deletion in hiatus (Rule 4). This rule will delete the vowel *e* before the past morpheme *-i*. We call this rule *e-deletion*. The target of this rule is just a segment, while the trigger is a specific morph.

Rule 4. *e*-Deletion: Rule for deleting /*e*/ before past /*i*/

$$/e/ \rightarrow \emptyset \quad / _ i$$

where *i* is the past suffix

In morphological theory, the use of morpheme-specific phonological processes is controversial (Pater 2007, Siddiqi 2009, Haugen & Siddiqi 2016, Haugen 2016, Embick & Shwayder 2018). There are two pieces of evidence for treating the absence of the auxiliary *-e-* as morpheme-specific phonology instead of allomorphy. First, in the 3SG, the past suffix is covert, and the auxiliary is overt: *e-∅-լ* instead of *∅-*i*-լ or *∅-∅-լ. It thus seems that the absence of the auxiliary is conditioned by making the past suffix an overt vowel. Second, we will see in the subjunctive past (§6.4.2), that the *-e-* theme vowel likewise deletes before the past *-i-* suffix.

In sum, the above rule possibly developed in Iranian Armenian as a morpheme-specific rule for repairing vowel hiatus.

Outside of IA, there are other Armenian dialects where the past auxiliary has this reduced form. For example, in 1911, the dialect of Armenian spoken in Yerevan had past auxiliaries like 3PL [\emptyset -i-n] (Աճառեան 1911: 43; translated by Dolatian in review). Such auxiliary forms were lost in Yerevan, due to language shift from (Old) Yerevan Armenian to SEA. But they remain as grammaticalized in IA.

The second difference between the lects concerns the 1SG. In Standard Eastern, the Agr morph is covert: *e-i- \emptyset* ‘I was’. In Iranian Armenian, the Agr morph is an overt /m/: \emptyset -i-m. This /m/ morph is the same suffix used in the present 1SG [e-m]. Thus this morph /m/ has a more general distribution in Iranian Armenian than in Standard Eastern. We list the rules for the 1SG below for the two lects for the two tenses (Rule 5).

Rule 5. Rules for the 1SG in the two lects

<i>Standard Eastern</i>	1SG	\leftrightarrow	- \emptyset / in the past -m / elsewhere
<i>Iranian Armenian</i>	1SG	\leftrightarrow	-m

The use of -m as a general 1SG marker is rather common in Armenian lects in Iran (Ջահովյան 1972: p. 103, feature 100.6). See Vaux 2022b: 55-6 for useful maps on the spread of this phenomenon across Iran. For the spread of the -m morph, it is possible that a contributing factor is that Persian uses a morph -æm as a generalized 1SG marker for both the present and past (Mahootian 2002: 229ff).

We list below the additional rules that are needed for Iranian Armenian 3SG (6). The past morph is covert in the 3SG: [e- \emptyset -ɿ], while an overt /-i/ elsewhere. We do not need to list any rules for plural Agr, because they’re the same as for the present (§6.2.1).

Rule 6. Rules for past tense and agreement in 3SG

PST		\leftrightarrow	- \emptyset / in 3SG -i / elsewhere
singular non-1st person		\leftrightarrow	-ɿ / in the past

The past 2SG and 3SG are syncretic for the agreement suffix (Karakaş et al. 2021). They both use the morph ɿ. The two paradigm cells are distinguished by tense being overt in the 2SG, but covert in the 3SG: \emptyset -i-ɿ ‘you were’ vs. e- \emptyset -ɿ ‘he was’.

6.2.3 Negation

The previous subsections described the inflection of the auxiliary in the positive. Negation is straightforwardly marked by adding the negation prefix \widehat{t}^n . However, we see some divergences in the present 3SG.

Table 6.4 shows the paradigm for the negated present auxiliary for Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian. For all but the present 3SG, negation is marked by adding the negation prefix \widehat{t}^n to the auxiliary.

Table 6.4: Paradigm of negated present auxiliary in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Present: (NEG)-AUX-AGR							
	Standard Eastern				Iranian Armenian			
	Pos.		Neg.		Pos.		Neg.	
1SG	e-m	եմ	\widehat{t}^n -e-m	չեմ	e-m	եմ	\widehat{t}^n -e-m	չեմ
2SG	e-s	ես	\widehat{t}^n -e-s	չես	e-s	ես	\widehat{t}^n -e-s	չես
3SG	e- \emptyset	է	\widehat{t}^n -i- \emptyset	չի	v- \emptyset	ւ	\widehat{t}^n -i- \emptyset	չի
1PL	e- ηk^h	ենք	\widehat{t}^n -e- ηk^h	չենք	e- ηk^h	ենք	\widehat{t}^n -e- ηk^h	չենք
2PL	e- k^h	եք	\widehat{t}^n -e- k^h	չեք	e- k^h	եք	\widehat{t}^n -e- k^h	չեք
3PL	e-n	են	\widehat{t}^n -e-n	չեն	e-n	են	\widehat{t}^n -e-n	չեն

Table 6.5 shows the paradigm of the negated past auxiliary. Negation is marked by adding the negation prefix.

Table 6.5: Paradigm of negated past auxiliary in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Past: (NEG)-AUX-PST-AGR							
	Standard Eastern				Iranian Armenian			
	Pos.		Neg.		Pos.		Neg.	
1SG	ej-i- \emptyset	էի	\widehat{t}^n -ej-i- \emptyset	չէի	\emptyset -i-m	իմ	\widehat{t}^n - \emptyset -i-m	չիմ
2SG	ej-i-r	էիր	\widehat{t}^n -ej-i-r	չէիր	\emptyset -i-լ	իր	\widehat{t}^n - \emptyset -i-լ	չիր
3SG	e- \emptyset -r	էր	\widehat{t}^n -e- \emptyset -r	չէր	e- \emptyset -լ	էր	\widehat{t}^n -e- \emptyset -լ	չէր
1PL	ej-i- ηk^h	էինք	\widehat{t}^n -ej-i- ηk^h	չէինք	\emptyset -i- ηk^h	ինք	\widehat{t}^n - \emptyset -i- ηk^h	չինք
2PL	ej-i- k^h	էիք	\widehat{t}^n -ej-i- k^h	չէիք	\emptyset -i- k^h	իք	\widehat{t}^n - \emptyset -i- k^h	չիք
3PL	ej-i-n	էին	\widehat{t}^n -ej-i-n	չէին	\emptyset -i-n	ին	\widehat{t}^n - \emptyset -i-n	չին

Differences emerge in the present 3SG. When used as a verbal auxiliary in Table 6.6, the positive form is /v/ in Iranian Armenian, and /e/ in Standard Eastern.

The negative form is /tʃ^h-i/ for both lects. The negative auxiliary is placed before the verb.³

Table 6.6: Forms of negative auxiliary across Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Pos.	Neg
SEA	jer ^h k-um e երգում է:	tʃ ^h -i jer ^h k-um Չի երգում:
IA	je.ɪk ^h -um Ծ երգում ա:	tʃ ^h -i je.ɪk ^h -um Չի երգում:
Gloss:	singing is 'He is singing.'	NEG-is singing 'He isn't singing.'

But when used as a copula, we find more significant dialectal differences in Table 6.7. In both the positive and negative, the copula is placed after the predicate. The positive form is /v/ in Iranian Armenian and /e/ in Standard Eastern, as expected. When negated, Standard Eastern uses /tʃ^h-e/. In Iranian Armenian, speakers can use either /tʃ^h-e/ or /tʃ^h-i/. We call the use of /tʃ^h-e/ as the un-leveled form, while the use of /tʃ^h-i/ as the leveled form. Such variation is also documented for Colloquial Eastern Armenian (Dum-Tragut 2009: 216).

Table 6.7: Forms of negative copula across Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Pos.	Neg
SEA	սրաչ e Ուրախ է:	սրաչ tʃ ^h -e Ուրախ չէ:
IA (un-leveled)	ս.լթչ Ծ Ուրախ ա:	ս.լթչ tʃ ^h -e Ուրախ չէ:
IA (leveled)	ս.լթչ Ծ Ուրախ ա:	ս.լթչ tʃ ^h -i Ուրախ չի:
Gloss:	happy is 'He is happy.'	happy NEG-is 'He isn't happy.'

The above patterns require the following rules (Rule 7). For Standard Eastern, the verb 'to be' surfaces as /i/ only when it is an auxiliary, negative, and present 3SG. In all other contexts (including as a copula), it surfaces as the elsewhere morph /e/.

Rule 7. Rules for the auxiliary verb 'to be' in Standard Eastern

'be' or AUX ↔ i- / NEG _ PRS.3SG, used as verbal auxiliary (not a copula)
e- / elsewhere

³The complete gloss for the copula and auxiliary in the tables are AUX.PRS.3SG and AUX.PRS.3SG. The complete gloss for the verb 'singing' is sing-IMPF.CV.B.

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For Iranian Armenian, matters are slightly more complicated. Some speakers can use /i/ in the negative of both the auxiliary and the copula. All speakers use the form /ɒ/ in the positive of both the auxiliary and copula. This simpler leveled system uses the rules below (Rule 8). The rule for /i/ simply doesn't reference the auxiliary vs. copula status of the verb. The verb surfaces as [ɒ] in the positive present 3SG, and as [e] elsewhere.

Rule 8. Rules for the auxiliary verb 'to be' in Iranian Armenian with full leveling

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{'be' or AUX} \leftrightarrow \text{i-} \quad / \text{NEG_PRS.3SG} \\ \text{d-} \quad / \text{_ PRS.3SG} \\ \text{e-} \quad / \text{elsewhere} \end{array}$$

As for speakers who haven't leveled the negative copula towards the negative auxiliary, they need the more complicated system below (Rule 9). These speakers use /i/ for the negative auxiliary, /ɒ/ for the positive verb, and /e/ elsewhere.

Rule 9. Rules for the auxiliary verb 'to be' without leveling

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{'be' or AUX} \leftrightarrow \text{i-} \quad / \text{NEG_PRS.3SG, used as auxiliary verb (not as copula)} \\ \text{d-} \quad / \text{_ PRS.3SG} \\ \text{e-} \quad / \text{elsewhere} \end{array}$$

6.3 Periphrastic structures

Iranian Armenian uses periphrasis in order to realize most tense-aspect-mood combinations. These periphrastic forms all utilize a special form of the verb called the converb. Tense and agreement is marked on the auxiliary. The auxiliary follows the converb in the positive, and it precedes the converb in the negative.⁴ Note that the future is marked with both synthetic and periphrastic constructions, discussed in §6.5.

Throughout this grammar, we reserve the term 'converb' for non-finite verb forms that are restricted to verbal periphrasis. We use the term 'participle' for non-finite verb forms that can be used outside of periphrasis. This seems to be the intuition behind the use of these terms in the Eastern Armenian National Corpus.⁵

⁴The auxiliary can further move around the sentence because of focus and other syntactic factors (§3.3.1).

⁵eanc.net/

6.3.1 Indicative present and past imperfective

The first periphrastic construction that we describe is the indicative imperfective forms, called [sahmanakan jəʁanak] սահմանակալան եղակալ in Standard Eastern Armenian. This construction is used in the indicative present and the indicative past imperfective (also called the past imperfect). This construction is formed identically in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian.

The verb is in a converb form called the imperfective converb (2). Some grammar also use the term present participle (Dum-Tragut 2009: 219). In Standard Eastern Armenian, this converb is called [ɑjkatar derbaj] անկատար դերբայ. Given the infinitive for a verb like *je.ɬk^h-e-l* ‘to sing’, the imperfective converb is formed by replacing the theme vowel and infinitive with the suffix *-um*: *je.ɬk^h-um*. Tense and subject agreement are marked on the auxiliary. The present auxiliary is used to form the indicative present; the past auxiliary is used to form the indicative past imperfective.

- (2) a. *je.ɬk^h-um e-ŋk^h*
 sing-IMPF.CVB AUX-1PL
 ‘We are singing.’ (NK)
 Երգում ենք:
- b. *je.ɬk^h-um Ø-i-ŋk^h*
 sing-IMPF.CVB AUX-PST-1PL
 ‘We were singing.’ (NK)
 Երգում ինք:

Negation is marked by placing the negated form of the auxiliary before the converb 3.

- (3) a. *tʃ^h-e-ŋk^h je.ɬk^h-um*
 NEG-AUX-1PL sing-IMPF.CVB
 ‘We are not singing.’ (NK)
 Չենք երգում:
- b. *tʃ^h-Ø-i-ŋk^h je.ɬk^h-um*
 NEG-AUX-PST-1PL sing-IMPF.CVB
 ‘We were not singing.’ (NK)
 Չինք երգում:

The two conjugation classes (E-Class and A-Class) do not differ in constructing the imperfective converb, e.g., the converb of *kd.ɬt^h-D-l* ‘to read’ is *kd.ɬt^h-um*. All

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tense-number-person combinations are straightforwardly marked by using the appropriate inflected auxiliary. The complete paradigm is given in Table 6.8. For clarity of presentation, we do not segment the internal structure of the auxiliary.

Table 6.8: Paradigm for indicative present and indicative past imperfective for E-Class [je.tk^h-e-l] ‘to sing’

	Pos.		Neg.					
	Indc. present		Indc. past imperf.		Indc. present		Indc. past imperf.	
1SG	je.tk ^h -um երգում	em եմ	je.tk ^h -um երգում	im իմ	tʃ ^h -em չեմ	je.tk ^h -um երգում	tʃ ^h -im չիմ	je.tk ^h -um երգում
	‘I am singing’		‘I was singing’		‘I am not singing’		‘I was not singing’	
2SG	je.tk ^h -um երգում	es ես	je.tk ^h -um երգում	i.t իր	tʃ ^h -es չես	je.tk ^h -um երգում	tʃ ^h -i.t չիր	je.tk ^h -um երգում
3SG	je.tk ^h -um երգում	v ւ	je.tk ^h -um երգում	e.t էր	tʃ ^h -i չի	je.tk ^h -um երգում	tʃ ^h -e.t չէր	je.tk ^h -um երգում
1PL	je.tk ^h -um երգում	enjk ^h եյկ ^h	je.tk ^h -um երգում	inj ^h ինք	tʃ ^h -enjk ^h չենք	je.tk ^h -um երգում	tʃ ^h -inj ^h չինք	je.tk ^h -um երգում
2PL	je.tk ^h -um երգում	ek ^h էք	je.tk ^h -um երգում	ik ^h իք	tʃ ^h -ek ^h չէք	je.tk ^h -um երգում	tʃ ^h -ik ^h չիք	je.tk ^h -um երգում
3PL	je.tk ^h -um երգում	en են	je.tk ^h -um երգում	in ին	tʃ ^h -en չեն	je.tk ^h -um երգում	tʃ ^h -in չին	je.tk ^h -um երգում
	√-IMPF.CVB AUX				NEG-AUX √-IMPF.CVB			

The imperfective converb suffix is simply *-um*. If we assume that the theme vowels /e,v/ are underlyingly present, then we need a rule that deletes theme vowels before the converb suffix, as a type of morpheme-specific vowel hiatus repair (Rule 10). For example, /je.tk^h-e-um/ → [je.tk^h-∅-um].

Rule 10. Deleting theme vowels before the converb suffix

$$V \rightarrow \emptyset / _ V_2 \quad (\text{where } V_2 \text{ is part of converb suffix})$$

6.3.2 Present perfect and pluperfect

The next periphrastic construction that we discuss is the periphrastic perfective. Like the other periphrastic forms, this construction utilizes a special converb and the inflected auxiliary. The converb is called the perfective converb. Some grammars also use the term perfect participle (Dum-Tragut 2009: 213). It is called [vaʁakatar derbaj] վաղակատար դերբայ in Standard Eastern Armenian.

The perfective converb has subtle differences across the two lects (Table 6.9). In Standard Eastern Armenian, the perfective converb is formed by adding the

suffix *-el*. The theme vowel is deleted thanks to the vowel-hiatus rule in Rule 10. In Iranian Armenian, this suffix is *-el* for middle-aged and older speakers. But for younger speakers, the suffix is more often *-e.ɬ*.

Table 6.9: Liquid quality of the perfective converb in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Infinitive երգել	Perfective converb երգել
Standard Eastern	jeɾk ^h -e-l	jeɾk ^h -el
Iranian Armenian	je.ɬk ^h -e-l	je.ɬk ^h -el
	√-TH-INF	je.ɬk ^h -e.ɬ
		√-PERF.CVB

For the same speaker, the choice of liquid can vary between [-el] or [-e.ɬ] without semantic motivation (4). It is possible that [-el] feels more formal for our speakers.

- (4) es je.ɬk^h-ə vo.ɬ mam-it^h sovo.ɬ-e.ɬ/el e-m
 this song-DEF that mom-ABL learn-PERF.CVB AUX-1SG
 ‘This song that I learned from my mom.’ (NK)
 Էս երգը որ մամից սովորեր/սովորել եմ:

In some social phrases, AS reports that the liquid is conventionally a lateral (5).

- (5) kɔ.ɬot-el =e-m k^hez
 miss-PERF.CVB =AUX-1SG YOU.SG.DAT
 ‘I’ve missed you.’ (AS)
 Կարօտել եմ քեզ:

Diachronically, the rhotic form [-e.ɬ] may have developed from the lateral form [-el]. This development has been attested in other Armenian lects (Գրիգորյան 2018).

Iranian Armenian has grammaticalized a process of liquid deletion for this perfective converb suffix (Table 6.10). When this suffix is used in the positive before the inflected auxiliary, the liquid surfaces. But when the auxiliary has shifted leftward as in negation, the suffix’s liquid is deleted, and sometimes pronounced as [h].⁶

⁶AS reports that some archaic registers use the form [-i], such as in the sentence [vɔksɔn e-n tʃɔ.ɬ-i] glossed as ‘vaccine AUX-3PL find-PERF.CVB’, meaning ‘They’ve found a vaccine’. We found this sentence in our transcribed sample text, uttered by an actor who was putting on an archaic accent.

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Table 6.10: Perfective converb in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian for the E-Class verb ‘to sing’

	Positive present perfect 1SG		Negative present perfect 1SG	
SEA	jer ^k -el	em	tʃ ^h -em	jer ^k -el
	երգել եմ:		Չեմ երգել:	
IA	je.ɹk ^h -el	em	tʃ ^h -em	je.ɹk ^h -e
	երգել եմ:		Չեմ երգէ:	
	je.ɹk ^h -e.ɹ	em	tʃ ^h -em	je.ɹk ^h -eh
	երգեր եմ:		Չեմ երգէ:	
	√-PERF.CVB	AUX	NEG-AUX	√-PERF.CVB
	‘I have sung.’			‘I have not sung.’

The behavior of the perfective suffix in Iranian Armenian suggests that the final liquid is a floating segment or latent segment: *-e(l)* or *-e(ɹ)* (cf. ghost consonants: [Tranel 1996](#), [Côté 2011](#), [Zimmermann 2019](#)). The above paradigm suggests that the liquid is licensed when it is followed by the auxiliary. The conditions for surfacing or deleting this liquid are discussed in §3.3. For now, we just provide the relevant rules (Rule 11).

Rule 11. Rule for the perfective converb

$$\text{PERF.CVB} \leftrightarrow \begin{array}{l} -e(l) / (\text{older speakers}) \\ -e(ɹ) / (\text{younger speakers}) \end{array}$$

The above data concerns constructing the perfective converb for the E-Class. In the A-Class, the same suffix is used. However, a meaningless affix *-ts^h-* is added between the theme vowel and the converb suffix (Table 6.11).

Table 6.11: Perfective converb in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian for the E-Class vs. A-Class verb

	E-Class		A-Class	
	Infinitive	Pfv. converb	Infinitive	Pfv. converb
	երգել	երգել, երգեր	կարողալ	կարողացել, կարողացեր
SEA	jer ^k -e-l	jer ^k -el	kar ^t -a-l	kar ^t -a-t ^h -el
IA	je.ɹk ^h -e-l	je.ɹk ^h -el	kd.ɹt ^h -ɔ-l	kd.ɹt ^h -ɔ-t ^h -el
		je.ɹk ^h -e.ɹ		kd.ɹt ^h -ɔ-t ^h -e.ɹ
	√-TH-INF	√-PERF.CVB	√-TH-INF	√-TH-AOR-PERF.CVB

In the traditional literature on Armenian, the meaningless *-ts^h-* is called the aorist suffix. We gloss the additional meaningless suffix *t^h* as AOR. The suffix

is used to mark synthetic past perfective verbs for the A-Class, but it also used meaninglessly in other constructions. In the case of the perfective converb, this $-ts^h$ - is being used morphomically. The use of this suffix in the A-Class perfective converb is treated as using an aorist stem. Such a stem is morphomic (Aronoff 1994). For a discussion and analysis of aorist stems in Armenian, see Dolatian & Guekguezian (2022a). In this grammar, we do not provide rules for generating this meaningless aorist suffix.

For descriptive purposes, the full paradigm is given in Table 6.12 for the E-Class.

Table 6.12: Paradigm for the present perfect and the pluperfect for E-Class [je.ɫk^h-e-l] ‘to sing’

	Pos.		Neg.					
	Present perfect		Pluperfect		Present perfect		Pluperfect	
1SG	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	em em եմ եմ	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	im im իմ իմ	տ̂ ^h -em je.ɫk ^h -e չեմ երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e	տ̂ ^h -im je.ɫk ^h -e չիմ երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e
2SG	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	es es ես ես	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	i.ɫ i.ɫ իր իր	տ̂ ^h -es je.ɫk ^h -e չես երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e	տ̂ ^h -i.ɫ je.ɫk ^h -e չիր երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e
3SG	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	ɔ ɔ ւ ւ	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	e.ɫ e.ɫ էր էր	տ̂ ^h -i je.ɫk ^h -e չի երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e	տ̂ ^h -e.ɫ je.ɫk ^h -e չէր երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e
1PL	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	enjk ^h enjk ^h ենք ենք	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	inj ^h inj ^h ինք ինք	տ̂ ^h -enjk ^h je.ɫk ^h -e չենք երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e	տ̂ ^h -inj ^h je.ɫk ^h -e չինք երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e
2PL	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	ek ^h ek ^h էք էք	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	ik ^h ik ^h իք իք	տ̂ ^h -ek ^h je.ɫk ^h -e չէք երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e	տ̂ ^h -ik ^h je.ɫk ^h -e չիք երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e
3PL	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	en en են են	je.ɫk ^h -el je.ɫk ^h -e.ɫ երգել երգեր	in in ին ին	տ̂ ^h -en je.ɫk ^h -e չեն երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e	տ̂ ^h -in je.ɫk ^h -e չին երգէ	je.ɫk ^h -e
	√-PERF.CVB AUX				NEG-AUX √-PERF.CVB			

When the perfective converb is used with the present auxiliary, the construction denotes the present perfect. If we use the past auxiliary, then the construction denotes the pluperfect. The paradigm for the A-Class ‘to read’ is analogously constructed with the converb [kɔ.ɫʰ-ɒ-t͡sʰ-eɫ]. We don’t segment the auxiliary. As before, the auxiliary shifts its position in the negated form.

6.3.3 Simultaneous converb

Standard Eastern Armenian has an additional periphrastic construction that uses the simultaneous converb (Table 6.13), also called the processual participle (Dum-Tragut 2009: 205). The converb is called [hamakatar derbaʃ] համակատար դերբայ in Standard Eastern Armenian. This converb is built by adding the suffix *-is* to infinitives. This construction is quite infrequent in Standard Eastern Armenian. For Iranian Armenian, NK reports that she never uses this participle, while KM reports that she does use it. AS reports that his consultants never use it. We do not report further on this converb because of the the limited data available to us.

Table 6.13: Forming the simultaneous converb

E-Class ‘to sing’		A-Class ‘to read’	
Infinitive	Simultaneous converb	Infinitive	Simultaneous converb
je.ɫkʰ-e-l	je.ɫkʰ-e-l-is	kɔ.ɫʰ-ɒ-l	kɔ.ɫʰ-ɒ-l-is
√-TH-INF	√-TH-INF-SIM.CVB	√-TH-INF	√-TH-INF-SIM.CVB
երգել	երգելիս	կարդալ	կարդալիս

6.4 Synthetic forms

A large chunk of Iranian Armenian verbal inflection is handled via periphrasis. There are however some pockets of synthetic constructions. These include the aorist (past perfective), subjunctives, and imperatives. Prohibitives are derived from imperatives via the addition of a particle. Note that the future is marked with both synthetic and periphrastic constructions, discussed in §6.5.

6.4.1 Past perfective or aorist form

Impressionistically, the past perfective or aorist is the most common synthetic construction. It is used to denote the simple past. But as the examples in Table 6.14 illustrate, the two classes use markedly different affixes to generate the past

perfective. The past perfective of the A-Class is formed in essentially the same way for the two lects, while the E-Class uses a markedly different construction.

Table 6.14: Past perfective 1PL for E-Class and A-Class

	E-Class		A-Class	
	IA	SEA	IA	SEA
Infinitive	je.ɫk ^h -e-l √-TH-INF 'to sing' Երգել	jerk ^h -e-l √-TH-INF 'to sing' Երգել	kd.ɫt ^h -v-l √-TH-INF to read' կարդալ	kart ^h -a-l √-TH-INF 'to read' կարդալ
Past Pfv.	je.ɫk ^h -v-ɲk ^h √-PST-1PL 'we sang' Երգաւք	jerk ^h -e-t ^h -i-ɲk ^h √-TH-AOR-PST-1PL 'we sang' Երգեցինք	kd.ɫt ^h -v-t ^h -i-ɲk ^h √-TH-AOR-PST-1PL 'we read (past)' կարդացինք	kart ^h -a-t ^h -i-ɲk ^h √-TH-AOR-PST-1PL 'we read (past)' կարդացինք

The name of the past perfective is [ants^hjɑl katarjɑl] անցյալ կատարյալ in Standard Eastern Armenian.

We first describe the A-Class in Iranian Armenian, whose past perfective is formed essentially the same in Standard Eastern. The past perfective is formed by taking the stem of the A-Class (root and theme vowel), and adding the aorist suffix $-ts^h-$. The $-ts^h-$ is a marker of perfectivity (Donabedian 2016). We then add the past marker /i/ and agreement markers. For brevity, we say that A-Class verbs use the $/-ts^h-i/$ template for marking the past perfective. We gloss $-ts^h-$ as -AOR- in both the past perfective (where it is meaningful) in non-past paradigms, as in the perfective converb of the A-Class (§6.3.2).

The complete paradigm is shown in Table 6.15 for the A-Class in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian. Negation is formed by adding the prefix $tʃ^h-$, which surfaces with a schwa before consonant-initial verbs. The only morphological difference between the two lects is that the 1SG marker $/-m/$ is used in Iranian Armenian (§6.2.2), while Standard Eastern uses a zero suffix.

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Table 6.15: Paradigm of past perfective of A-Class [kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-l] ‘to read’ in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Positive		Negative	
	SEA	IA	SEA	IA
1SG	kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i ‘I read (past)’ կարդացի	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-m ‘I read (past)’ կարդացիմ	tʰə-kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i ‘I did not read’ չկարդացի	tʰə-kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-m ‘I did not read’ չկարդացիմ
2SG	kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i-r կարդացիր	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-ɹ կարդացիր	tʰə-kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i-r չկարդացիր	tʰə-kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-ɹ չկարդացիր
3SG	kart ^h -a-ts ^h կարդաց	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h կարդաց	tʰə-kart ^h -a-ts ^h չկարդաց	tʰə-kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h չկարդաց
1PL	kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i-ŋk ^h կարդացինք	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-ŋk ^h կարդացինք	tʰə-kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i-ŋk ^h չկարդացինք	tʰə-kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-ŋk ^h չկարդացինք
2PL	kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i-k ^h կարդացիք	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-k ^h կարդացիք	tʰə-kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i-k ^h չկարդացիք	tʰə-kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-k ^h չկարդացիք
3PL	kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i-n կարդացին	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-n կարդացին	tʰə-kart ^h -a-ts ^h -i-n չկարդացին	tʰə-kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-n չկարդացին
	√-TH-AOR-PST-AGR		NEG-√-TH-AOR-PST-AGR	

For illustration, Table 6.16 provides a fuller segmentation that shows zero markers for the positive. For contrast, we also repeat the paradigm of the past auxiliary.

Table 6.16: Full segmentation of past perfective for A-Class [kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-l] ‘to read’ and past auxiliary

	Past Pfv. with zero markers		Past auxiliary	
1SG	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-m	կարդացիմ	∅-i-m	իմ
2SG	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-ɹ	կարդացիր	∅-i-ɹ	իր
3SG	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -∅-∅	կարդաց	e-∅-ɹ	էր
1PL	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-ŋk ^h	կարդացինք	∅-i-ŋk ^h	ինք
2PL	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-k ^h	կարդացիք	∅-i-k ^h	իք
3PL	kɔ.tʰ-ɒ-ts ^h -i-n	կարդացին	∅-i-n	ին
	√-TH-AOR-PST-AGR		AUX-PST-AGR	

For the past perfective in the 3SG, both the past suffix and the agreement suffix are covert. Elsewhere for the A-Class, the past suffix is /i/ in the past perfective, just as in past auxiliaries. Outside of the 3SG, the agreement morphs likewise match the morphs used in the past auxiliary: *i-ŋk^h* ‘we were’. We list below some other example A-Class words in the past perfective that we have collected (Table 6.17).

Table 6.17: Past perfective form of some A-Class verbs

Infinitive		Past perfective		
IA		IA	SEA	
zəpt-ը-լ	‘to smile’	zəpt-ը-տժ ^h -ի-լ	zəpt-ա-տժ ^h -ի-ր	‘You.sg smiled’
Ժպտալ		Ժպտացիր	Ժպտացիր	
həvdt-ը-լ	‘to believe’	həvdt-ը-տժ ^h -ի-մ	havat-ա-տժ ^h -ի-∅	‘I believed’
հաւատալ		հաւատացիմ	հավատաց	
√-TH-INF		√-TH-AOR-PST-AGR		

For the E-Class, the past perfective has a more complicated construction. In Standard Eastern, the past perfective is formed in the same way as for the A-Class, except for a difference in theme vowel: [jerk^h-e-tʃ^h-i-ŋk^h] ‘we sang’. Thus the Standard Eastern E-Class uses the template /-tʃ^h-i/. In contrast, the Iranian Armenian form drops the theme vowel and the aorist, and uses a different past allomorph /ը/: [je.ɫk^h-ը-ŋk^h] ‘we sang’. For brevity, we say that the Iranian Armenian E-Class uses the template /-∅-ը/ where -∅ is a covert perfective or aorist marker.

The paradigm is given below for both lects (Table 6.18). The negative is formed by just adding the negation prefix *tʃ^hə-*. In order to save space we do not show zero morphs.

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Table 6.18: Paradigm of past perfective of E-Class ‘to sing’ in both lects

	Standard Eastern		Iranian Armenian	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
1SG	jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i 'I sang' երգեցի	tʃ ^h ə-jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i 'I did not sing' չերգեցի	je.ɹk ^h -v-m 'I sang' երգամ	tʃ ^h ə-je.ɹk ^h -v-m 'I did not sing' չերգամ
2SG	jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i-r երգեցիր	tʃ ^h ə-jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i-r չերգեցիր	je.ɹk ^h -v-ɹ երգար	tʃ ^h ə-je.ɹk ^h -v-ɹ չերգար
3SG	jerk ^h -e-ts ^h երգեց	tʃ ^h ə-jerk ^h -e-ts ^h չերգեց	je.ɹk ^h -v-v երգաւ	tʃ ^h ə-je.ɹk ^h -v-v չերգաւ
1PL	jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i-ŋk ^h երգեցիկս	tʃ ^h ə-jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i-ŋk ^h չերգեցիկս	je.ɹk ^h -v-ŋk ^h երգանք	tʃ ^h ə-je.ɹk ^h -v-ŋk ^h չերգանք
2PL	jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i-k ^h երգեցիք	tʃ ^h ə-jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i-k ^h չերգեցիք	je.ɹk ^h -v-k ^h երգաք	tʃ ^h ə-je.ɹk ^h -v-k ^h չերգաք
3PL	jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i-n երգեցին	tʃ ^h ə-jerk ^h -e-ts ^h -i-n չերգեցին	je.ɹk ^h -v-n երգան	tʃ ^h ə-je.ɹk ^h -v-n չերգան
	(NEG)-√-TH-AOR-PST-AGR		(NEG)-√-PST-AGR	

In the 3SG of the E-Class, Iranian Armenian uses an overt /v/ morph for past, and /v/ for agreement. Standard Eastern uses covert nodes for both. The 1SG uses an overt agreement morph /m/ in Iranian Armenian, but covert in Standard Eastern.

To showcase the widespread difference between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian for the E-Class perfective, Table 6.19 lists some frequent E-Class verbs, and an example past perfective form.

Table 6.19: Past perfective form of some E-Class verbs

Infinitive		Past perfective form				
IA		IA	SEA			
χ̂əm-e-l	խմել	χ̂əm-Վ-m	խմամ	χ̂əm-e-t ^h -i	խմեցի	‘I drank’
tŝɔk-e-l	ծակել	tŝɔk-Վ-լ	ծակար	tŝak-e-t ^h -i-r	ծակեցիր	‘you.SG made a hole’
f̂sɔχ-e-l	ծախել	f̂sɔχ-Վ-v	ծախաւ	f̂sɔχ-e-t ^h	ծախեց	‘he sold’
vo.ɔf-e-l	որոշել	vo.ɔf-Վ-v	որոշաւ	vorɔf-e-t ^h	որոշեց	‘he decided’
k̂ɔntj ^h -e-l	կանչել	k̂ɔntj ^h -Վ-v	կանչաւ	kantj ^h -e-t ^h	կանչեց	‘he called’
mekn-e-l	մեկնել	mekn-Վ-v	մեկնաւ	mekn-e-t ^h	մեկնեց	‘he went away’
bərn-e-l	բռնել	bərn-Վ-v	բռնաւ	bərn-e-t ^h	բռնեց	‘he caught’
k̂ɔŋg(ə)n-e-l	կանգնել	k̂ɔŋg(ə)n-Վ-v	կանգնաւ	kəŋgn-e-t ^h	կանգնեց	‘he stood’
k ^h ɔjl-e-l	բայլել	k ^h ɔjl-Վ-v	բայլաւ	k ^h ɔjl-e-t ^h	բայլեց	‘he walked’
uɔɔ.ɪk-e-l	ուղարկել	uɔɔ.ɪk-Վ-ŋk ^h	ուղարկանք	uɔark-e-t ^h -i-ŋk ^h	ուղարկեցինք	‘we sent’
ɔp.ɪ-e-l	ապրել	ɔp.ɪ-Վ-k ^h	ապրաք	əpr-e-t ^h -i->k ^h	ապրեցիք	‘you.PL lived’
gə.ɪ-e-l	գրել	gə.ɪ-Վ-n	գրան	gəɾ-e-t ^h -i-n	գրեցին	‘they wrote’
√-TH-INF		√-PST-2SG		√-TH-AOR-PST-AGR		

In terms of morphological structure, we assume that the Iranian Armenian past perfective of the E-Class contains a covert aorist perfective suffix to license perfective meaning. The theme vowel is then deleted before the /ɔ/ vowel as a morpheme-specific rule of vowel-hiatus repair (Rule 12).

Rule 12. Delete theme vowels before the past suffix /ɔ/

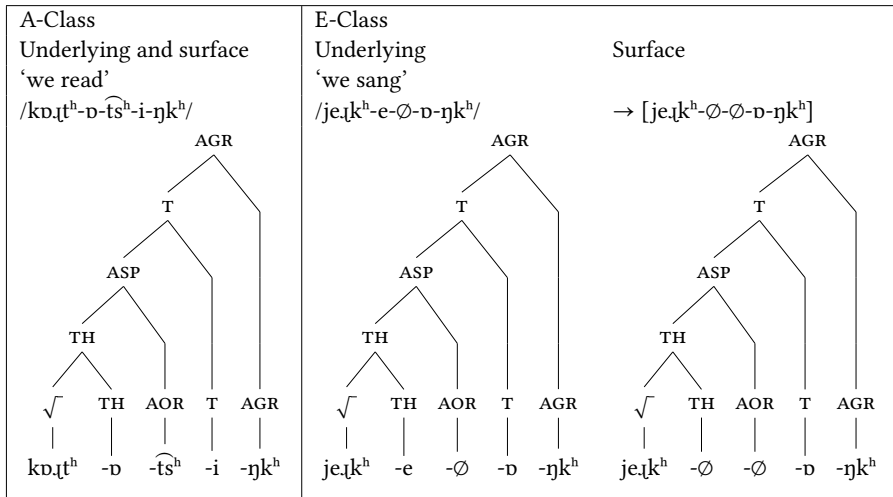
$$/e/ \rightarrow \emptyset \ / _ \text{ɔ}$$

(where /e/ is a theme vowel, and /ɔ/ is a past marker)

We show below the underlying and surface structure of the past perfective 1PL for both the A-Class and E-Class in Iranian Armenian (Representation 1). The aorist suffix marks perfective aspect ASP.

Representation 1. Underlying and surface structure of past perfective 1PL in Iranian Armenian

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Before we provide complete rules for these morphemes in Iranian Armenian, readers might wonder about the origin of this /v/ morph. In Standard Eastern, the cognate of this morph is the past morph /ɑ/. This /ɑ/ is restricted to certain irregular classes and in some regular complex verbs such as inchoatives. In fact, the /ɑ/ morph is treated as the restricted or marked past allomorph in Standard Eastern and in Western Armenian (Dolatian & Guekguezian 2022b, Karakaş et al. 2021), while /i/ is the elsewhere morph. In contrast in Iranian Armenian, the /v/ morph has developed a larger distribution, while /i/ shrank in its distribution. Similarly for the aorist/perfective suffix, the morph /tʰ/ is the elsewhere morph in Standard Eastern, while a covert \emptyset is restricted to some irregular verbs.

Table 6.20 illustrates the distribution of these four morphs. For Standard Eastern, the perfective-past sequence of morphs is /-tʰ-i/ for E-Class and A-Class verbs, while this sequence is /-∅-ɑ/ for suppletive verbs like *ut-e-l* 'to eat'. In contrast for Iranian Armenian, the /∅-v/ sequence is now generalized to the perfective of E-Class, while /-tʰ-i/ shrank in its distribution. We show the deleted theme vowels and covert aspect.

Table 6.20: Past perfective 1PL for E-Class, A-Class, and suppletive verbs

	A-Class 'we read'	E-Class 'we sang'	Suppletive 'we ate'
SEA	$k\alpha r t^h - \alpha - \widehat{ts}^h - i - \eta k^h$ $\sqrt{-TH-AOR-PST-1PL}$ կարդացինք	$j e r k^h - e - \widehat{ts}^h - i - \eta k^h$ $\sqrt{-TH-AOR-PST-1PL}$ երգեցինք	$k e r - \emptyset - \emptyset - \alpha - \eta k^h$ $\sqrt{-TH-AOR-PST-1PL}$ կերանք
IA	$k \partial . \iota t^h - \partial - \widehat{ts}^h - i - \eta k^h$ $\sqrt{-TH-AOR-PST-1PL}$ կարդացինք	$j e . \iota k^h - \emptyset - \emptyset - \partial - \eta k^h$ $\sqrt{-TH-AOR-PST-1PL}$ երգանք	$k e . \iota - \emptyset - \emptyset - \partial - \eta k^h$ $\sqrt{-TH-AOR-PST-1PL}$ կերանք

It is a separate diachronic question to determine what caused these changes. One possible source is that the / α / morph is used in high-frequency irregular and suppletive verbs in Standard Eastern Armenian. Iranian Armenian speakers thus generalized the distribution of / α, ∂ / from high-frequency verbs to regular verbs, as illustrated above. Such a diachronic change is attested across different Armenian lects of Iran (Աճառյան 1961: 201; Martirosyan 2018) and Colloquial Eastern Armenian in Yerevan (Dum-Tragut 2009: 230 citing Ղարազյուրյան 1981: 98; Ավետյան 2020). Tehrani Iranian Armenian is special in how wide-scale this change is.⁷

We leave a full-scale diachronic investigation to future work. For now, we focus on a synchronic analysis of Iranian Armenian.⁸ The generalization is that in Standard Eastern, the default template for the past perfective is / $\widehat{ts}^h - i$ /, while it is / $\emptyset - \partial$ / in Iranian Armenian. In auxiliaries and in the past imperfective (§6.4.2), the past is uniformly just / $-i$ / (Table 6.21).

⁷Some dialectological sources are more vague because they conflate the use of a zero perfective $-\emptyset$ with a past / α, ∂ / (Ջահուկյան 1972: p. 102, feature 95).

⁸For the perfective of the A-Class, one could argue that the reason why the aorist $-\widehat{ts}^h$ - and past suffix / i / are used is to maintain a contrast between a past perfective 1PL form like $[k\partial . \iota t^h - \partial - \widehat{ts}^h - i - \eta k^h]$ 'we read.PST' (where / ∂ / is the past morph) vs. a subjunctive present form $k\partial . \iota t^h - \partial - \eta k^h$ and subjunctive past $[k\partial . \iota t^h - \partial - j - i - \eta k^h]$ 'if we read.PST' (where / ∂ / is the theme vowel). See §6.4.2 for a fuller discussion of subjunctives.

Table 6.21: Infinitive and subjunctive past forms

		A-Class 'to read'	E-Class 'to sing'	Suppletive 'to eat'	
Inf.	SEA	kart ^h -a-l	jer ^h -e-l	ut-e-l	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-INF}}$
	IA	kd.t ^h -v-l կարդալ	je.t ^h -e-l երգել	ut-e-l ուտել	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-INF}}$
Subj. Past 3PL	SEA	kart ^h -aj-i-n	jer ^h -ej-i-n	ut-ej-i-n	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-PST-3PL}}$
	IA	kd.t ^h -vj-i-n կարդային	je.t ^h -ø-i-n երգեին, երգին	ut-ø-i-n ուտեին, ուտին	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-PST-3PL}}$
Subj. Past 3SG	SEA	kart ^h -a-ø-r	jer ^h -e-ø-r	ut-e-ø-r	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-PST-3SG}}$
	IA	kd.t ^h -v-ø-ł կարդար	je.t ^h -e-ø-ł երգեր, երգեր	ut-e-ø-ł ուտեր, ուտեր	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-PST-3SG}}$

These generalizations are formalized below, based on the A-Class, suppletive 'to eat', and E-Class. For illustration, we use rules that realizes templates of morphemes like AOR-PST because the exponents for the two morpheme slots are highly correlated.

For the past perfective, this paradigm cell uses the morpheme template AOR-PST (Rule 13). In SEA, this template is realized as /-ø-ɑ/ for a handful of irregular verbs like 'to eat', while it is /-ts^h-i/ elsewhere for the E-Class and A-Class. In contrast in Iranian, the template /-ts^h-i/ is for the A-Class, and /-ø-ɒ/ is elsewhere.

Rule 13. Rules for expounding the template AOR-PST in the past perfective for the E-Class, A-Class, and suppletive 'to eat'

Standard Eastern	Iranian Armenian
AOR-PST → -ø-ɑ / $\sqrt{\text{eat TH}}$ _ -ts ^h -i / elsewhere	AOR-PST → -ts ^h -i / $\sqrt{\text{A-Class TH}}$ _ -ø-ɒ / elsewhere

Table 6.22 illustrates the application of the above rules.

Table 6.22: Deriving or expounding the template AOR-PST in the past perfective

	E-Class 'they sang'	A-Class 'they read'	Suppletive 'they ate'
Input	$\sqrt{\text{sing-TH-AOR-PST-3PL}}$	$\sqrt{\text{read-TH-AOR-PST-3PL}}$	$\sqrt{\text{eat-TH-AOR-PST-3PL}}$
SEA	jer ^h -e-ts ^h -i-n	kart ^h -ɑ-ts ^h -i-n	ker-ø-ø-ɑ-n
IA	je.t ^h -e-ø-ɒ-n	kd.t ^h -v-ts ^h -i-n	ke.t-ø-ø-ɒ-n

In the past auxiliary and subjunctive past, there is no perfective or aorist morpheme AOR. Instead, the template is just PST. This morpheme is realized in the same way in both dialects as just /i/ for all but the 3SG. We illustrate a rule below (Rule 14). It is /-∅/ for the 3SG, and /-i/ elsewhere.

Rule 14. Rules for exponing the template PST in the past auxiliary and subjunctive past

Standard Eastern	Iranian Armenian
PST → -∅ / _ 3SG -i / elsewhere	PST → -∅ / _ 3SG -i / elsewhere

Table 6.23 illustrates the application of the above rules.

Table 6.23: Deriving or exponing the template AOR-PST in the past auxiliary or subjunctive past

	A-Class 'if he were reading'	A-Class 'if they were reading'
Input	$\sqrt{\text{read-TH-PST-3SG}}$	$\sqrt{\text{read-TH-PST-3PL}}$
SEA	$\text{kart}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\alpha\text{-}\emptyset\text{-r}$	$\text{kart}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\alpha\text{-i-n}$
IA	$\text{k}\text{v}\text{.t}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\text{v}\text{-}\emptyset\text{-l}$	$\text{k}\text{v}\text{.t}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\text{v}\text{-i-n}$

If we try to decompose the template AOR-PST into two separate realizations, so that we can unite the rules for the perfective and non-perfective (subj. past), then it is difficult to write a coherent set of rules to expone the past morpheme (Rule 15). For SEA, the past morpheme is /-α/ for irregular perfectives, /-∅/ for 3SG, and /-i/ elsewhere (regular perfectives and non-3SG non-perfectives). For IA, the past morpheme is /-∅/ for A-Class 3SG perfectives, /-∅/ for 3SG non-perfectives, /-i/ for A-Class non-3SG perfectives, /-v/ for other perfectives (for other classes), and then /-i/ again for non-3SG non-perfectives. We use the notation $\neg\text{AOR}$ to denote non-perfective contexts (cf. Siddiqi 2009: 49).

Rule 15. Rules for exponing the morpheme PST in the past auxiliary, subjunctive past, and past perfective for E/A-Class and 'to eat'

Standard Eastern	Iranian Armenian
PST → -α / $\sqrt{\text{eat AOR}}$ _ -∅ / _ 3SG -i / elsewhere	PST → -∅ / $\sqrt{\text{A-Class TH AOR}}$ _ 3SG -∅ / $\neg\text{AOR}$ _ 3SG -i / $\sqrt{\text{A-Class TH AOR}}$ _ -v / AOR _ -i / $\neg\text{AOR}$ _

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Table 6.24 illustrates the application of the above rules for Iranian Armenian.

Table 6.24: Deriving or expounding the past morpheme in Iranian Armenian

A-Class	‘to read’	perfective 3SG	$\sqrt{\text{read-TH-AOR-PST-3SG}}$	$\text{kd.t}^{\text{h}}\text{-d-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\emptyset\text{-}\emptyset$
E-Class	‘to sing’	subj. past 3SG	$\sqrt{\text{sing-TH-PST-3SG}}$	$\text{je.t}^{\text{k}^{\text{h}}}\text{-e-}\emptyset\text{-t}$
A-Class	‘to read’	perfective 3PL	$\sqrt{\text{read-TH-AOR-PST-3PL}}$	$\text{kd.t}^{\text{h}}\text{-d-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-i-n}$
E-Class	‘to sing’	perfective 3PL	$\sqrt{\text{sing-TH-AOR-PST-3SG}}$	$\text{je.t}^{\text{k}^{\text{h}}}\text{-}\emptyset\text{-}\emptyset\text{-d-n}$
E-Class	‘to sing’	subj. past 3PL	$\sqrt{\text{sing-TH-PST-3PL}}$	$\text{je.t}^{\text{k}^{\text{h}}}\text{-}\emptyset\text{-i-n}$

The rules are quite convoluted. But the core generalization is that in the past perfective, the default template is $/\text{-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-i}/$, while $/\text{-}\emptyset\text{-}\alpha/$ is the restricted or marked template. Iranian Armenian instead does the reverse, with $/\text{-}\emptyset\text{-d}/$ as default while $/\text{-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-i}/$ is restricted or marked. When there is no aorist morpheme, the past morpheme reverts back to $/\text{-i}/$ as the elsewhere form. We next discuss subjunctives, where we again find the past marker $/\text{-i}/$.

6.4.2 Subjunctive

The subjunctive is a synthetic construction. It includes present and past subjunctives. In brief, these synthetic subjunctive forms contrast from the periphrastic indicative forms by placing T/Agr suffixes on the verb itself instead of on the auxiliary. We illustrate below for the A-Class verb $[\text{kd.t}^{\text{h}}\text{-d-l}]$ ‘to read’ in Iranian Armenian (Table 6.25).

Table 6.25: Synthetic subjunctives vs. periphrastic indicatives for the 1PL in Iranian Armenian

	Present 1PL	Past PL
Indicative	$\text{kd.t}^{\text{h}}\text{-um}$ $\text{e-}\eta\text{k}^{\text{h}}$ $\sqrt{\text{-IMPF.CVB}}$ AUX-1PL ‘we read’ կարդում ենք	$\text{kd.t}^{\text{h}}\text{-um}$ $\emptyset\text{-i-}\eta\text{k}^{\text{h}}$ $\sqrt{\text{-IMPF.CVB}}$ AUX-PST-1PL ‘we were reading’ կարդում ինք
Subjunctive	$\text{kd.t}^{\text{h}}\text{-d-}\eta\text{k}^{\text{h}}$ $\sqrt{\text{-TH-1PL}}$ ‘(if) we read’ կարդանք	$\text{kd.t}^{\text{h}}\text{-d-j-i-}\eta\text{k}^{\text{h}}$ $\sqrt{\text{-TH-PST-1PL}}$ ‘(if) we were reading’ կարդայինք

Diachronically, the modern subjunctive construction is a reflex of the Classical indicative (Vaux 1995). Subjunctive forms can also combine with other particles

to create more nuanced meanings. For example, subjunctives can combine with the debitive proclitic [piti] to create the debitive mood (§5.5).

We discuss the two types of subjunctives below.

6.4.2.1 Subjunctive with present-tense agreement

We first discuss the present subjunctive. When the finite verb uses present-tense agreement morphemes, the construction has been called ‘subjunctive present’ (Minassian 1980: 190, Hagopian 2005: 160), ‘subjunctive future’ (Bardakjian & Vaux 1999: 174; Sakayan 2007: 150; Dum-Tragut 2009: 239), ‘present optative’ (Fairbanks & Stevick 1975: 149). We label this construction as just the ‘subjunctive present’, in order to emphasize the connection between the indicative and subjunctive forms.

Paradigms for the E-Class are in Table 6.26 and for the A-Class in Table 6.27. Negation is marked by adding the prefix $\widehat{tj^h-}$, which triggers schwa epenthesis before a consonant. We juxtapose these subjunctive forms with their indicative periphrastic forms. For illustration, we also provide the Standard Eastern subjunctive present which does not morphologically differ from Iranian Armenian. As before, we treat the present tense suffix as fused with the agreement suffix.

Table 6.26: Paradigm of subjunctive present in simple E-Class verbs in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Iranian Armenian			Standard Eastern
	Subj. present Pos.	Neg.	Indc. present Pos.	Subj. present Pos.
1SG	je.ɬk ^h -e-m (‘if) I sing’ երգեմ	$\widehat{tj^h-}$ je.ɬk ^h -e-m (‘if) I did not sing’ չերգեմ	je.ɬk ^h -um e-m (‘I sing’ երգում եմ	jerk ^h -e-m (‘if) I sing’ երգեմ
2SG	je.ɬk ^h -e-s երգես	$\widehat{tj^h-}$ je.ɬk ^h -e-s չերգես	je.ɬk ^h -um e-s երգում ես	jerk ^h -e-s երգես
3SG	je.ɬk ^h -i երգի	$\widehat{tj^h-}$ je.ɬk ^h -i չերգի	je.ɬk ^h -um ɒ երգում ա	jerk ^h -i երգի
1PL	je.ɬk ^h -e-ŋk ^h երգենք	$\widehat{tj^h-}$ je.ɬk ^h -e-ŋk ^h չերգենք	je.ɬk ^h -um e-ŋk ^h երգում ենք	jerk ^h -e-ŋk ^h երգենք
2PL	je.ɬk ^h -e-k ^h երգէք	$\widehat{tj^h-}$ je.ɬk ^h -e-k ^h չերգէք	je.ɬk ^h -um e-k ^h երգում էք	jerk ^h -e-k ^h երգէք
3PL	je.ɬk ^h -e-n երգեն	$\widehat{tj^h-}$ je.ɬk ^h -e-n չերգեն	je.ɬk ^h -um e-n երգում են	jerk ^h -e-n երգեն
	(NEG)- $\sqrt{-}$ -TH-AGR		$\sqrt{-}$ -IMPF.CVBAUX-AGR	$\sqrt{-}$ -TH-AGR

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Table 6.27: Paradigm of subjunctive present in simple A-Class verbs in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Iranian Armenian			Standard Eastern
	Subj. present		Indc. present	Subj. present
	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Pos.
1SG	կօւլտ ^h -ժ-մ '(if) I read' կարդամ	փ ^h ձ-կօւլտ ^h -ժ-մ '(if) I did not read' չկարդամ	կօւլտ ^h -ւմ e-մ 'I read' կարդում եմ	կարտ ^h -ա-մ '(If) I read' կարդամ
2SG	կօւլտ ^h -ժ-ս կարդաս	փ ^h ձ-կօւլտ ^h -ժ-ս չկարդաս	կօւլտ ^h -ւմ e-ս կարդում ես	կարտ ^h -ա-ս կարդաս
3SG	կօւլտ ^h -ժ կարդայ	փ ^h ձ-կօւլտ ^h -ժ չկարդայ	կօւլտ ^h -ւմ ժ կարդում ա	կարտ ^h -ա կարդա
1PL	կօւլտ ^h -ժ-դկ ^h կարդանք	փ ^h ձ-կօւլտ ^h -ժ-դկ ^h չկարդանք	կօւլտ ^h -ւմ e-դկ ^h կարդում ենք	կարտ ^h -ա-դկ ^h կարդանք
2PL	կօւլտ ^h -ժ-կ ^h կարդաք	փ ^h ձ-կօւլտ ^h -ժ-կ ^h չկարդաք	կօւլտ ^h -ւմ e-կ ^h կարդում էք	կարտ ^h -ա-կ ^h կարդաք
3PL	կօւլտ ^h -ժ-ն կարդան	փ ^h ձ-կօւլտ ^h -ժ-ն չկարդան	կօւլտ ^h -ւմ e-ն կարդում են	կարտ ^h -ա-ն կարդան
	(NEG)-√-TH-AGR		√-IMPF.CV B AUX-AGR	√-TH-AGR

For all but the 3SG, the distribution of the Agr suffixes follows straightforwardly. The same Agr suffixes as used in the present auxiliary are placed onto the subjunctive verb. In the A-Class, we see that the 3SG morph is covert in the present subjunctive: [կօւլտ^h-ժ-∅] $\sqrt{\text{read}}$ -TH-3SG 'he reads'. Similarly, the present 3SG auxiliary is just /ժ-∅/. But for the E-Class, the /e/ theme vowel is replaced by /i/: [je.ɫk^h-i-∅] 'he sings' instead of *je.ɫk^h-e-∅. Explaining this apparent allomorphy has multiple options (Rule 16).

Rule 16. Hypothetical rules to explain the subjunctive present 3SG

1. /i/ is the marker of the theme vowel /e/ but it has changed to [i] in the 3SG.

/je.ɫk^h-e-∅/ → [je.ɫk^h-i-∅]

2. /i/ is the allomorph of the E-Class theme vowel in the present 3SG.

/je.ɫk^h-i-∅/

3. /i/ is the marker of the E-Class 3SG Agr suffix, and the theme /e/ is deleted before /i/.

/je.ɫk^h-e-i/ → [je.ɫk^h-∅-i]

4. /i/ is the fused marker of the theme vowel /e/ and 3SG.

/je.ɫk^h-i/ with glossing $\sqrt{-}$ -TH.3SG

5. /i/ is the result of autosegmental docking of the theme vowel /e/ and the E-Class 3SG floating feature [+HIGH]

/je.ɫk^h-e-[+HIGH]/ → [je.ɫk^h-i]

Glossing as [je.ɫk^h-i-∅]

Any of the above options must restrict the relevant change to the E-Class, while the A-Class and auxiliary would use a zero morph for the 3SG. We're partial to a floating feature analysis (cf. [Akinlabi 2011](#)) and we use that for illustration. We likewise suspect that such allomorphy isn't triggered by classes themselves, but by the identity of the actual theme vowel. That is, the present 3SG is [+HIGH] after the /e/ theme vowel, but a zero -∅ elsewhere (Rule 17).

Rule 17. Rule for the present 3SG agreement suffix

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{PRS.3SG} \leftrightarrow \begin{array}{l} [+HIGH] \\ -\emptyset \end{array} / \begin{array}{l} e_{\text{Th}} _ \\ \text{elsewhere} \end{array} \end{array}$$

One reason why we are partial to this floating feature analysis over alternatives involving allomorphs is that in Standard Western Armenian, the present 3SG suffix is uniformly a zero for both the E-Class and the A-Class, e.g., the subjunctive forms [jerk^h-e-∅] '(if) he sings' and [kart^h-a-∅] '(if) he reads' [$\sqrt{-}$ -TH-PRS/1SG]. Thus, it is likely that Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian are innovative in causing this /e/→[i] change in the present 3SG.

6.4.2.2 Subjunctive with past-tense agreement

Moving on to the past tense, the subjunctive forms again involve placing the T/Agr suffixes directly onto the verb instead of the auxiliary.

When the verb has the tense-agreement morphemes of the past, then the construction has been called the 'subjunctive past' in grammars of SEA that are written in English ([Bardakjian & Vaux 1999](#): 174; [Hagopian 2005](#): 160; [Sakayan 2007](#): 150; [Dum-Tragut 2009](#): 249). One French grammar uses the 'subjunctive imperfect' ([Minassian 1980](#): 191). However, for grammars of SWA, the cognate construction is called either the 'subjunctive past' ([Sakayan 2000](#): 113; [Hagopian 2005](#): 143), 'subjunctive imperfect' ([Riggs 1856](#): 35; [Gulian 1902](#): 50; [Feydit 1948](#): 107; [Kogian 1949](#): 89; [Bardakjian & Thomson 1977](#): 154; [Andonian 1999](#): 47; [Bardakjian & Vaux 2001](#): 181), 'past optative' ([Fairbanks 1948](#): 78; [Fairbanks 1958](#)),

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‘hypothetical imperfect’ (Boyacioglu 2010). The large set of names for the past-based subjunctive is due to the fact that the Armenian name for it is variably the subjunctive imperfect or subjunctive past.⁹ We call this construction the ‘subjunctive past’.

We provide paradigms below for E-Class *je.tk^h-e-l* (Table 6.28) and A-Class *kd.t^h-D-l* (Table 6.29). The abstract morphological structure of subjunctive past verbs is the same in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian. We show deleted and zero morphs. Negation is again formed by adding [tʃ^h(ə)-].

Table 6.28: Paradigm of subjunctive past in simple E-Class verbs in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Iranian Armenian			Standard Eastern
	Subj. past		Indc. past impf.	Subj. past
	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Pos.
1SG	je.tk ^h -Ø-i-m (‘if) I were singing’ երգիմ	tʃ ^h ə-je.tk ^h -Ø-i-m (‘if) I were not singing’ չերգիմ	je.tk ^h -um Ø-i-m (‘I was singing’ երգում իմ	jerk ^h -ej-i-Ø (‘if) I were singing’ երգեի
2SG	je.tk ^h -Ø-i-լ երգիր	tʃ ^h ə-je.tk ^h -Ø-i-լ չերգիր	je.tk ^h -um Ø-i-լ երգում իր	jerk ^h -ej-i-r երգեիր
3SG	je.tk ^h -e-Ø-լ երգէր	tʃ ^h ə-je.tk ^h -e-Ø-լ չերգէր	je.tk ^h -um e-Ø-լ երգում էր	jerk ^h -e-Ø-r երգեր
1PL	je.tk ^h -Ø-i-դk ^h երգինք	tʃ ^h ə-je.tk ^h -Ø-i-դk ^h չերգինք	je.tk ^h -um Ø-i-դk ^h երգում ինք	jerk ^h -ej-i-դk ^h երգեինք
2PL	je.tk ^h -Ø-i-k ^h երգիք	tʃ ^h ə-je.tk ^h -Ø-i-k ^h չերգիք	je.tk ^h -um Ø-i-k ^h երգում իք	jerk ^h -ej-i-k ^h երգեիք
3PL	je.tk ^h -Ø-i-n երգին	tʃ ^h ə-je.tk ^h -Ø-i-n չերգին	je.tk ^h -um Ø-i-n երգում ին	jerk ^h -ej-i-n երգեին
	√-TH-T-AGR	NEG-√-TH-PST-AGR	√-IMPF.CVB AUX-PST-AGR	√-TH-PST-AGR

⁹The SEA name for the word ‘subjunctive’ is variably [æbdzakən] ընծական or [storadasakan] ստորադասական.

Table 6.29: Paradigm of subjunctive past in simple A-Class verbs in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	Iranian Armenian			Standard Eastern
	Subj. past Pos.	Neg.	Indc. past impf. Pos.	Subj. past Pos.
1SG	կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-մ '(if) I were reading' կարդայիմ	ի ^h Յ-կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-մ '(if) I were not reading' չկարդայիմ	կժ.լ ^h -ւմ Փ-ի-մ 'I was reading' կարդում իմ	կար ^h -այ-ի-Փ '(if) I were reading' կարդայի
2SG	կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-ւ կարդայիր	ի ^h Յ-կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-ւ չկարդայիր	կժ.լ ^h -ւմ Փ-ի-ւ կարդում իր	կար ^h -այ-ի-ր կարդայիր
3SG	կժ.լ ^h -Յ-Փ-ւ կարդար	ի ^h Յ-կժ.լ ^h -Յ-Փ-ւ չկարդար	կժ.լ ^h -ւմ e-Փ-ւ կարդում էր	կար ^h -ա-Փ-ր կարդար
1PL	կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-դ ^h կարդայինք	ի ^h Յ-կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-դ ^h չկարդայինք	կժ.լ ^h -ւմ Փ-ի-դ ^h կարդում ինք	կար ^h -այ-ի-դ ^h կարդայինք
2PL	կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-կ ^h կարդայիք	ի ^h Յ-կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-կ ^h չկարդայիք	կժ.լ ^h -ւմ Փ-ի-կ ^h կարդում իք	կար ^h -այ-ի-կ ^h կարդայիք
3PL	կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-ն կարդային	ի ^h Յ-կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-ն չկարդային	կժ.լ ^h -ւմ Փ-ի-ն կարդում ին	կար ^h -այ-ի-ն կարդային
	√-TH-T-AGR	NEG-√-TH-PST-AGR	√-IMPF.CVB AUX-PST-AGR	√-TH-PST-AGR

The markers of tense and agreement in the subjunctive past all follow from the same rules used for auxiliaries.

Morphophonologically, vowel hiatus between the theme vowel and past /i/ causes deletion of the /e/ theme vowel in Iranian Armenian, while [j] is epenthesized after the /v/ theme vowel. In Standard Eastern, the /e/ theme vowel is not deleted; instead [j] is epenthesized to resolve vowel hiatus. We illustrate below for the 1PL (Derivation 1).

Derivation 1. Vowel hiatus repair in subjunctive past

	A-Class 1PL '(if) we were reading'		E-Class 1PL '(if) we were singing'	
	SEA	IA	SEA	IA
Input	/kart ^h -a-i-դ ^h /	/կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-դ ^h /	/jerk ^h -e-i-դ ^h /	/je.լ ^h -e-i-դ ^h /
Epenthesis	kart ^h -aj-i-դ ^h	կժ.լ ^h -Յ-ի-դ ^h	jerk ^h -ej-i-դ ^h	je.լ ^h -e-i-դ ^h
Deletion	կարդայինք	կարդայինք	երգեինք	երգինք

Glide epenthesis is a general rule of hiatus repair in Armenian, while deletion requires morpheme-specific deletion rules (Rule 18).

Rule 18. Delete the /e/ theme vowel before past /i/

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/e/ → ∅ /_i
(where /e/ is a theme vowel, /i/ is past)

There is evidence that the Armenian dialects of Iran vary in the application of theme vowel deletion before the past marker /i/. In Standard Eastern Armenian, neither the theme vowel /a/ nor the theme vowel /e/ is deleted before past /-i/. In Tehrani Iranian Armenian, only /e/ is deleted. But in New Julfa Armenian (Isfahan), both theme vowels are deleted (Աճարյան 1940, *Vaux in prep*: §275).

As with the past auxiliary (§6.2.2), the deletion of the theme vowel /e/ before past /i/ is not rare among Armenian dialects. Old Yerevan Armenian likewise had such a rule in the subjunctive past (Աճարեան 1911: 42; translated: *Dolatian in review*).

6.4.2.3 Eliciting the subjunctive

Before closing this section, we document how we elicited such subjunctives. These subjunctive forms can be elicited in diverse contexts with various meanings (Dum-Tragut 2009: 239ff). In our fieldwork, we used the following sentence where the verb ‘to want’ selects for a subjunctive clause (6). Note that this sentence is not a control or ECM (exceptional case-marking) construction. The embedded clause can have a different subject than the main clause. The embedded subject can be made overt as a pronoun. The complementizer *vo* can be optionally added.

- (6) a. uz-um e-m (vo.i) (i.tɔŋk^h) je.tk^h-e-n
want-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG (that) (they.NOM) sing-TH-3PL
‘I want them to sing.’ (NK)
Ուզում եմ որ իրանք երգեն:
- b. uz-um ∅-i-m (vo.i) (i.tɔŋk^h) je.tk^h-∅-i-n
want-IMPF.CVB AUX-PST-1SG (that) (they.NOM) sing-TH-PST-3PL
‘I wanted them to sing.’ (NK)
Ուզում իմ որ իրանք երգին:

6.4.3 Imperatives and prohibitives

Imperatives and prohibitives are formed almost identically between Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian. They are restricted to the second person. The markers of imperative and prohibitive morphology depend on verb class. We show the imperative paradigms in Table 6.30. We use zero morphs to represent deleted theme vowels and covert 2SG suffixes.

Table 6.30: Paradigm of imperatives in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	E-Class		A-Class	
	SEA	IA	SEA	IA
Infinitive	jer ^k -e-l √-TH-INF 'to sing' երգել	je.ɫ ^k -e-l 'to read' երգել	kar ^t -a-l √-TH-INF 'to sing' կարդալ	kor ^t -v-l 'to read' կարդալ
Imperative 2SG Colloquial	jer ^k -∅-ir jer ^k -∅-i √-TH-IMP.2SG երգիր	je.ɫ ^k -∅-i երգի	kar ^t -a-∅ √-TH-IMP.2SG կարդա	kor ^t -v-∅ կարդա
Imperative 2PL	jer ^k -∅-ek ^h √-TH-IMP.2PL երգէք	je.ɫ ^k -∅-ek ^h երգէք	kar ^t -a-t ^s ^h -ek ^h √-TH-AOR-IMP.2PL կարդացէք	kor ^t -v-t ^s ^h -ek ^h կարդացէք

The imperative is called [həramajakan jɛʁanək] հրամայական եղանակ in Standard Eastern Armenian. In the imperative 2SG, the A-Class is inflected by adding nothing to the theme vowel in both lects. The imperative 2SG suffix is thus covert for the A-Class: *kor^t-v* 'read!'.

But for the E-Class, there is significant cross-dialectal variation. In Standard Eastern Armenian, the theme vowel is deleted, and followed by the overt imperative 2SG suffix *-ir*: *jer^k-ir* 'sing!'. In Colloquial Eastern Armenian, the suffix can be optionally reduced to *-i*: *jer^k-i* (Dum-Tragut 2009: 273; Քամայան 2015: 164; Գրիգորյան 2019). Iranian Armenian uses only *-i*: *je.ɫ^k-i* 'sing!'. In contrast in Standard Western Armenian, both the E-Class and A-Class use a covert suffix without a vowel change: *jer^k-e* 'sing!' երգէ, *gart^h-a* 'read!' կարդա.

For the imperative 2PL, the two lects align. The E-Class is inflected by adding the imperative 2PL suffix *-ek^h* to the root, deleting the theme vowel: *je.ɫ^k-ek^h* 'sing.PL'. In the A-Class, the aorist suffix *-t^s^h* is added between the theme vowel and the *-ek^h*: *kor^t-v-t^s^h-ek^h* 'read.PL'. The use of the aorist here is morphomic and meaningless, and is traditionally analyzed as part of an 'aorist stem'.¹⁰ For the E-Class, more prescriptive uses of Standard Eastern Armenian utilize the

¹⁰One could argue that the reason why the A-Class imperative 2PL uses the morphomic aorist in [kor^t-v-t^s^h-ek^h] 'read.PL' is to prevent ambiguity with the present subjunctive 2PL [kor^t-v-k^h] 'if you.PL read'. Analyzing the use of morphomic aorist as due to contrast-preservation is attractive. However, it would not extend to other paradigm cells for the A-Class like the subject participle, which also uses the morphomic aorist [kor^t-v-t^s^h-oʁ] 'reader' without any contrasting form [*kor^t-oʁ].

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aurist stem for the E-Class imperative 2PL as well (Dum-Tragut 2009: 272). But it has become increasingly common to abandon the aurist stem for the E-Class imperative 2PL in Standard Eastern Armenian.

The prohibitive is formed by simply adding the proclitic *mi* before the imperative form: *mi kvɪtʰ-v* ‘don’t read!’ (Table 6.31).

Table 6.31: Paradigm of prohibitives in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	E-Class		A-Class	
	SEA	IA	SEA	IA
Infinitive	jer ^h -e-l √-TH-INF ‘to sing’ երգել	je.ɭ ^h -e-l ‘to sing’ երգել	kar ^h -a-l √-TH-INF ‘to read’ կարդալ	kov ^h -v-l ‘to read’ կարդալ
Prohibitive 2SG Colloquial	mi jer ^h -∅-ir mi jer ^h -∅-i PROH √-TH-IMP.2SG մի երգիր մի երգի	mi je.ɭ ^h -∅-i	mi kar ^h -a-∅ PROH √-TH-IMP.2SG մի կարդա մի կարդա	mi kov ^h -v-∅
Prohibitive 2PL	mi jer ^h -∅-ek ^h PROH √-TH-IMP.2PL մի երգեք	mi je.ɭ ^h -∅-ek ^h	mi kar ^h -a-ts ^h -ek ^h PROH √-TH-AOR-IMP.2PL մի կարդացեք	mi kov ^h -v-ts ^h -ek ^h

For illustration, the verbs below show the imperative and prohibitive form of various verbs that we had elicited over the years (Table 6.32). We omit zero morphs for space.

Table 6.32: Elicited imperatives and prohibitives

Infinitive			Finite form		Quality
nəst-e-l	‘to sit’	նստել	nəst-i	Imp 2SG	նստի
k ^h ən-e-l	‘to sleep’	քնել	k ^h ən-i	Imp 2SG	քնի
gəɬ-e-l	‘to write’	գրել	gəɬ-i	Imp 2SG	գրի
			mi gəɬ-i	Proh 2SG	մի գրի
			mi gəɬ-ek ^h	Proh 2PL	մի գրէք
bərn-e-l	‘to hold/catch’	բռնել	mi bərn-i	Proh 2SG	մի բռնի
			mi bərn-ek ^h	Proh 2PL	մի բռնէք
tsəχ-e-l	‘to smoke’	ծխել	mi tsəχ-i	Proh 2SG	մի ծխի
			mi tsəχ-ek ^h	Proh 2PL	մի ծխէք
χօՅ-Վ-l	‘to play’	խաղալ	mi χօՅ-Վ	Proh 2SG	մի խաղա
			mi χօՅ-Վ-ts ^h -ek ^h	Proh 2PL	մի խաղացէք
mən-Վ-l	‘to remain’	մնալ	mi mən-Վ	Proh 2SG	մի մնա
			mi mən-Վ-ts ^h -ek ^h	Proh 2PL	մի մնացէք
zəpt-Վ-l	‘to smile’	ժպտալ	mi zəpt-Վ	Proh 2SG	մի ժպտա
			mi zəpt-Վ-ts ^h -ek ^h	Proh 2PL	մի ժպտացէք

One thing to note though is that our Iranian Armenian speakers frequently prefer to use the negative subjunctive present 2PL in lieu of the prohibitive 2PL (Table 6.33). We suspect this is an influence from Persian. AS reports that Persian often utilizes the subjunctive 2PL in lieu of the negative imperative 2PL. Note how for the E-Class, the surface sequence *-ek^h* has different morphological parses in the subjunctive vs. prohibitive.

Table 6.33: Negative subjunctive vs. prohibitive 2PL in Iranian Armenian

	Prohibitive 2PL	Negative subj. 2PL
E-Class ‘to sing’	mi je.ɬk ^h -Ø-ek ^h PROH √-TH-IMP.2PL մի երգէք	ʃjə-je.ɬk ^h -e-k ^h NEG-√-TH-2PL չերգէք
A-Class ‘to read’	mi kɔ.ɬ ^h -Վ-ts ^h -ek ^h PROH √-TH-AOR-IMP.2PL մի կարդացէք	ʃjə-kɔ.ɬ ^h -Վ-k ^h NEG-√-TH-2PL չկարդաք

6.4.4 Participles

Alongside converbs, Iranian Armenian utilizes a set of participles derived from verbs. These participles cannot be used in periphrastic constructions. They are

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restricted in use as adjectives or nouns. Participle formation in Iranian Armenian is identical to that in Standard Eastern.

There are two types of participles: the subject participle and the resultative participle (Table 6.34). The subject participle uses the suffix [-օՅ]. The resultative participle uses the suffix [-օՏ^h] in Iranian Armenian, [-օՏ] in Standard Eastern.¹¹ For the E-Class, these suffixes are added directly after the root, deleting the theme vowel. We use zero morphs to show the deleted theme vowel. For A-Class verbs, these suffixes trigger a morphomic aorist suffix $-\widehat{ts}^h$ between the theme and suffix, i.e., an aorist stem.

Table 6.34: Paradigm of subject and resultative participles

	E-Class		A-Class	
	SEA	IA	SEA	IA
Infinitive	jeɾk ^h -e-l 'to sing' √-TH-INF երգել	je.ɿk ^h -e-l	kaɾt ^h -a-l 'to read' √-TH-INF կարդալ	kd.ɿt ^h -ɒ-l
Subject participle	jeɾk ^h -∅-օՅ √-TH-SPTCP երգող	je.ɿk ^h -∅-օՅ	kaɾt ^h -a- \widehat{ts}^h -օՅ √-TH-AOR-SPTCP կարդացող	kd.ɿt ^h -ɒ- \widehat{ts}^h -օՅ
Resultative participle	jeɾk ^h -∅-օՏ √-TH-RPTCP երգած	je.ɿk ^h -∅-օՏ ^h	kaɾt ^h -a- \widehat{ts}^h -օՏ √-TH-AOR-RPTCP կարդացած	kd.ɿt ^h -ɒ- \widehat{ts}^h -օՏ ^h

In Standard Eastern Armenian, the resultative participle is called [harakatar derbaj] հարակատար դերբայ, and the subject participle is called [jent^hakajakān derbaj] ենթակայական դերբայ.

The following are examples with these participles in Iranian Armenian (7).

- (7) a. Subject participle
je.ɿk^h-օՅ-ə jev kd.ɿt^h-ɒ- \widehat{ts}^h -օՅ-ə
sing-SPTCP-DEF and read-TH-AOR-SPTCP-DEF
'the singer and the reader'
երգողը և կարդացողը
- b. Resultative participle

¹¹As explained in §2.1.1, some Iranian Armenian speakers aspirate the resultative suffix as [-օՏ^h], while some do not. Throughout this section, we aspirate this suffix because our main consultant NK used aspiration.

je.ɫk^h-ɒts^h je.ɫk^h jev kɒ.ɫt^h-ɒ-ts^h-ɒts^h gi.ɫk^h
 sing-RPTCP song and read-TH-AOR-RPTCP book
 ‘a sung song and a read book’
 երգած երգ եւ կարդացած գիրք

6.5 Future: synthetic and periphrastic constructions

This section discusses the two morphological strategies that are used to mark the future. One strategy is periphrastic with a converb, while the other is synthetic with a prefix. The same strategies are used in both SEA and IA.

The existing literature on Armenian is quite inconsistent in how these two categories are classified and analyzed. To minimize these inconsistencies, we discuss them both together here.

6.5.1 Variation in future marking

To mark the simple future in SEA, most traditional grammars (both descriptive and pedagogical) report a periphrastic construction (8). *Dum-Tragut (2009: 233)* labels this as the ‘simple future’. The verb is in a non-finite form called the future converb (with suffix *-u*) while tense-agreement is on an auxiliary. IA has the same periphrastic construction.

- (8) Periphrastic future
 ցօր-ե-լ-ւ e-m (SEA)
 ցօլ-ե-լ-ււ e-m (IA)
 write-TH-INFFUT.CVB AUX-1SG
 ‘I will write.’
 Գրելու եմ:

An alternative synthetic construction is to add the prefix *k(ə)-* before a finite subjunctive verb (9). *Dum-Tragut (2009: 253)* calls this the ‘conditional future’.

- (9) Synthetic future
 kə-ցօր-ե-m (SEA)
 kə-ցօլ-ե-m (IA)
 FUT-write-TH-1SG
 ‘I will write.’
 Կը գրեմ:

Note that our translations for the periphrastic future (8) and synthetic future (9) are identical. The problem is that it's quite unclear what are the fixed semantic and functional differences between the periphrastic and synthetic future.¹² To quote *Dum-Tragut (2009: 253)*:

In [SEA], however, [the synthetic future] is more often used to express simple actions in the future and as such has no major semantic differences to the [periphrastic future] and is even more often used as the [periphrastic future].

There are some subtle semantic distinctions between the periphrastic and synthetic forms. For example, the synthetic form implies a stronger sense of intentionality or volition. For our consultants, it can denote a wish, a future condition, or an optative. It can be used to denote an action in the immediate future, where the agent has a strong desire to perform the action. The synthetic future has a sense of being more temporally immediate than the periphrastic future. But in general, the two types of futures can be used interchangeably.

The above semantic observations concerning the future contrast strongly with the traditional names that grammars use. The periphrastic future is always labeled as 'the future' (*Minassian 1980: 182; Fairbanks & Stevick 1975: 209; Bardakjian & Vaux 1999: 71; Hagopian 2005: 94; Sakayan 2007: 124; Dum-Tragut 2009: 233*). This shows that these grammarians think that the main function of this construction is to mark the future. In contrast, the synthetic form has multiple names, each of which make the synthetic form seem subordinate to the periphrastic form. It has been called the 'conditional present' (*Minassian 1980: 192; Hagopian 2005: 160*), 'hypothetical future' (*Sakayan 2007: 224*), 'future' (*Johnson 1954: 85; Fairbanks & Stevick 1975: 93*), and 'conditional future' (*Bardakjian & Vaux 1999: 196; Dum-Tragut 2009: 253*). In contrast in Armenian dialectology, *Adjarian (ԱճԱՐՅԱՆ 1911, translated in Dolatian in review)* labels the synthetic future as just the future.¹³

There is thus a mismatch between the names and functions of the two future constructions. Traditional grammars and names treat the periphrastic future as

¹²Sometimes NK would say that the periphrastic construction means 'I will X' while the synthetic one means 'I am going to X'. But then we get the opposite order from AS's consultants.

¹³Among modern grammars written in Armenian, there is also some inconsistency. The periphrastic future has been called the 'future' [aparni] ապարնի (*Եզեկյան 2007: 292*) or the 'future present' [aparni nerka] ապարնի ներկա (*Սևակ 2009: 295*). In contrast, the synthetic is called the 'conditional future present' or '(conditional) future' (*Եզեկյան 2007: 292; Սևակ 2009: 295*). The word for 'conditional' can be [jent^hadrakan] ելթադրական or [rajmanakan] պայմանական.

the default, while the synthetic future is argued to be restricted to special types of conditional clauses. However, more recent semantic work on Armenian argues that the synthetic future is the default way to mark the future tense (Ավետյան 2022). The periphrastic future is instead an expected (predetermined) future. Personal communication with Avetyan (Ավետյան 2022) then suggests the following two translations for these two types of futures (10).

- (10) Alternative translations
- a. Periphrastic future (expected)

gər-e-l-u	e-m	(SEA)
gəɫ-e-l-uw	e-m	(IA)
write-TH-INF-FUT.CVB AUX-1SG		
‘I am (going) to write.’		
Գրելու եմ:		
 - b. Synthetic future (simple)

kə-gər-e-m	(SEA)
kə-gəɫ-e-m	(IA)
FUT-write-TH-1SG	
‘I will write.’	
Կը գրեմ:	

As can be seen, it is difficult to know how to label these two morphological constructions. The traditional names obfuscate the fact that the synthetic structure is more common than the periphrastic structure, and that the synthetic can be used in non-conditional contexts. But, if we use new names based on semantic functions, then we run the risk that future more in-depth work may contradict our grammar. With new semantically-based names, a future reader might also have trouble seeing the connection between our grammar and past grammars.

As a compromise, we use morphological names for the two types of futures: the periphrastic future and the synthetic future (Fairbanks & Stevick 1975). We gloss the morpheme /-u/ for periphrastic future as -FUT.CVB ‘future converb’, and the prefix /k-/ for the synthetic future as FUT- ‘future’.

The rest of this section goes over the morphology of these two constructions. We discuss their past forms and their negation.

6.5.2 Periphrastic future with a converb

The periphrastic future is made by combining the future converb with an inflected auxiliary. The future converb is formed by taking the infinitive and then

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adding the suffix *-u* (Table 6.35). Both the E-Class and A-Class keep their theme vowel. This construction is formed identically in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian. The future converb is also called the future participle [qarni derbaj] ապառնի դերբայ in Standard Eastern Armenian (Dum-Tragut 2009: 206).

Table 6.35: Forming the future converb for simple regular verbs

E-Class ‘to sing’		A-Class ‘to read’	
Infinitive	Future converb	Infinitive	Future converb
je.ɫk ^h -e-l	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u	kw.ɫt ^h -ɔ-l	kw.ɫt ^h -ɔ-l-u
√-TH-INF	√-TH-INF-FUT.CVB	√-TH-INF	√-TH-INF-FUT.CVB
երգել	երգելու	կարդալ	կարդալու

The future converb suffix *-u* likely originates from the genitive/dative suffix *-u* that’s used by some declension classes (traditionally called the second declension). Its use is grammaticalized here as part of the future converb.

The converb can take the present or past auxiliaries to respectively create the simple future or the past future (‘future in the past’) (Dum-Tragut 2009: 235). We show in Table 6.36 the complete paradigm for the E-Class *je.ɫk^h-e-l*. The paradigm for the A-Class is analogously constructed with the converb [kw.ɫt^h-ɔ-l-u]. We don’t segment the auxiliary.

Table 6.36: Paradigm for the periphrastic future and the periphrastic past future for E-Class [je.ɫk^h-e-l] ‘to sing’

	Pos.		Neg.	
	Future	Past future	Future	Past future
1SG	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw em ‘I will sing’ երգելու եմ	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw im ‘I was going to sing’ երգելու իմ	ɸ ^h -em je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u ‘I will not sing’ չեմ երգելու	ɸ ^h -im je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u ‘I wasn’t going to sing’ չիմ երգելու
2SG	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw es երգելու ես	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw iɫ երգելու իր	ɸ ^h -es je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չես երգելու	ɸ ^h -iɫ je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չիր երգելու
3SG	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw ɔ երգելու ա	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw e.ɫ երգելու էր	ɸ ^h -i je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չի երգելու	ɸ ^h -e.ɫ je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չէր երգելու
1PL	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw eŋk ^h երգելու ենք	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw iŋk ^h երգելու ինք	ɸ ^h -eŋk ^h je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չենք երգելու	ɸ ^h -iŋk ^h je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չինք երգելու
2PL	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw ek ^h երգելու էք	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw ik ^h երգելու իք	ɸ ^h -ek ^h je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չէք երգելու	ɸ ^h -ik ^h je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չիք երգելու
3PL	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw en երգելու են	je.ɫk ^h -e-l-uw in երգելու ին	ɸ ^h -en je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չեն երգելու	ɸ ^h -in je.ɫk ^h -e-l-u չին երգելու
	√-TH-INF-FUT.CVB AUX		NEG-AUX √-TH-INF-FUT.CVB	

When the converb is combined with the past auxiliary, the usual name for this

construction is the ‘past future’ or ‘future in the past’ (Minassian 1980: 182; Bardakjian & Vaux 1999: 71; Hagopian 2005: 94; Dum-Tragut 2009: 235). Other names include the ‘future imperfect’ (Sakayan 2007: 126) and ‘past future’ (Fairbanks & Stevick 1975: 210).

As before, the auxiliary shifts its position in the negated form. Note that vowel hiatus between the converb and the auxiliary triggers the insertion of [w], discussed in §3.1.2.

6.5.3 Synthetic future with a prefix

The synthetic future is derived from subjunctives via prefixation in the positive. But its negative form uses periphrasis with a converb called the connegative (11).

- (11) a. kə- kdʰtʰ -v -ɲkʰ
 FUT- read-TH -1PL
 ‘We will read.’ (NK)
 Կը կարդանք:
- b. tʰ- e -ɲkʰ kdʰtʰ-v-∅
 NEG- is -1PL read-TH-CN.CVB
 ‘We will not read.’ (NK)
 Չենք կարդայ:

In the positive, the conditional is formed by adding the prefix *k-* to the subjunctive form (Table 6.37). A schwa is added to repair any consonant clusters created by this prefix. Complications arise when the root starts with [je] (§3.1.1).

When the prefix is added to a subjunctive present verb, it produces a future meaning, but with various nuances (§6.5.1). When this prefix is added to a subjunctive past verb, the meaning is more conditional-oriented. Grammars give many divergent names for this construction: conditional past (Hagopian 2005: 160; Dum-Tragut 2009: 260), conditional imperfect (Minassian 1980: 192; Bardakjian & Vaux 1999: 196), hypothetical past (Sakayan 2007: 225), past future (Fairbanks & Stevick 1975: 132). Because NK translates this construction as ‘I would X’, we decided to call it the conditional past.

Table 6.37 shows the paradigm of the conditional past. We do not provide the Standard Eastern Armenian forms because Standard Eastern Armenian likewise builds this tense from the subjunctive.

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Table 6.37: Paradigm of positive synthetic future and the conditional past in Iranian Armenian

	Future		Conditional past	
	E-Class	A-Class	E-Class	A-Class
1SG	kə-je.ɹk ^h -e-m 'I will sing.' կը երգեմ	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-m 'I will read.' կը կարդամ	kə-je.ɹk ^h -ø-i-m 'I would sing' կը երգիմ	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-j-i-m 'I would read.' կը կարդայիմ
2SG	kə-je.ɹk ^h -e-s կը երգես	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-s կը կարդաս	kə-je.ɹk ^h -ø-i-ɹ կը երգիր	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-j-i-ɹ կը կարդայիր
3SG	kə-je.ɹk ^h -i-ø կը երգի	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v կը կարդայ	kə-je.ɹk ^h -e-ø-ɹ կը երգէր	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-ø-ɹ կը կարդար
1PL	kə-je.ɹk ^h -e-ŋk ^h կը երգենք	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-ŋk ^h կը կարդանք	kə-je.ɹk ^h -ø-i-ŋk ^h կը երգինք	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-j-i-ŋk ^h կը կարդայինք
2PL	kə-je.ɹk ^h -e-k ^h կը երգեք	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-k ^h կը կարդաք	kə-je.ɹk ^h -ø-i-k ^h կը երգիք	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-j-i-k ^h կը կարդայիք
3PL	kə-je.ɹk ^h -e-n կը երգեն	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-n կը կարդան	kə-je.ɹk ^h -ø-i-n կը երգին	kə-kv.ɹt ^h -v-j-i-n կը կարդային
	FUT-√-AGR		FUT-√-PST-AGR	

The above focused on the synthetic future and conditional when the verb is positive. When the verb is negative, then an entirely different periphrastic construction is used. Tense and agreement are placed on a negative auxiliary (§6.2). The verb is in the connegative form (Table 6.38), also called the negative participle (Dum-Tragut 2009: 214). The converb is called [zəχtakan derbaj] ժխտական դերբայ in Standard Eastern Armenian. The converb is constructed differently for the two classes. The converb suffix is a zero morph in the A-Class. In the E-Class, the theme vowel is replaced by /i/.

Table 6.38: Connegative converbs for the E-Class and A-Class

	E-Class 'to sing'	A-Class 'to read'	
Infinitive	je.ɹk ^h -e-l երգել	kv.ɹt ^h -v-l կարդալ	√-TH-INF
Connegative Possible analysis:	je.ɹk ^h -i je.ɹk ^h -i-ø երգի	kv.ɹt ^h -v kv.ɹt ^h -v-ø կարդայ	√-TH-CN.CVB

In terms of segmentation, we treat the connegative converb as a zero suffix

in the A-Class. In the E-Class, we assume the connegative is a floating [+HIGH] feature that docks onto the /e/ theme vowel, thus changing /e/ to [i] (Rule 19). This is the same analytical strategy that we used for the subjunctive present 3SG (Rule 17). The alternatives in (Rule 16) would also work.

Rule 19. Rule for the connegative converb

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{CN.CV B} \leftrightarrow \begin{array}{l} [+HIGH] / e _ \\ -\emptyset / \text{elsewhere} \end{array} \quad (\text{where } /e/ \text{ is theme}) \end{array}$$

We show the negative paradigm in Table 6.39. Note that because we’re defining the future constructions in terms of their morphology, then the negative paradigm is actually ‘the negative periphrastic of the synthetic future’.

Table 6.39: Paradigm of the negative periphrastic form of the synthetic future and of the conditional past in Iranian Armenian

	Future				Conditional past			
	E-Class		A-Class		E-Class		A-Class	
1SG	tʃ ^h -em ‘I will not sing’ չեմ երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ ‘I will not read’ չեմ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -em ‘I would not sing’ չիմ երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ ‘I would not read’ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -im ‘I would not sing’ չիմ երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ ‘I would not read’ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -im ‘I would not sing’ չիմ երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ ‘I would not read’ կարդայ
2SG	tʃ ^h -es չես երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -es չես երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -i.ɪ չիր երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -i.ɪ չիր երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ
3SG	tʃ ^h -i չի երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -i չի երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -e.ɪ չեր երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -e.ɪ չեր երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ
1PL	tʃ ^h -enjk ^h չենք երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -enjk ^h չենք երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -inj ^h չինք երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -inj ^h չինք երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ
2PL	tʃ ^h -ek ^h չէք երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -ek ^h չէք երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -ik ^h չիք երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -ik ^h չիք երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ
3PL	tʃ ^h -en չեն երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -en չեն երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -in չին երգի	je.ɪk ^h -i-∅ կարդայ	tʃ ^h -in չին երգի	kd.ɪt ^h -v-∅ կարդայ
	NEG-AUX.PRS.AGR √-TH-CN.CV B				NEG-AUX.PST.AGR √-TH-CN.CV B			

We do not show Standard Eastern Armenian because it displays the exact same patterns, factoring out the phonological differences in the low vowel and rhotic, i.e., the connegative of ‘to read’ in Iranian Armenian [kd.ɪt^h-v] corresponds to [kart^h-ɑ] in Standard Eastern. We do not provide full segmentation for the auxiliary; for that see §6.2.3.

6.6 Complex regular verb class

The previous section demonstrated the synthetic and periphrastic inflection of simple regular verbs. This section describes the inflection of complex verbs. Complex verbs are divided into passives, causatives, and inchoatives. These differ from simple verbs by including additional verbal material, such as the passive suffix. Their inflections differ from simple verbs in some but not all paradigm cells.

6.6.1 Passives

Passive verbs are formed by adding the suffix *-v-* (Table 6.40). The suffix is added directly after the root of an E-Class verb. For an A-Class verb, the passive triggers the morphomic aorist $\widehat{-ts^h}$ - (an aorist stem). Passive formation is the same in the two lects. We show the deleted theme vowel as a zero morph.

Table 6.40: Passive verbs in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

	E-Class		A-Class	
	SEA	IA	SEA	IA
Infinitive	$\text{jerk}^{\text{h}}\text{-e-l}$ $\sqrt{\text{-TH-INF}}$ ‘to sing’ երգել	$\text{je.ɫk}^{\text{h}}\text{-e-l}$ երգել	$\text{kart}^{\text{h}}\text{-a-l}$ $\sqrt{\text{-TH-INF}}$ ‘to read’ կարդալ	$\text{kɔ.ɫt}^{\text{h}}\text{-ɔ-l}$ կարդալ
Passive	$\text{jerk}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\emptyset\text{-v-e-l}$ $\sqrt{\text{-TH-PASS-TH-INF}}$ ‘to be sung’ երգվել	$\text{je.ɫk}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\emptyset\text{-v-e-l}$ երգուել	$\text{kart}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\widehat{\text{ɔ}}\text{-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-v-e-l}$ $\sqrt{\text{-TH-AOR-PASS-TH-INF}}$ ‘to be read’ կարդացվել	$\text{kɔ.ɫt}^{\text{h}}\text{-}\widehat{\text{ɔ}}\text{-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-v-e-l}$ կարդացուել

The name of the passive is [kəɾavorakan] կրավորական in Standard Eastern Armenian.

Semantically, the passive suffix demotes the object argument of the active verb. The passive can likewise trigger a host of other argument-reducing operations such as reflexivization, anticausativization, and so on (Haspelmath 1993; Dum-Tragut 2009: 175). However, there are some high-frequency intransitive verbs that have the passive suffix like *skəs-v-e-l* ‘to begin’, but don’t really have passive semantics, just intransitive semantics. For consistency, we gloss all instances of the passive suffix *-v-* as just *PASS* even though its semantics can vary for some verbs.

Morphologically, the passive takes its own theme vowel *-e-*. We list some passives in Table 6.41.

Table 6.41: Example passive verbs in Iranian Armenian

Active			Passive		
bərn-e-l	‘to catch’	բռնել	bərnə-v-e-l	‘to be caught’	բռնուել
kotɿ-e-l	‘to break’	կոտրել	kotəɿ-v-e-l	‘to be broken’	կոտրուել
skəs-e-l	‘to start (trans.)’	սկսել	skəs-v-e-l	‘to begin’	սկսուել
ɔzɔt-e-l	‘to free’	ազատել	ɔzɔt-v-e-l	‘to be freed’	ազատուել
ɔvɔ.tɿ-e-l	‘to finish’	աւարտել	ɔvɔ.tɿ-v-e-l	‘to graduate (school)’	աւարտուել
kɔ.tɿ ^h -ɔ-l	‘to read’	կարդալ	kɔ.tɿ ^h -ɔ-ts ^h -v-e-l	‘to be read’	կարդացուել

Passive verbs are inflected as simple E-Class verbs. For example, in the past perfective, they take the past morph */-ɔ/* (Table 6.42).

Table 6.42: Past perfective of passive verbs in Iranian Armenian

Active			Passive		
bərnə-v-e-l	‘to be caught’	բռնուել	bərnə-v-ɔ-m	‘I was caught’	բռնուամ
kotəɿ-v-e-l	‘to be broken’	կոտրուել	kotəɿ-v-ɔ-v	‘it broke’	կոտրուաւ
ɔzɔt-v-e-l	‘to be freed’	ազատուել	ɔzɔt-v-ɔ-n	‘they were freed’	ազատուան
ɔvɔ.tɿ-v-e-l	‘to graduate’	աւարտուել	ɔvɔ.tɿv-ɔ-v	‘he graduated’	աւարտուաւ

The passive triggers schwa epenthesis after a CC cluster that cannot form a licit word-medial complex coda. For example, we see a schwa in [bərnə-v-e-l] ‘to be caught’ but not in [je.tɿ^h-v-e-l] ‘to be sung’.¹⁴ For an analysis of this phenomenon in this phenomenon in Standard Eastern and Standard Western Armenian, see Vaux (1998b: 29,82) and Dolatian (forthcoming).

6.6.2 Inchoatives

Inchoatives are productively formed by adding the sequence [-ɔ-n-ɔ-l] to a noun or adjective (Table 6.43). The nasal is the inchoative affix. It is followed by the /ɔ/ theme vowel. Depending on the lexeme, the pre-nasal vowel is either /ɔ/ or /e/. But the low vowel is more common. We assume this pre-nasal vowel is a meaningless linking vowel (LV) (Dolatian & Guekguezian 2022b).

¹⁴It’s not completely clear to us why [rn] cannot form a complex coda in the passive verb [bərnə-v-e-l] ‘to be caught’. An open question is whether complex codas like [rn] are truly banned across the entire lexicon, or just passives.

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Table 6.43: Inchoative constructions

LV is /ɒ/		LV is /e/	
Base	Inchoative	Base	Inchoative
տի՛նօւ	տի՛նօւ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ	ՎԾՃ	ՎԾՃ-ե-ն-Յ-լ
√	√-LV-INCH-TH-INF	√	√-LV-INCH-TH-INF
‘dry’	‘to become dry’	‘fear’	‘to fear’
չոր	չորանալ	վախ	վախենալ

The meaning of an inchoative can be loosely paraphrased as ‘to become X’. Note the contrast below between using the adjective as a predicate vs. as an inchoativized verb (12).

- (12) a. *սւրճ* *el-n-e-l*
happy be-VX-TH-INF
‘to be happy’
ուրախ էլնել
- b. *սւրճ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ*
happy-LV-INCH-TH-INF
‘to become happy’
ուրախանալ

We list below various morphologically inchoative verbs that we have elicited (Table 6.44).¹⁵

Table 6.44: Example inchoative verbs

<i>մոհ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ</i>	‘to die’	<i>մահանալ</i>
<i>հոսկ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ</i>	‘to understand’	<i>հասկանալ</i>
<i>ցօճ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ</i>	‘to steal’	<i>գողանալ</i>
<i>im-Յ-ն-Յ-լ</i>	‘to know’	<i>իմանալ</i>
<i>լօՅ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ</i>	‘to wash’	<i>լուանալ</i>
<i>ըւտ՛ն-Յ-ն-Յ-լ</i>	‘to awake’	<i>արթնանալ</i>
<i>տ՛սնօղկ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ</i>	‘to wish’	<i>ցանկանալ</i>
<i>հոյցօտ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ</i>	‘to relax’	<i>հանգստանալ</i>
<i>un-e-n-Յ-լ</i>	‘to have/own’	<i>ունենալ</i>

Inchoatives are inflected similarly to A-Class verbs but with some deviations, such as the imperative 2SG (Table 6.45). Inchoatives use the morphomic aorist suffix (aorist stem) in more contexts than typical A-Class verbs. When the aorist

¹⁵Some of these verbs like *ցօճ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ* ‘to steal’ have inchoative morphology, but are transitive in their semantics and argument structure. And for some verbs like ‘to understand’ /*հոսկ-Յ-ն-Յ-լ*/ or ‘to know’ /*im-Յ-ն-Յ-լ*/, the root is a bound, and not an independent adjective or noun.

is used, the inchoative affix and its theme vowel are deleted. We show a partial paradigm below, just for the Iranian Armenian forms. We show only the deviations between the inchoative and A-Class. All other paradigm cells are formed the same. We don't use zero morphs to show deleted theme vowels and deleted inchoatives.¹⁶ We place an asterisk for those paradigm cells where the inchoative nasal is deleted, and where the aorist stem is instead used.

Table 6.45: Partial paradigm of inchoatives vs. A-Class verbs

	A-Class 'to read'	Inchoative 'to become happy'
Infinitive	kd.ɬ ^h -D-l √-TH-INF կարդալ	u.ɬχ-D-n-D-l √-LV-INCH-TH-INF ուրախանալ
Past. Pfv. 1SG *	kd.ɬ ^h -D-ts ^h -D-m √-TH-AOR-PST-1SG կարդացամ	u.ɬχ-D-ts ^h -D-m √-LV-AOR-PST-1SG ուրախացամ
Imp. 2SG *	kd.ɬ ^h -D-∅ √-TH-IMP.2SG կարդալ	u.ɬχ-D-ts ^h -i √-LV-AOR-IMP.2SG ուրախացի
Imp. 2PL *	kd.ɬ ^h -D-ts ^h -ek ^h √-TH-AOR-IMP.2PL կարդացէք	u.ɬχ-D-ts ^h -ek ^h √-LV-AOR-IMP.2PL ուրախացէք
Subj. Part. *	kd.ɬ ^h -D-ts ^h -oɕ √-TH-AOR-SPTCP կարդացող	u.ɬχ-D-ts ^h -oɕ √-LV-AOR-SPTCP ուրախացող
Res. Part. *	kd.ɬ ^h -D-ts ^h -Dts ^h կարդացած √-TH-AOR-RPTCP	u.ɬχ-D-ts ^h -Dts ^h ուրախացած √-LV-AOR-RPTCP
Pfv. Cvb. *	kd.ɬ ^h -D-ts ^h -el √-TH-AOR-PERF.CVB կարդացել	u.ɬχ-D-ts ^h -el √-LV-AOR-PERF.CVB ուրախացել

Prohibitives are formed by adding the proclitic *mi-* before the imperative forms.

¹⁶Inchoatives are inflected similarly in Standard Eastern. The main difference is that in Standard Eastern, inchoatives are exceptional because they are inflected with the past tense morph /a/. Iranian Armenian on the other hand uses the past tense morph /v/ which is the default form for the past perfective. For an analysis and documentation of similar facts in Standard Western Armenian, see [Dolatian & Guekguegian \(2022b\)](#).

For the other paradigm cells, inchoatives are inflected like A-Class verbs. These cells are the other converbs, the subjunctive, and the synthetic future. Complete paradigms are provided in the online archive.

6.6.3 Causatives

A causative infinitive consists of a stem plus the sequence $-\widehat{ts}^h n-e-l$ (Table 6.46). The causative suffix is $-\widehat{ts}^h n-$ and it takes the $-e-$ theme vowel. The stem of the causative can be the root of a simple verb and its theme vowel. Causatives can also be derived from non-verbs and from inchoative verbs. When a causative is derived from an inchoative, the inchoative suffix and its theme vowel are deleted.¹⁷

Table 6.46: Forming causatives

(a) Causatives from simple verbs

Simple verb	Causative
sovo.ɿ-e-l	sovo.ɿ-e- $\widehat{ts}^h n$ -e-l
$\sqrt{\text{-TH-INF}}$ 'to learn'	$\sqrt{\text{-TH-CAUS-TH-INF}}$ 'teach'
սովորել	սովորեցնել

(b) Causatives from non-verbs or inchoatives

Non-verb	Inchoative verb	Causative
սւք	սւք-Ծ-ն-Ծ-l	սւք-Ծ- $\widehat{ts}^h n$ -e-l
$\sqrt{\text{}}$ 'happy'	$\sqrt{\text{-LV-INCH-TH-INF}}$ 'to become happy'	$\sqrt{\text{-LV-CAUS-TH-INF}}$ 'to make happy'
ուրախ	ուրախանալ	ուրախացնել

The name of the causative is [pattʃarakan] պատճառական in Standard Eastern Armenian.

Our consultants feel that deriving causatives from simple verbs is not very productive in Iranian Armenian.¹⁸ In contrast, causativization is more productive in

¹⁷The causative suffix can sometimes surface with a schwa [-tʃən-] in Iranian Armenian. This is likewise reported for Standard Eastern (Աբեղյան 1933: 47, Ղարազյուրյան 1974: 163, 1979: 42; Մարգարյան 1997: 59).

¹⁸Don Stilo (p.c.) suggests that language contact with Persian may be the reason why our IA consultants disprefer such causatives. He reports that “there are very few causative verbs in Persian that are formed on transitive verbs and those transitive verbs that are causativized are not commonly used verbs. The causative verbs in Persian are for the most part cases of valency changing strategies, i.e., intransitive > transitive (‘be afraid of’ > ‘scare’).”

Standard Eastern and Western Armenian (Daniel & Khurshudian 2015, Dolatian & Guekguegian 2022b). Deriving causatives from inchoatives is productive in Iranian Armenian (Megerdooimian 2005).

In many cases when a causative is derived from a simple verb, the post-root theme vowel differs between the simple verb and causative in Iranian Armenian (Table 6.47).¹⁹

Table 6.47: Differing pre-causative theme vowels

Theme vowel changes		Theme vowel stays constant	
k ^h ən-e-l	k ^h ən-ɔ-t ^h n-e-l	kdɪt ^h -ɔ-l	kdɪt ^h -ɔ-t ^h n-e-l
√-TH-INF	√-TH-CAUS-TH-INF	√-TH-INF	√-TH-CAUS-TH-INF
‘to sleep’	‘to make sleep’	‘to read’	‘to make read’
քնել	քնացնել	կարդալ	կարդացնել

Some common causatives are listed in Table 6.48. It is common to find causative verbs without any pre-causative vowel.

Table 6.48: Other common causative verbs in Iranian Armenian

հոյգստ-ɔ-t ^h n-e-l	‘to calm down’	հանգստացնել
ve(ɪ)-t ^h n-e-l	‘to take’	վերցնել
լօ-t ^h n-e-l	‘to fill/pour’	լցնել
ծծլ-t ^h n-e-l	‘to turn into’	դարձնել
√(-TH)-CAUS-TH-INF		

In terms of inflection, causatives are inflected primarily as E-Class verbs but with some deviation (Table 6.49). In the past perfective, the causative suffix uses a special allomorph $-t^hɪ-$. This allomorph is likewise used in disparate paradigm slots. These are slots which tend to show morphomic aorist stems in other verb classes. We show a partial paradigm below. We only show the causative paradigm cells which differ from simple E-Class verbs. We place an asterisk for those paradigm cells where the $-t^hɪ-$ allomorph is used, meaning where we see the aorist stem. The theme vowel is deleted in most of these cells.

¹⁹Megerdooimian (2005) lists many more cases of causative verbs that are derived from simple verbs but utilize a theme-vowel change.

Table 6.49: Partial paradigm of causatives vs. E-Class verbs

	E-Class	Causative
Infinitive	sovo. _I -e-l √-TH-INF սովորել	sovo. _I -e- $\widehat{ts^h}$ n-e-l √-TH-CAUS-TH-INF սովորեցնել
Past. Pfv. 1SG *	sovo. _I -D-m √-PST-1SG սովորամ	sovo. _I -e- $\widehat{ts^h}$. _I -D-m √-TH-CAUS-PST-1SG սովորեցրամ
Imp. 2SG *	sovo. _I -i √-IMP.2SG սովորի	sovo. _I -e- $\widehat{ts^h}$. _I -u √-TH-CAUS-IMP.2SG սովորեցրու
Imp. 2PL *	sovo. _I -ek ^h √-IMP.2PL սովորէք	sovo. _I -e- $\widehat{ts^h}$. _I -ek ^h √-TH-CAUS-IMP.2PL սովորեցրէք
Subj. Part.	sovo. _I -oԹ √-SPTCP սովորող	sovo. _I -e- $\widehat{ts^h}$ n-oԹ √-TH-CAUS-SPTCP սովորեցնող
Res. Part. *	sovo. _I -D $\widehat{ts^h}$ √-RPTCP սովորած	sovo. _I -e- $\widehat{ts^h}$. _I -D $\widehat{ts^h}$ √-TH-CAUS-RPTCP սովորեցրած
Pfv. Cvb. *	sovo. _I -el √-PERF.CVB սովորել	sovo. _I -e- $\widehat{ts^h}$. _I -el √-TH-CAUS-PERF.CVB սովորեցրել

Prohibitives are formed by adding the proclitic *mi-* before the imperative forms. For the other paradigm cells, causatives are inflected like E-Class verbs. These cells are the other converbs, the subjunctive, and the synthetic future. The Iranian Armenian forms do not differ from Standard Eastern except for the past perfective. The Standard Eastern past perfective of causatives uses the past tense morph /i/ instead of /v/: Iranian Armenian *sovo._I-e- $\widehat{ts^h}$._I-D-n* vs. Standard Eastern *sovor-e- $\widehat{ts^h}$ r-i-n* ‘they taught’. Complete paradigms are provided in the online archive.

6.7 Irregular verbs

The regular verb classes were discussed in the previous section. These classes constitute the majority of verbs in the Iranian Armenian lexicon. This section goes over some irregular classes. These are all rather low-frequency in terms

of types, but seem high-frequency in their tokens. These irregulars can be divided into different subclasses: infixed verbs, suppletive verbs, defective verbs, and other verbs.

This section focuses on providing paradigms just for Iranian Armenian. To contrast these irregular paradigms with Standard Eastern, see [Dum-Tragut \(2009: 277ff\)](#). Complete paradigms are provided in the online archive.

6.7.1 Infixed verbs

In the infinitive form, simple regular verbs consist of a root, theme vowel, and the infinitive suffix *-l*. Iranian Armenian likewise has a set of irregular verbs where a meaningless morph */-n-/* surfaces between the root and theme vowel (Table 6.50). We gloss this meaningless verbal stem-extender as vx.²⁰

Table 6.50: Infixed irregular verbs in Standard Eastern and Iranian Armenian

IA		SEA		
mət-n-e-l	‘to enter’	mət-n-e-l	‘to enter’	մտնել
tes-n-e-l	‘to see’	tes-n-e-l	‘to see’	տեսնել
ɔr-n-e-l	‘to buy’	ar-n-e-l	‘to take’	առնել
el-n-e-l	‘to be’	jel-n-e-l	‘to get up’	ելնել
t ^h oɤ-n-e-l	‘to let/leave’	t ^h oɤ-n-e-l	‘to let/leave’	թողնել
əŋgə-n-e-l	‘to fall’	əŋk-n-e-l	‘to fall’	ընկնել
itʃ ^h -n-e-l	իջնել	itʃ ^h -n-e-l	‘to descend’	իջնել
√-VX-TH-INF		√-VX-TH-INF		

Across Armenian lects, this nasal morph */-n-/* is diachronically a reflex of the Proto-Indo-European nasal infix ([Greppin 1973](#), [Hamp 1975](#), [Kocharov 2019](#)). Standard Eastern Armenian has these same verbs. However, for some of these verbs, the meaningless morph is an affricate in Standard Eastern Armenian. It seems that Iranian Armenian has lost the affricate morph, and now all the infixed verbs just use the nasal morph (Table 6.51).²¹

²⁰For the verb *əŋgə-n-e-l* ‘to fall,’ the second schwa is epenthetic. It is absent before a vowel: *əŋg-v-ηk^h* ‘we fell’ [√-PST-1PL].

²¹The replacement of the affricate infix with the nasal infix is likewise attested in Colloquial Eastern Armenian ([Dum-Tragut 2009: 172](#)), Khoy/Urmia ([Ասատրյան 1962: 98](#)), Salmast ([Vaux 2022b: §3.2.7](#)), and all of the Southeastern group of dialects, and Van ([Աճառյան 1952: 165](#)). We could also find it perhaps in Alashkert, Mush, Agulis, New Julfa and other dialects that often pattern with Salmast.

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Table 6.51: Infixed irregular verbs with affricates in Standard Eastern, but nasals in Iranian Armenian

IA		SEA		
p ^h ɔχ-n-e-l	փախնել	p ^h αχ-tʃ ^h -e-l	‘to escape’	փախչել
t ^h ər-n-e-l	թռնել	t ^h ər-tʃ ^h -e-l	‘to fly’	թռչել
√-VX-TH-INF		√-VX-TH-INF		

What is irregular about this class is that the nasal is dropped in some but not all paradigm cells (Table 6.52). Whenever the verb lacks this nasal, the verb is said to use its aorist stem. For example, the nasal surfaces in the subjunctive present and the subjunctive past. But the nasal is deleted in the past perfective. The surface morphs are just the root and T-Agr suffixes.

Table 6.52: Nasal deletion in infixed verbs vs. E-Class verbs in Iranian Armenian

	Irregular infixed verb		Regular E-Class	
Infinitive	mer-n-e-l ‘to die’ մեռնել	√-VX-TH-INF	je.ɪk ^h -e-l ‘to sing’ երգել	√-TH-INF
Subj. present 1PL	mer-n-e-ηk ^h մեռնենք	√-VX-TH-1PL	je.ɪk ^h -e-ηk ^h երգենք	√-TH-1PL
Past Pfv. 1PL	mer-ɔ-ηk ^h մեռանք	√-PST-1PL	je.ɪk ^h -ɔ-ηk ^h երգանք	√-PST-1PL

The partial paradigm below shows the finite and non-finite forms of this irregular class (Table 6.53). An asterisk is placed next to each cell that shows the deletion of this nasal morph. This class is inflected the same as the regular E-Class; the only difference is the deletion of the nasal morph in certain slots.²²

²²In Standard Eastern Armenian, the infixed verbs are irregular in the past perfective not only because they drop the nasal, but also because they use the past T marker /a/: [mer-a-v] ‘[√-PST-3SG]. But in Iranian Armenian, the use of the past T marker /ɔ/ is a regular feature.

Table 6.53: Distribution of nasal deletion in Iranian Armenian with [mer-n-e-l] ‘to die’

Cell	Form	Gloss	
Infinitive	mer-n-e-l	√-VX-TH-INF	մեռնել
Imperfective converb	mer-n-um	√-VX-IMPF.CVB	մեռնում
Future converb	mer-n-e-l-u	√-VX-TH-INF-FUT.CVB	մեռնելու
Perfective converb *	mer-el, mer-eլ	√-PERF.CVB	մեռել
Connegative converb	mer-n-i	√-VX-CN.CVB	մեռնի
Subject participle	mer-n-oթ	√-VX-SPTCP	մեռնող
Resultative participle *	mer-ժտ̂ ^h	√-RPTCP	մեռած
Subj. Present 1PL	mer-n-e-ղk ^h	√-VX-TH-1PL	մեռնենք
Subj. Past 1PL	mer-n-i-ղk ^h	√-VX-PST-1PL	մեռնիսք
Past Pfv. 1PL *	mer-ժ-ղk ^h	√-PST-1PL	մեռանք
Imperative 2SG *	mer-i	√-IMP.2SG	մեռի
Imperative 2PL *	mer-ek ^h	√-IMP.2PL	մեռէք
Causative *	mer-տ̂ ^h n-e-l	√-CAUS-TH-INF	մեռցնել
Passive	N/A	√-VX-PASS-TH-INF	

For brevity, the above paradigm omits zero morphs (theme vowels). For the finite forms, we only show the 1PL; the other agreement cells behave the same with respect to the nasal. We omit the following:

- The negatives that derive from simple prefixation of $t̂^h$ - onto a subjunctive or past perfective base.
- The positive synthetic future that is derived by prefixing $k(\partial)$ - to the subjunctive.
- The prohibitives that are derived by adding the proclitic *mi* to the imperative base.

It is difficult to find a single infix verb that can be both causativized and passivized (Table 6.54). Causativization generally deletes the nasal morph, as seen in Table 6.53. Passivization generally keeps the nasal morph.

Table 6.54: Passivization of infix verbs

Active		Passive	
tes-n-e-l	√-VX-TH-INF	tes-nə-v-e-l	√-VX-PASS-TH-INF
‘to see’		‘to be seen’	
տեսնել		տեսնուել	

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For a typical infixated verb like *mer-n-e-l* ‘to die’, the imperative 2SG is formed by dropping the nasal and using the imperative 2SG suffix *-i*. A subset of these infixated verbs have an irregular imperative 2SG. This set is listed in Table 6.55. The prohibitive 2SG is derived from this imperative by adding the proclitic *mi*.

Table 6.55: Irregular imperative 2SG within irregular infixated verbs

	‘to see’	‘to buy’	‘to let/leave’	
Infinitive	tes-n-e-l տեսնել	ɔr-n-e-l առնել	t ^h oɤ-n-e-l թողնել	√-VX-TH-INF
Imperative 2SG	tes տես	ɔr առ	t ^h oɤ թող	√

There isn’t a semantic or morphosyntactic correlation that unites the various cells which show the deletion of the nasal. The distribution is morphomic, and is traditionally described as utilizing an aorist stem. The distribution of nasal dropping is the same in Standard Eastern Armenian, and essentially in Standard Western Armenian as well. [Dolatian & Guekguezian \(2022a\)](#) analyze the cognate infixated verbs of Standard Western Armenian as morphomic and provide an analysis of aorist stems.

For the infixated verb ‘to let’ [t^hoɤ-n-e-l] թողնել, AS reports that the fricative /ɤ/ can be optionally deleted in some of the inflected forms, such the imperfective converb [t^hoɤ-n-um] or [t^ho-n-um]. We haven’t systematically studied this deletion, but it’s likely just grammaticalized lenition in a highly-frequent verb. Similar deletion is attested in function words like [əste(ɤ)] ‘here’ (§5.2).

6.7.2 Suppletive verbs

A small class of irregular verbs are suppletive. These inflect as E-Class verbs in many parts of the paradigm. But in other parts, they use a different root allomorph and irregular imperative suffixes. Suppletive verbs can be categorized into three groups or subclasses, which we catalog below.

The first group of verbs is listed in Table 6.56. For a suppletive verb like ‘to eat’ *ut-e-l*, the root maintains a constant form *ut-* in many paradigm cells. In some other cells, the root uses a morphologically-conditioned allomorph *keɫ-*. We call *keɫ-* the restricted allomorph, while *ut-* is the elsewhere allomorph.²³ In the traditional literature, the restricted morph is also called the aorist stem.

²³For some of our speakers like NK, the suppletive verb *dən-e-l* ‘to put’ is pronounced with an initial voiceless stop [t] in all its allomorphs. In contrast, AS and KM report [d], just as in Standard Eastern Armenian.

Table 6.56: Suppletive verbs in Iranian Armenian - Group 1

	‘to eat’	‘to do’	‘to take to’	‘to put’	
Elsewhere allomorph: Infinitive	ut- ut-e-l ուտել	ոն- ոն-e-l անել	տոն- տոն-e-l տանել	ձոն- ձոն-e-l դնել	$\sqrt{\text{-TH-}}\text{-INF}$
Subj. present 1PL	ut-e-դk ^h ուտենք	ոն-e-դk ^h անենք	տոն-e-դk ^h տանենք	ձոն-e-դk ^h դնենք	$\sqrt{\text{-TH-}}\text{-1PL}$
Restricted allomorph: Past Pfv. 1PL	ke.ɫ- ke.ɫ-ժ-դk ^h կերանք	ժ.ɫ- ժ.ɫ-ժ-դk ^h արանք	տժ.ɫ- տժ.ɫ-ժ-դk ^h տարանք	ձժ.ɫ- ձժ.ɫ-ժ-դk ^h դրանք	$\sqrt{\text{-PST-}}\text{-1PL}$
Imperative 2SG	ke.ɫ կեր	ժ.ɫ-ժ արա	տժ.ɫ տար	ձ.ɫ դիր	$\sqrt{\text{-}}\text{-}(\text{IMP.2SG})$

For the verb ‘to eat’, the imperative 2SG is formed by just using the restricted allomorph without further suffixation. In contrast, some suppletive verbs like ‘to do’ use an additional suffix. Some verbs like ‘to put’ use a special additional root allomorph that’s only found in the imperative 2SG. We list the imperative 2SG of the suppletive verbs in Table 6.56. The prohibitive 2SG is derived from this imperative by adding the proclitic *mi*.

The above suppletive verbs all use the *-e-* theme vowel in their infinitive form. Outside of the imperative 2SG, they pattern the same in the distribution of their root allomorphs.

The partial paradigm in Table 6.57 lists the distribution of the root allomorphs for Group 1 verbs. An asterisk is placed next to each cell that shows the restricted allomorph.²⁴ The subjunctive forms pattern like E-Class verbs.

²⁴As with the infixed verbs, in Standard Eastern Armenian, many of the suppletive verbs are irregular in the past perfective not only because they use a different root allomorph, but also because they use the past T marker /a/: [ker-a-v] ‘he ate’ [$\sqrt{\text{-PST-}}\text{-3SG}$]. But in Iranian Armenian, the use of the past T marker /ɔ/ is a regular feature for verbs.

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Table 6.57: Distribution of root allomorphs in Iranian Armenian for [ut-e-l] ‘to eat’

Cell	Form	Gloss	
Infinitive	ut-e-l	√-TH-INF	ուտել
Imperfective converb	ut-um	√-IMPF.CVB	ստում
Future converb	ut-e-l-u	√-TH-INF-FUT.CVB	ուտելու
Perfective converb *	ke.ɫ-eɫ, ke.ɫ-e.ɫ	√-PERF.CVB	կերել
Connegative converb	ut-i	√-CN.CVB	ուտի
Subject participle	ut-ox	√-SPTCP	ուտող
Resultative participle *	ke.ɫ-ɔts ^h	√-RPTCP	կերած
Subj. Present 1PL	ut-e-ɲk ^h	√-TH-1PL	ուտենք
Subj. Past 1PL	ut-i-ɲk ^h	√-PST-1PL	ուտինք
Past Pfv. 1PL *	ke.ɫ-ɔ-ɲk ^h	√-PST-1PL	կերանք
Imperative 2SG *	ke.ɫ	√	կեր
Imperative 2PL *	ke.ɫ-ek ^h	√-IMP.2PL	կերէք

The paradigm in Table 6.57 omits zero morphs (theme vowels). For the finite forms, we only show the 1PL; the other agreement cells behave the same with respect to the root allomorphy. We omit the following:

- The negatives that derive from simple prefixation of tj^h - onto a subjunctive or past perfective base.
- The positive synthetic future that is derived by prefixing k - to the subjunctive.
- The prohibitives that are derived by adding the proclitic mi to the imperative base.

The second group of suppletive verbs consists of only the verb [et^h-ɔ-l] ‘to go’. It acts as an A-Class verb in terms of the distribution of theme vowels, the aorist suffix, and the past marker /i/. Its irregularity is that some of its paradigm cells utilize a restricted root allomorph $gən$ -. We show a partial paradigm in Table 6.58. The asterisk is used to mark the cells that utilize the restricted allomorph.²⁵

²⁵Some speakers pronounce the elsewhere root allomorph as $eɫt^h$ - instead of et^h -. Some speakers can make the subj. past utilize the restricted root $gən$ -, e.g. the 1PL form [gən-ɔj-i-ɲk^h]. Some speakers use the restricted allomorph in the connegative converb: [gən-ɔ] instead of [et^h-ɔ]. But others have told us that using $gən$ - root in these contexts sounds more ‘Eastern’ instead of Iranian Armenian. In Standard Eastern Armenian, the root $gən$ - is used to form a regular non-suppletive A-Class verb $gən-a-l$ ‘to go’. Some of our speakers use this separate verb as well.

Table 6.58: Distribution of root allomorphs in Iranian Armenian for [et^h-v-l] ‘to go’

Cell	Form	Gloss	
Infinitive	et ^h -v-l	√-TH-INF	էթալ
Imperfective converb	et ^h -um	√-IMPF.CVB	էթում
Future converb	et ^h -v-l-u	√-TH-INF-FUT.CVB	էթալու
Perfective converb *	gəv-v-t ^h -el	√-TH-AOR-PERF.CVB	գնացել
	gəv-v-t ^h -e.ɹ		գնացել
Connegative converb	et ^h -v	√-TH	էթայ
Subject participle *	gəv-v-t ^h -oɤ	√-TH-AOR-SPTCP	գնացող
Resultative participle *	gəv-v-t ^h -v-t ^h	√-TH-AOR-RPTCP	գնացած
Subj. Present 1PL	et ^h -v-ηk ^h	√-TH-1PL	էթանք
Subj. Past 1PL	et ^h -v-j-i-ηk ^h	√-TH-PST-1PL	էթայինք
Past Pfv. 1PL *	gəv-v-t ^h -i-ηk ^h	√-TH-AOR-PST-1PL	գնացինք
Imperative 2SG *	gəv-v	√-TH	գնա
Imperative 2PL *	gəv-v-t ^h -ek ^h	√-TH-AOR-IMP.2PL	գնացէք

Finally, there is a third group of suppletive verbs (Table 6.59), made up of two members: [t-v-l] ‘to give’ and [g-v-l] ‘to come’. These verbs use the -v- theme vowel, and the elsewhere root allomorph is a single consonant. These two verbs have restricted allomorphs in the past perfective. Each has a separate allomorph used in the imperative 2SG.

Table 6.59: Suppletive verbs with mono-consonantal root

	‘to give’	‘to come’	
Elsewhere allomorph	t-	g-	
Infinitive	t-v-l	g-v-l	√-TH-INF
	տալ	գալ	
Subj. present 1PL	t-v-ηk ^h	g-v-ηk ^h	√-TH-1PL
	տանք	գանք	
Restricted allomorph	təv-	ek-	
Past Pfv. 1PL	təv-v-ηk ^h	ek-v-ηk ^h	√-PST-1PL
	տուանք	էկանք	
Imperative 2SG	tuɹ	v.ɹi	√
	տուր	արի	

These two verbs also use a special construction for forming the imperfective converb (Table 6.60). Whereas A-Class verbs use the template √-um, these two

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verbs use the template $\sqrt{-\text{D-L-IS}}$. The suffix *-is* is an irregular imperfective converb suffix. The final fricative is a latent segment, meaning this segment is deleted when the auxiliary has moved such as in negation. This segment's distribution parallels that of the perfective converb's latent segment; see §3.3.4.

Table 6.60: Imperfective converb for suppletive mono-consonantal root

	'to give'	'to come'	
Infinitive	t-D-l տալ	g-D-l գալ	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-INF}}$
Impf. converb	t-D-l-is տալիս	g-D-l-is գալիս	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-INF-IMPF.CVB}}$
Indc. Pres. 1PL	t-D-l-is e-ŋk ^h տալիս ենք	g-D-l-is e-ŋk ^h գալիս ենք	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-INF-IMPF.CVB AUX-1PL}}$
Neg. indc. Pres. 1PL	t ^h =e-ŋk ^h t-D-l-i չենք տալիս	t ^h =e-ŋk ^h g-D-l-i չենք գալիս	NEG-AUX-1PL $\sqrt{-\text{TH-INF-IMPF.CVB}}$

The partial paradigm of the verb 'to give' is shown in Table 6.61. The verb 'to come' is inflected similarly.²⁶ These verbs further differ from the previous set of suppletive verbs in that their subject participles utilize the restricted allomorph. Their subjunctive forms pattern like A-Class verbs.

²⁶The subject participle of 'to come' [g-D-l] is typically [ek-օՅ] '√-SPTCP' էլոո, but NK says the word [ek-D-t^h-օՅ] '√-TH-AOR-SPTCP' էլագոո is also attested, especially in the phrase [ek-D-t^h-օՅ t^h-i] meaning 'he's not coming' with the negative 3SG auxiliary. The participle here is used to mean something like 'he's not the type of person to come', such as to a party.

Table 6.61: Distribution of root allomorphs in Iranian Armenian for [t-
v-l] ‘to give’

Cell	Form	Gloss	
Infinitive	t-Ծ-l	√-TH-INF	տալ
Imperfective converb	t-Ծ-l-is	√-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB	տալիս
Future converb	t-Ծ-l-u	√-TH-INF-FUT.CVB	տալու
Perfective converb *	təv-el, təv-e.լ	√-PERF.CVB	տուել
Connegative converb	t-Ծ	√-TH	տայ
Subject participle *	təv-օԹ	√-SPTCP	տուող
Resultative participle *	təv-ժts ^h	√-RPTCP	տուած
Subj. Present 1PL	t-Ծ-դk ^h	√-TH-1PL	տանք
Subj. Past 1PL	t-Ծj-i-դk ^h	√-TH-PST-1PL	տայինք
Past Pfv. 1PL *	təv-Ծ-դk ^h	√-PST-1PL	տուանք
Imperative 2SG *	tu.լ	√	տուր
Imperative 2PL *	təv-ek ^h	√-IMP.2PL	տուք

It’s difficult to make generalizations when it comes to causativizing or passivizing suppletive verbs. We’ve come across causatives of [ut-e-l] ‘to eat’ that use the elsewhere root allomorph: [ut-e-tsn-e-l] ‘to feed’ *ստեցնել*. But we’ve also come across speakers who prefer not causativizing this verb at all. For passivization, Standard Eastern Armenian uses the restricted root allomorph to passivize ‘to take to’, ‘to put’, and ‘to give’. Some (more literate) Iranian Armenian speakers do this as well: [tə.լ-v-e-l] ‘to be taken to’ *տարուել*, [də.լ-v-e-l] ‘to be put’ *դրուել*, [tə.լ-v-e-l] ‘to be given’ *տրուել*. Some Iranian Armenian speakers prefer not passivizing these at all.

6.7.3 Defective verbs

There is a small set of defective verbs in Iranian Armenian. These verbs are defective in not having all possible types of finite and non-finite forms.

One defective verb is the copula, which only appears in the present tense and the past tense. We discussed the copula in §6.2 under the guise of the auxiliary.

Two other defective verbs are the verbs ‘to exist’ [k-Ծ-m] and ‘to have’ [un-e-m].²⁷ The verb ‘to exist’ is used to mark existential sentences like ‘there is X’. The verb ‘to have’ is more accurately translated as ‘to own’. This verb only marks possession and is not an auxiliary.

²⁷For the verb ‘to exist’, the initial stop is usually voiceless *k-Ծ-m*, but some speakers voice it: *g-Ծ-m*.

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We show a partial paradigm in Table 6.62 with just the 1SG. Both of these verbs are used only in the indicative present and past, along with the corresponding negated forms. Unlike regular verbs, the indicative of these verb is formed synthetically. The two verbs use the same T-Agr morphs as the subjunctive of the regular A-Class and E-Class respectively.

Table 6.62: Defective verbs ‘to exist’ and ‘to own’

	‘to exist’	‘to have’	
Infinitive	N/A	N/A	
Indc. pres. 1SG	k- ν -m կամ	un-e-m ունեմ	$\sqrt{\text{-TH-1SG}}$
Neg. indc. pres. 1SG	$\widehat{\text{t}}^{\text{h}}\text{-k-}\nu$ -m չկամ	$\widehat{\text{t}}^{\text{h}}\text{-un-e-m}$ չունեմ	NEG- $\sqrt{\text{-TH-1SG}}$
Indc. past 1SG	k- ν -j-i-m կայիմ	un- \emptyset -i-m ունիմ	$\sqrt{\text{-TH-PST-1SG}}$
Neg. indc. past 1SG	$\widehat{\text{t}}^{\text{h}}\text{-k-}\nu$ -j-i-m չկայիմ	$\widehat{\text{t}}^{\text{h}}\text{-un-}\emptyset$ -i-m չունիմ	NEG- $\sqrt{\text{-TH-PST-1SG}}$

Note that the past markers are the ones used for the subjunctive past. But for these defective verbs, the meaning can be perfective as in the following examples (13).

- (13) a. k ν tu un- \emptyset -i-m
cat have-TH-PST-1SG
‘I had a cat.’ (NK)
Կաստու ունիմ:
- b. $\widehat{\text{t}}^{\text{h}}\nu$ k- ν - \emptyset -i
food exist-TH-PST-3SG
‘There was food.’ (NK)
ճաշ կար:

For the verb ‘to have’, all other tenses are expressed by using the regular inchoative verb [un-e-n- ν -l] ‘to have; own’. For the verb ‘to exist’, other tenses are expressed by using the verb ‘to be’ (14).

- (14) a. $\widehat{\text{t}}^{\text{h}}\nu$ k-el-n-i- \emptyset
food FUT-be-VX-TH-3SG
‘There will be food.’
ճաշ կեւի:

- b. $\widehat{tʃ}$ pitʃ pitɪ el-n-i-∅
 food must be-VX-TH-3SG
 ‘There will be food.’
 Բաշ պիտի էլնի:

Another defective verb is the word for ‘to be worth’, but it’s quite restricted in use (15). It has two main functions: to say how much some item is worth or costs, and as part of a social phrase. For SEA, it is restricted to the indicative present and past imperfective, but synthetically. It is useable for any person-number combination. However for IA, it seems to be mainly used for the third person, and we haven’t been able to successfully elicit it for other persons. Our online paradigms shows all the possible persons (as they would hypothetically be constructed), but it’s possible they’re paradigm gaps.

- (15) a. hiŋg dolbɪ ɒɪʒ-i-∅
 five dollar worth-TH-3SG
 ‘It’s worth five dollars.’
 Զինգ դոլար արժի:
 b. $\widehat{tʃ}^n$ -ɒɪʒ-i-∅
 NEG-worth-TH-3SG
 Literal translation: ‘It’s not worth it.’
 Functional translation: ‘You’re welcome.’
 չարժի

Standard Eastern Armenian has a few additional defective verbs (Table 6.63). But in Iranian Armenian, these have either been replaced or are not used in general.²⁸

Table 6.63: Loss of defective verbs from Standard Eastern to Iranian Armenian

Defective in Standard Eastern		Status in Iranian Armenian	
$\sqrt{\text{-TH-1SG}}$			
hus-a-m	‘I hope’	հուսամ	doesn’t exist
git-e-m	‘I know’	գիտեմ	replaced by inchoative [im-ɒ-n-ɒ-l] իմանալ

²⁸It’s difficult to be sure if these verbs truly don’t exist in IA because of diglossia between IA and SEA.

6.7.4 Other irregular verbs

This section discusses verbs that have some irregularity in their conjugation, but don't neatly fit into the previous categories.

Two irregular verbs in Table 6.64 are conjugated as regular E-Class verbs in most of the paradigm except for the imperative 2SG (and prohibitive 2SG).

Table 6.64: E-Class verbs that are irregular in only the imperative 2SG

	‘to say’	‘to bring’	
Infinitive	ɔs-e-l	be.ɿ-e-l	√ ⁻ -TH-INF
	սսել	բերել	
Imperative	ɔs-ɔ	be.ɿ	√ ⁻ (-IMP.2SG)
	սսս	բեր	

The verb ‘to bring’ has an irregular imperative 2SG also in SEA *ber* and SWA *p^her*. The verb ‘to say’ has an irregular imperative 2SG in also SEA *asa* but not SWA *as-e* √⁻-TH.

Among inchoative verbs (Table 6.65), the verb [dɔr-n-ɔ-l] has some irregularities. Before the nasal inchoative suffix, the rhotic surfaces as a trill /r/. But before the aorist suffix, the rhotic is a retroflex approximant /ɿ/.²⁹ The inchoative ‘to wash’ is irregular because it uses the past T marker /i/ in the past perfective. Its imperative 2SG is likewise irregular.³⁰ One can argue this verb is actually heteroclititic (= mixed) with the A-Class because its past perfective and imperative pattern with the A-Class instead of with inchoatives.

²⁹We’ve gotten some contradictory information from some informants. It’s possible that some more innovative speakers use a retroflex /ɿ/ throughout this verb’s paradigm, while other more conservative speakers have a /r/-/ɿ/ change as we describe above. Note that this verb has an irregular imperative 2SG in Standard Eastern Armenian: [darts^h]. In Iranian Armenian, the imperative 2SG is regular.

³⁰The origin of the imperative 2SG of ‘to wash’ is likely from the synonymous A-Class verb [lɔv-ɑ-l] which exists in Standard Eastern Armenian but not Iranian Armenian.

Table 6.65: Two irregular inchoatives against the regular inchoative ‘to become happy’

	Infinitive	Past Pfv. 1PL	Imperative 2SG
‘to become happy’	u.ɽχ-ɔ-n-ɔ-l √-LV-INCH-TH-INF ուրախանալ	u.ɽχ-ɔ-ts ^h -ɔ-ŋk ^h √-LV-AOR-PST-1PL ուրախացանք	u.ɽχ-ɔ-ts ^h -i √-LV-AOR-IMP.2SG ուրախացի
‘to turn into’	dɔr-n-ɔ-l √-INCH-TH-INF դառնալ	dɔ.ɽ-ts ^h -ɔ-ŋk ^h √-AOR-PST-1PL դարձանք	dɔ.ɽ-ts ^h -i √-AOR-IMP.2SG դարձի
‘to wash’	ləv-ɔ-n-ɔ-l √-LV-INCH-TH-INF լուանալ	ləv-ɔ-ts ^h -i-ŋk ^h √-LV-AOR-PST-1PL լուացինք	ləv-ɔ √-LV լուա

There is evidence that Iranian Armenian has leveled out some irregularities in verbal inflection (Table 6.66). The following verbs are irregular in Standard Eastern Armenian but they either a) are regular verbs in Iranian Armenian, or b) have been replaced by regular verbs in Iranian Armenian.

Table 6.66: Loss of irregulars in Iranian Armenian, relative to Standard Eastern

Irregular in SEA	Status in IA
zark-e-l ‘to hit’ զարկել	replaced by E-Class չափ ^h -e-l ‘to hit’ խփել
l-a-l ‘to cry’ լալ	replaced by E-Class Լժտ ^h -e-l ‘to cry’ լացել
bats ^h -e-l ‘to open’ բացել	regularized E-Class
ken-a-l ‘to stand’ կենալ	replaced by E-Class կոնց(ə)n-e-l ‘to stand’ կանգնել

One convoluted case involves the Standard Eastern words [lin-e-l] ‘to be’ and [jel-n-e-l] ‘to get up’ or ‘to go up’ (Table 6.67). The first is suppletive; the second is an infixed verb. In Iranian Armenian, the form of the second verb is used as the verb ‘to be’, without an initial glide: [el-n-e-l]. The meaning of ‘to get up’ or ‘to go up’ is periphrastic with another verb.

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Table 6.67: Lexical shift from Standard Eastern to Iranian Armenian

	SEA		IA	
	‘to be’	‘to get up’	‘to be’	‘to get up’
Infinitive	lin-e-l $\sqrt{-\text{TH-INF}}$ լինել	jel-n-e-l $\sqrt{-\text{VX-TH-INF}}$ ելնել	el-n-e-l $\sqrt{-\text{VX-TH-INF}}$ էլնել	et ^h -d-l ve.ɽev $\sqrt{-\text{TH-INF}}$ up էթալ վերել
Past Pfv. 1PL	jeɤ-a-ŋk ^h $\sqrt{-\text{PST-1PL}}$ ելաւք	jel-a-ŋk ^h $\sqrt{-\text{PST-1PL}}$ ելաւք	el-a-ŋk ^h $\sqrt{-\text{PST-1PL}}$ էլաւք	gən-d-ts ^h -i-ŋk ^h ve.ɽev $\sqrt{-\text{TH-AOR-PST-1PL}}$ up գնալիք վերել

We have noted some degree of optional heteroclisis (Stump 2006), meaning that a verb changes its conjugation class in some paradigm cells (Table 6.68). Consider the common verb *si.ɽ-e-l* ‘to like’. This verb is primarily a regular E-Class verb and is inflected as such. But in the past perfective, some speakers conjugate the verb as E-Class and some as A-Class. NK sometimes produced perfective converbs with the aorist stem, following the A-Class pattern.

Table 6.68: Variable aorist stem as a form of heteroclisis

Infinitive	‘to like’ sir-e-l	$\sqrt{-\text{TH-INF}}$	սիրել
Past Pfv. 1SG	si.ɽ-d-m si.ɽ-d-ts ^h -i-m	$\sqrt{-\text{PST-1SG}}$ $\sqrt{-\text{TH-AOR-PST-1SG}}$	սիրամ սիրացիմ
Pfv. converb	si.ɽ-eɽ, si.ɽ-e.ɽ si.ɽ-d-ts ^h -eɽ, si.ɽ-d-ts ^h -e.ɽ	$\sqrt{-\text{PERF.CVB}}$ $\sqrt{-\text{TH-AOR-PERF.CVB}}$	սիրել, սիրեր սիրացել, սիրացեր

Some speakers consider the A-Class forms to be normal, but others perceive them as ‘done in jest’. It’s difficult to tell if this is genuine inter-speaker variation, or if it’s due to hyper-correction from Standard Eastern Armenian.

Another possible case of heteroclisis that we found was for the A-Class verb [χos-d-l] ‘to speak’. NK inflects this as an A-Class almost always, but sometimes she produced a imperative 2PL that followed the E-Class pattern [χos-ek^h] $\sqrt{-\text{IMP.2PL}}$ instead of the A-Class pattern [χos-d-ts^h-ek^h] $\sqrt{-\text{TH-AOR-IMP.2PL}}$. She likewise once produced an E-Class infinitive [χos-e-l] instead of [χos-d-l]. Obviously, more data is needed to see the extent of lexical or speaker variation in such mixing of conjugation classes. It is possible that such class changes are a form of dialect-mixing between IA and SEA.

7 Syntax

In terms of its syntax, Iranian Armenian is largely identical to Standard Eastern Armenian. As such, we do not go over the syntax of Iranian Armenian in depth. In terms of general typological features, Iranian Armenian is SOV (1a), has optional post-verbal objects (1b), uses pro-drop (1c), and contextually-implied objects can drop too (1d).

- (1) a. $\widehat{d\check{z}dn-ə}$ $ind\check{z}$ $m\check{o}k^h\text{-}\check{t}\text{-}D\text{-}V$
John-DEF I.DAT clean-PST-3SG
'John cleaned me.' (NK)
Ջոնը ինձ մաքրաւ:
- b. $\widehat{d\check{z}dn-ə}$ $m\check{o}k^h\text{-}\check{t}\text{-}D\text{-}V$ $ind\check{z}$
John-DEF clean-PST-3SG I.DAT
'John cleaned me.' (NK)
Ջոնը ինձ մաքրաւ:
- c. $m\check{o}k^h\text{-}u\text{-}I$ $e\text{-}m$
clean AUX-1SG
'I am clean.' (NK)
Մաքրու եմ:
- d. i. $\widehat{d\check{z}u\text{-}ə}$ $\chi\check{ə}m\text{-}D\text{-}I$
water-DEF drink-PST-2SG
'Did you drink the water?' (NK)
Ջուրը խմե՞ր:
- ii. vjo , $\chi\check{ə}m\text{-}D\text{-}m$
yes drink-PST-1SG
'Yes, I drank it' (NK)
Այո, խմեամ:

More in-depth studies of Standard Eastern Armenian syntax exist (Dum-Tragut 2009, Yeghiazaryan 2010, Su 2012, Hodgson 2019b, Khurshudyan & Donabédian 2021) and these descriptions largely apply to Iranian Armenian. Furthermore, there are some studies of 'Eastern Armenian', but these are actually done based

on data from Iranian Armenian speakers who are bi-dialectal (Stevick 1955, Tamrazian 1994, Megerdooomian 2009).

This chapter focuses on describing those aspects of Iranian Armenian syntax that are innovative when compared to Standard Eastern. Some of these are grammaticalized from attested colloquial and optional properties of Standard Eastern Armenian. Some of these changes were likely encouraged by the use of similar structures in Persian (cf. other language-contact effects in the region: Donabedian & Sitaridou 2020). These changes are listed below.

- Using second person possessive suffixes as object clitics (§7.1)
→borrowed from Persian
- Preference for using resumptive pronouns over case-marked relativizers (§7.2)
→language-internal but encouraged from Persian
- Preference for subjunctive marking in complement clauses (§7.3)
→language-internal but encouraged from Persian
- Variation in expressing subject marking in participle clauses (§7.4)
→language-internal

In previous sections of this grammar, we did briefly discuss some major aspects of Iranian Armenian syntax. This include auxiliary movement (§3.3.1) and interrogative questions (§5.3). Their syntax does not significantly differ from Standard Eastern Armenian.

Throughout this chapter, Persian sentences were elicited from Nazila Shafiei (NS), an Iranian syntactician. We use the glossing that she provided. The IPA transcriptions were double-checked with Koorosh Ariyae, an Iranian phonologist.¹ The Standard Eastern Armenian sentences were judged by the consultants mentioned in §1.4.

7.1 Object clitic for second person

Due to contact with Persian, Iranian Armenian has extended the use of the 2SG possessive suffix /-(ə)t/ into an object clitic. Within Armenian dialectology, the use of /-(ə)t/ as an object clitic has been previously attested for Armenian dialects in Iran (Sayeed & Vaux 2017: 1159, citing Աճառեան 1911: 284, Սուրբադյան et al. 1977: item 675; Khurshudian 2020: 340; Hodgson 2022; Martirosyan 2018: 87; Vaux 2022b: §4.1).

¹Ariyae notes that what he transcribe as a Persian [ɒ] may be closer to [ɑ] for Iranian Persian speakers. See footnote 9 in §2.1.4 for discussion.

For the Armenian community of Tehran and the diaspora, AS reports that this use of the clitic is “prevalent in generation Y’s vernacular”, where generation Y is anyone born in the 80’s or 90’s. The use of the clitic is stigmatized because it is part of a ‘very informal register’. Speakers are aware of the register difference.

Most of our consultants could use the Armenian possessive as an object clitic. Some Iranian Armenians who were born and raised in the diaspora however said they had never heard of such constructions.

7.1.1 General use of the object clitic

In its typical uses, the morpheme /-(ə)t/ acts as a second person possessive suffix on nouns (2).

- (2) senjɔk-ət
 room=POSS.2SG
 ‘Your room.’
 Մենեալդ:

But in Iranian Armenian, this morpheme also functions as an object clitic (3). As a clitic, this morpheme has some correlations with tense, mood, and valency. For example, many instances of the clitic are found for verbs with the synthetic future. The clitic is mostly used to replace the direct object of a transitive verb.

- (3) a. kə-χəp^h-e-m k^hez
 FUT-hit-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will hit you.’ (NK, AP, KM)
 Կը խփեմք քեզ:
- b. kə-χəp^h-e-m=ət
 FUT-hit-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I will hit you.’ (NK, AP, KM)
 Կը խփեմդ:

Throughout this chapter, we gloss the /-(ə)t/ morpheme consistently as a possessive, even though it is functioning as an object clitic.

Note that although the second person possessive /-(ə)t/ can function as an object clitic, the first person possessive /-(ə)s/ cannot (4).

- (4) a. kə-χəp^h-e-n ind̂
 FUT-hit-TH-3PL I.DAT
 ‘They will hit me.’ (NK)
 Կը խփեն ինձ:

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- b. *kə-χəp^h-e-n=əs
 FUT-hit-TH-3PL=POSS.1SG
 Intended: ‘They will hit me.’ (*/NK)

Similarly, the definite suffix is used for third person possessive marking, but it cannot be used as an object clitic (5).

- (5) a. kə-χəp^h-e-m iɾɒn
 FUT-hit-TH-1SG he.DAT
 ‘I will hit him.’ (NK)
 Կը խփեմ իրան:
- b. *kə-χəp^h-e-m=ə
 FUT-hit-TH-1SG=DEF
 Intended: ‘I will hit him.’ (*/NK)

The use of the possessive /-t/ as an object clitic likely developed by contact from Persian, which has an entire set of pronominal clitics that act as object clitics for every person-number combination (Mahootian 2002: 138; Samvelian & Tseng 2010). The object of a transitive verb can be either present (6a) or absent (6b). When the object is absent, Persian uses object clitics on the verb (6b).

- (6) Object cliticization in Persian
- a. (mæn) to=ro mi-zæn-æm
 (I) you=OM IMPF-hit-1SG
 ‘I’m going to hit you.’ (NS)
 من تو رو میزنم.
- b. (mæn) mi-zæn-æm=et
 (I) IMPF-hit-1SG-2SG
 ‘I’m going to hit you.’ (NS)
 من میزنمت.

Although Persian allows object clitics for every person-number combination, IA has an object clitic /-t/ for only the 2SG. It is unclear why this restriction exists. Don Stilo (p.c.) suggests that the restriction might exist because of formality. To quote:

“It seems to me that this use of the possessive clitic as an object clitic only with the 2nd singular further emphasizes the ‘informal’ nature of this pattern. That is, since it is only used in the 2nd singular, this possibly shows

that it is only used with friends. Otherwise, what would be the logic of using it only in the 2nd singular when Persian uses these clitics universally in all persons?”

Furthermore, as we discuss in the following sections, the object clitic prefers certain tenses and moods; it is unclear to us if these restrictions were also copied from Persian.

7.1.2 Object clitic for direct objects in the synthetic future

As stated earlier, the most typical use of the object clitic is to replace the direct object of a verb in the synthetic future. The synthetic future is marked by the prefix /k-/.

The object clitic can be used for a range of verbs (7). These all seem to be verbs of physical action. More data is needed to determine if this is a general restriction or a tendency. For some cases, the use of the clitic carries an emphatic connotation, e.g., *kə-spərn-e-m=ət* ‘(I am so mad that) I will kill you’.

- (7) a. i. *kə-spərn-e-m k^hez*
 FUT-kill-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will kill you.’ (NK)
 Կը սպանեմ քեզ:
- ii. *kə-spərn-e-m=ət*
 FUT-kill-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I will kill you.’ (NK)
 Կը սպանեմդ:
- b. i. *kə-χeχt-e-m k^hez*
 FUT-strangle-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will strangle you.’ (NK)
 Կը խեղդեմ քեզ:
- ii. *kə-χeχt-e-m=ət*
 FUT-strangle-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I will strangle you.’ (NK)
 Կը խեղդեմդ:
- c. i. *kə-bərn-e-m k^hez*
 FUT-hold-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will hold you.’ (NK)
 Կը բռնեմ քեզ:

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- ii. kə-bərn-e-m=ət.
 FUT-hold-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I will hold you.’ (NK)
 Կը բռնեմ քեզ:
 Կը բռնեմդ:

For some transitives, the clitic cannot be used by AP (8). Some of them can be used by KM.

- (8) a. i. kə-tɔn-e-m k^{hez}
 FUT-take-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will take you.’ (AP).
 Կը տանեմ քեզ:
 ii. *kə-tɔn-e-m=ət
 FUT-take-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I will take you.’ (*AP, okay KM)
 Կը տանեմդ:
 b. i. kə-p^həntɫ-e-m k^{hez}
 FUT-take-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will look for you.’ (AP)
 Կը փնտռեմ քեզ:
 ii. *kə-p^həntɫ-e-m=ət
 FUT-take-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 Intended: ‘I will look for you.’ (*AP)

The verb [mɔtʃ^hel] ‘to kiss’ can’t take the clitic for NK (9).

- (9) a. kə-mɔtʃ^h-e-m k^{hez}
 FUT-kiss-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will like you.’ (NK)
 Կը մաչեմ քեզ:
 b. *kə-mɔtʃ^h-e-m=ət
 FUT-kiss-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 Intended: ‘I will kiss you.’ (*NK)

In the domain of verbs of speech, the transitive verbs [kɔntʃ^hel] ‘to call’ and [zɔŋgel] ‘to phone’ can take the clitic for some speakers (10).

- (10) a. i. kə-kɔntʃ^h-e-m k^hez
 FUT-call-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will call you.’ (AP)
 Կը կանչեմ քեզ:
- ii. kə-kɔntʃ^h-e-m=ət
 FUT-call-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I will call you.’ (AP)
 Կը կանչեմ:
- b. i. kə-zɔŋg-e-m k^hez
 FUT-phone-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will phone you.’ (AS)
 Կը զանգեմ քեզ:
- ii. kə-zɔŋg-e-m=ət
 FUT-call-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I will phone you.’ (AS)
 Կը զանգեմ:

AS provides a common example with the verb ‘to see’. He reports that this is a social expression and a calque from Persian (11).

- (11) gə-g-ɒ-s kə-tesn-e-m=ət
 FUT-come-TH-2SG FUT-see-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘Come, let me see you.’ (AS)
 Կը գաս, կը տեսնեմ:

Some verbs like [siɫel] ‘to like’ can’t take the clitic for some speakers (12). It is unclear if this is idiosyncratic, or if it reflects a restriction against verbs of non-physical action.

- (12) a. kə-siɫ-e-m k^hez
 FUT-like-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will like you.’ (NK)
 Կը սիրեմ քեզ:
- b. *kə-siɫ-e-m=ət
 FUT-like-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘Intended: ‘I will like you.’ (*NK)
 Կը սիրեմ:

7.1.3 Object clitic for other tenses and moods

The previous section focused on examples of the object clitic when the verb is in the synthetic future. It is rather difficult to find cases where the clitic is added for other tenses and moods for some of our consultants.

In other synthetic tenses, NK expressed uncertainty about using the clitic in the subjunctive (13).

- (13) a. uz-um e-m k^hez χəp^h-e-m
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG you.SG.DAT hit-TH-1SG
 ‘I want to hit you.’ (NK)
 Ուզում եմ քեզ խփելմ:
- b. ?uz-um e-m χəp^h-e-m=ət
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG hit-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 Intended: ‘I want to hit you.’ (?NK)

AS however provides an example in the subjunctive. The phrase is a social expression (14).

- (14) Ելի tesn-e-m=ət
 come.IMP.2SG see-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘Come, let me see you.’ (AS)
 Արի, տեսնեմդ:

For the past perfective, NK reports that she cannot use the object clitic (15).

- (15) a. χəp^h-Ծ-m k^hez
 hit-PST-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I hit (past) you.’ (NK)
 Խփամ քեզ:
- b. *χəp^h-Ծ-m=ət
 hit-PST-1SG=POSS.2SG
 Intended: ‘I hit (past) you.’ (*NK)

For periphrastic tenses, AS reports that the object clitic can be used (16). In such cases, the clitic would cliticize onto the auxiliary. Such cliticization is also reported in the Iranian dialect of Urmia (Ղարիբյան 1941: 282).

- (16) a. i. ոյj-um e-m k^hez
 look-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I am looking at you.’ (AS)
 Նայում եմ քեզ:

- ii. *nɔj-um e-m=ət*
 look-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I am looking at you.’ (AS)
 Ես այսօր եմք:
- b. i. *spɔs-um e-m k^{hez}*
 wait-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I am waiting for you.’ (AS)
 Սպասում եմ քեզ:
- ii. *spɔs-um e-m=ət*
 wait-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I am waiting for you.’ (AS)
 Սպասում եմք:
- c. i. *kdɔt-el e-m k^{hez}*
 miss-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I’ve missed you.’ (AS)
 Կարող եմ քեզ:
- ii. *kdɔt-el e-m=ət*
 miss-IMPF.CVB AUX-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I’ve missed you.’ (AS)
 Կարող եմք:

Don Stilo (p.c.) informs us that Persian can also add the object clitic to some periphrastic tenses, such as the present perfect (17).

(17) Persian (formal register)

di-d-e æm=æt
 IMPF-look-PTCP AUX.1SG=2SG
 ‘I have looked at you.’ (NS, Don Stilo)

دیده‌امت

More common colloquial version with reduction: [di-d-æm-et]

7.1.4 Cliticizing other verbal arguments

All previous examples were cases where the object clitic replaced the direct object of a transitive verb. For other types of verbal arguments, we have found mixed judgments. We go through these other possible arguments.

The clitic has varying grammaticality when used to replace an indirect object (18). For NK, she felt that use of the clitic was possible but sounded ‘silly’. KM cannot say these.

7 Syntax

- (18) a. k-ɒs-e-m k^hez
 FUT-say-TH-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I will tell you.’ (NK)
 Կասեմք քեզ:
- b. k-ɒs-e-m=ət
 FUT-say-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘I will tell you.’ (NK, *KM)
 Կասեմդ:

AS reports an example of an indirect object in the subjunctive (19).

- (19) me bɒn ɒs-e-m=ət
 INDF thing tell-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 ‘Let me tell you something.’ (AS)
 Մի բան ասեմդ

As before, the indirect object clitic is not used in the past perfective (20).

- (20) a. ɒs-ɒ-m k^hez
 say-PST-1SG you.SG.DAT
 ‘I told you.’ (NK)
 Ասամք քեզ:
- b. *ɒs-ɒ-m=ət
 say-PST-1SG=POSS.2SG
 Intended: ‘I told you.’ (*NK)

So far, it seems there is significant speaker variation for using the object clitic in place of an indirect object. Much stronger negative judgments are found for other possible arguments. For example, benefactives can’t be replaced by the object clitic (21).

- (21) a. jes kə-je.ɭk^h-e-m k^ho hɒmɒɭ
 I FUT-sing-TH-1SG you.SG.GEN for
 ‘I will sing for you.’ (NK)
 Ես կը երգեմք քո համար:
- b. *jes kə-je.ɭk^h-e-m=ət
 I FUT-sing-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 Intended: ‘I will sing for you.’ (*NK)

However, AP reports that they can add the clitic onto the benefactive postposition (22).

- (22) a. k^ho hɔmɔɟ kə-je.ɟk^h-e-m
 you.SG.GEN for FUT-sing-TH-1SG
 ‘I will sing for you.’ (AP)
 Թո համար կը երգեմ:
- b. hɔmɔɟ-ət kə-je.ɟk^h-e-m
 for=POSS.2SG FUT-sing-TH-1SG
 ‘I will sing for you.’ (AP)
 Համարդ կը երգեմ:

Second-person substantives cannot be replaced by the object clitic (23).

- (23) a. jes k^ho je.ɟk^h-ə kə-je.ɟk^h-e-m
 I you.SG.GEN song-DEF FUT-sing-TH-1SG
 ‘I will sing your song.’ (NK)
 Ես քո երգը կը երգեմ:
- b. jes k^hon-ə kə-je.ɟk^h-e-m
 I yours-DEF FUT-sing-TH-1SG
 ‘I will sing yours.’ (NK)
 Ես քոնը կը երգեմ:
- c. *jes kə-je.ɟk^h-e-m-ət
 I FUT-sing-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 Intended: ‘I will sing yours’. (*NK)

Nor can we turn the indirect object of the verb ‘to speak’ into an object clitic (24e). More accurately, the restriction could be against comitatives.

- (24) a. kə-χos-ɔ-m
 FUT-speak-TH-1SG
 ‘I will speak.’ (NK)
 Կը խօսամ:
- b. jes es lezu-n kə-χos-ɔ-m
 I this language-DEF FUT-speak-TH-1SG
 ‘I will speak this language.’ (NK)
 Ես էս լեզուն կը խօսամ:

- c. *jes es lezu-n dʒon-i het kə-χos-ɒ-m*
 I this language-DEF John-GEN with FUT-speak-TH-1SG
 ‘I will speak this language with John.’ (NK)
 Ես էս լեզուն Ջոնի հետ կը խօսամ:
- d. *jes es lezu-n k^ho het kə-χos-ɒ-m*
 I this language-DEF you.SG.GEN with FUT-speak-TH-1SG
 ‘I will speak this language with you.’ (NK)
 Ես էս լեզուն քո հետ կը խօսամ:
- e. **jes es lezu-n kə-χos-ɒ-m=ət*
 I this language-DEF FUT-speak-TH-1SG=POSS.2SG
 Intended: ‘I will speak this language with you.’ (*NK)

7.2 Resumptive pronouns in relative clauses

In Standard Eastern Armenian, relative clauses utilize case marking on the relativizer (relative pronoun *vor*: 25a). The use of a resumptive pronoun is judged as ungrammatical, unnatural, or excessive for speakers (25b), and it is not even mentioned in the Dum-Tragut grammar (2009: 478).

(25) SEA

- a. *qjn kin-ə vor-its^h qjs girk^h-ə ver-ts^hr-e-ts^h-i-∅*
 that woman-DEF **that-ABL** this book-DEF buy-CAUS-TH-AOR-PST-1SG
 ‘that woman from whom I bought this book’ (MA, VK, VP)
 այն կինը որից այս գիրքը վերցրեցի
- b. *qjn kin-ə vor iren-its^h qjs girk^h-ə*
 that woman-DEF **that she-ABL** this book-DEF
ver-ts^hr-e-ts^h-i-∅
 buy-CAUS-TH-AOR-PST-1SG
 ‘that woman from whom I bought this book’ (MA, ?VK, *VP)
 այն կինը որ իրենից այս գիրքը վերցրեցի

MA felt the use of a resumptive pronoun was grammatical but “includes complexity that we can avoid”.

Similarly for Standard Western Armenian, HD’s judgments are that using a case-marked relativizer is the norm (26a). Using a separate resumptive pronoun (26b) doesn’t sound ungrammatical, but does sound ‘excessively clunky.’ It creates a sense that the relative clause is an after-thought.

(26) SWA

- a. *ɑjn gin-ə vor-m-e ɑjs kʰirkʰ-ə kʰənn-e-tʰ-i-∅*
 that woman-DEF **that-NX-ABL** this book-DEF buy-TH-AOR-PST-1SG
 ‘that woman from whom I bought this book’ (HD)
 այն կինը որմէ այս գիրքը գնեցի
- b. *?ɑjn gin-ə vor ir-m-e ɑjs kʰirkʰ-ə*
 that woman-DEF **that she-NX-ABL** this book-DEF
kʰənn-e-tʰ-i-∅
 buy-TH-AOR-PST-1SG
 ‘that woman from whom I bought this book’ (?HD)
 այն կինը որ իրմէ այս գիրքը գնեցի

However, resumptive pronouns are attested in some colloquial Colloquial Eastern Armenian registers (Polinsky 1995: 100; Hodgson 2020b: ex:5). Such resumptive pronouns are also attested and seem to be more common in Classical and Middle Armenian (Hewitt 1978; Hodgson 2020b: sec:3.3) and some other Armenian dialects (Aslanbeg: Vaux 2001: 53).

In contrast in Iranian Armenian, both strategies are attested (27a), at least for clauses where the head noun acts as an ablative argument in the relative clause. For a bi-dialectal speaker like KM, both options were possible, while the resumptive pronoun feels more common (27b). For a mono-lectal speaker like NK, the resumptive pronoun strategy was the default, while using a case-marked complementizer felt odd.

(27) IA

- a. *en kin-ə voɹ-utsʰ es giɹkʰ-ə veɹ-tʰ-i-∅-m*
 that woman-DEF **that-ABL** this book-DEF take-CAUS-PST-1SG
 ‘that woman from whom I took this book’ (KM, ?NK)
 էն կինը որուց էս գիրքը վերցրամ
- b. *en kin-ə voɹ jes iɹɒn-itsʰ es giɹkʰ-ə veɹ-tʰ-i-∅-m*
 that woman-DEF **that I she-ABL** this book-DEF take-CAUS-PST-1SG
 ‘that woman from whom I took this book’ (KM, NK)
 էն կինը որ էս իրանից էս գիրքը վերցրամ

It’s unknown if the preference for resumptive pronouns is constant across all possible types of case-marking (nominative, accusative, genitive/dative, instrumental, and locative). However, as Katherine Hodgson reminds us, the Relativization Accessibility Hierarchy (Keenan & Comrie 1977) says that resumptives

should be more common with ‘lower’ roles like ablative than with ‘higher’ ones like subject.

The preference for resumptive pronouns is likely due to contact with Persian (28). In Persian, if the head noun has oblique case in the relative clause, then the only strategy is to use a resumptive pronoun (Mahootian 2002: 34; Abdollahnejad 2018: 2). The relativizer /ke/ cannot be case-marked.

- (28) Persian
 un zæn-i ke æz-æf in ketɒb-ro xærid-æm
 that woman-DEF that from-her this book-OM bought-1SG
 ‘the woman from whom I bought this book’ (NS)
 اون زنی که ازش این کتاب رو خریدم

7.3 Subjunctive marking in complement clauses

In Standard Eastern Armenian, a modal verb like ‘want’ can select complement clauses where the verb is an infinitive (29a). The implicit subject of the complement clause is the subject of the main clause. An alternative strategy is to include a complementizer *vor*, and then change the verb into a finite subjunctive verb (29b). Both of these two options are judged as prescriptive norms. A third alternative however is to omit the complementizer but still use a subjunctive verb (29c). This third alternative is judged as quite colloquial (Dum-Tragut 2009: 425-427).

- (29) SEA
- a. uz-um e-n indz̄ gorts̄-i dæn-e-l
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-3PL I.DAT work-DAT put-TH-INF
 ‘They want to make me work.’ (MA, VK, VP)
 Ուզում են ինձ գործի դնել:
- b. uz-um e-n vor indz̄ gorts̄-i dæn-e-n
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-3PL that I.DAT work-DAT put-TH-3PL
 ‘They want to make me work.’ (MA, VK, VP)
 Ուզում են որ ինձ գործի դնեն:
- c. uz-um e-n indz̄ gorts̄-i dæn-e-n
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-3PL I.DAT work-DAT put-TH-3PL
 ‘They want to make me work.’ (MA, VK, VP)
 Ուզում են ինձ գործի դնեն:

Similar judgments apply for Standard Western Armenian. The norm is to use an infinitive (30a) or a complementizer (30b). Using a subjunctive (30c) is possible in colloquial speech. When the complement clause includes multiple items besides the verb, as in (30c), HD feels that using a subjunctive sounds more natural than using an infinitive.

(30) SWA

- a. g-uz-e-n indz-i afχat-tsan-e-l
 IND-want-TH-3PL I-DAT work-CAUS-TH-INF
 ‘They want to make me work.’ (HD)
 Կուզեն ինձի աշխատել:
- b. g-uz-e-n vor indz-i afχat-tsan-e-n
 IND-want-TH-3PL that I-DAT work-CAUS-TH-3PL
 ‘They want to make me work.’ (HD)
 Կուզեն որ ինձի աշխատեն:
- c. g-uz-e-n indz-i afχat-tsan-e-n
 IND-want-TH-3PL I-DAT work-CAUS-TH-3PL
 ‘They want to make me work.’ (HD)
 Կուզեն ինձի աշխատեն:

In contrast in IA, the use of a finite subjunctive verb is more common (31c). NK personally felt that using an infinitive was odd or ungrammatical (31a).

(31) SEA

- a. ?uz-um e-n indz-i go.tts-i k^hɔf-e-l
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-3PL I-DAT work-DAT drive-TH-INF
 ‘They want to make me work.’ (?NK)
 Ուզում են ինձի գործի քաշել:
- b. uz-um e-n vor indz-i go.tts-i k^hɔf-e-n
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-3PL that I-DAT work-DAT drive-TH-3PL
 ‘They want to make me work.’ (NK)
 Ուզում են որ ինձի գործի քաշեն:
- c. uz-um e-n indz-i go.tts-i k^hɔf-e-n
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-3PL I-DAT work-DAT drive-TH-3PL
 ‘They want to make me work.’ (KM, NK)
 Ուզում են ինձի գործի քաշեն:

AS reports more examples of embedded verbs where SEA would prefer an infinitive form, while IA prefers a subjunctive form (32).

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- (32) a. IA
- i. \widehat{tj}^n -e-m kdɹ-ox ds-e-m
 NEG-AUX-1SG can-SPTCP say-TH-1SG
 ‘I cannot say.’ (AS)
 Չեմ կարող ասել:
- ii. uz-um Ø-i-m dn-Ø-i-m
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-PST-1SG do-TH-PST-1SG
 ‘I wanted to do (it).’ (AS)
 Ուզում իմ անիմ:
- iii. \widehat{intj}^n Ø-i-ɹ uz-um ds-Ø-i-ɹ
 what AUX-PST-2SG want-IMPF.CVB say-TH-PST-2SG
 ‘What did you want to say?’ (AS)
 Ի՞նչ իր ուզում ասիր:
- b. SEA
- i. \widehat{tj}^n -e-m kar-ox as-e-l
 NEG-AUX-1SG can-SPTCP say-TH-INF
 ‘I cannot say.’ (AS)
 Չեմ կարող ասել:
- ii. uz-um ej-i-Ø an-e-l
 want-IMPF.CVB AUX-PST-1SG do-TH-INF
 ‘I wanted to do (it).’
 Ուզում էի անել:
- iii. \widehat{intj}^n ej-i-r uz-um as-e-l
 what AUX-PST-2SG want-IMPF.CVB say-TH-INF
 ‘What did you want to say?’
 Ի՞նչ էիր ուզում ասել:

In Iran, the Salmast dialect of Armenian likewise prefers using subjunctive forms (Vaux 2022b: §4.5).

The preference for subjunctive forms is likely due to language-internal development that got encouraged by language contact with Persian (33). In Persian, verbs like ‘want’ select subjunctive verbs (Mahootian 2002: 29).

- (33) Persian
- a. mi-tun-æm be-r-æm
 PROG-can-1SG SBJV-go-1SG
 ‘I can go.’ (NS)
 میتونم برم.

7.4 Agreement-marking in nominalized relative clauses or participial clauses

- b. ne-mi-tun-æm be-g-æm
 NEG-PROG-can-1SG SBJV-say-1SG
 ‘I cannot say.’ (NS)
 .نمیتونم بگم.
- c. mi-x-ænd mæn be-r-æm
 PROG-want-3PL I SBJV-go-1SG
 ‘They want me to go.’ (NS)
 .میخواند من برم.

7.4 Agreement-marking in nominalized relative clauses or participial clauses

A small area of microvariation concerns agreement marking on nominalized relative clauses. For a sentence like (34a), the relative clause is expressed as a post-nominal relative clause with a finite verb. In contrast, this sentence can be paraphrased as in (34b), but where the relative clause is now pre-nominal, and the finite verb is replaced by a participle.

- (34) SEA
- a. gir^h-ə vor in^h-ə kart^h-a-t^h-∅-∅
 book-DEF that he-DEF read-TH-AOR-PST-3SG
 ‘the book that he read.’ (VP)
 գիրքը որ ինքն ըստդ
- b. (ir) kart^h-a-t^h-a^ts gir^h-ə
 (he.GEN) read-TH-AOR-RPTCP book-DEF
 ‘the book that he read.’ (VP)
 (իր) կարդացած գիրքը

A special subcategory of such relative clause constructions is when the subject or ‘doer’ of the verb is either the first or second person singular (35a). We focus on the first person for illustration. When such a relative clause is converted to a participle clause (35b), the subject is expressed by the first person possessive suffix *-(ə)s*.

- (35) SEA
- a. gir^h-ə vor kart^h-a-t^h-i-∅
 book-DEF that read-TH-AOR-PST-1SG
 ‘the book that I read.’ (MA, VK, VP)

- գիրքը որ կարդացի
- b. $\text{kar}^{\text{h}}\text{-a-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-ats-əs}$ $\text{girk}^{\text{h}}\text{-ə}$
 read-TH-AOR-RPTCP-POSS.1SG book-DEF
 ‘the book that I read.’ (MA, VK, VP)
 կարդացածս գիրքը
- c. **im** $\text{kar}^{\text{h}}\text{-a-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-ats-əs}$ $\text{girk}^{\text{h}}\text{-ə}$
 I.GEN read-TH-AOR-RPTCP-POSS.1SG book-DEF
 ‘the book that I read.’ (*MA, ?VK, *VP)
 իմ կարդացածս գիրքը

Our SEA consultants all felt that using an overt genitive pronoun alongside the possessive suffix on the participle (35c) was odd or ungrammatical.

For these participle clauses, there is dialectal variation in how the subject or doer of the action is marked for the first/second person singular. In SEA, the norm is i) to not use an overt genitive pronoun, ii) to place a subject-marking possessive suffix *-əs* on the participle, and iii) to mark the head noun as definite Dum-Tragut (2009: 508-9).

In contrast in Standard Western Armenian (36a), the norm is to ii’) make the participle unmarked, while iii’) the noun gets the possessive suffix. The pronoun is optional (i’). For more data, see Ackerman & Nikolaeva (1997), Ackerman (1998), Ackema & Neeleman (2004), and Ackerman & Nikolaeva (2013: 284ff). For SEA, such SWA constructions are deemed ‘okay but not default’ for VK and ‘not preferable’ for VP (36b). Neither consultant approved of adding the pronoun.

- (36) a. SWA
 (**im**) $\text{gar}^{\text{h}}\text{-a-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-adz}$ $\text{girk}^{\text{h}}\text{-əs}$
 I.GEN read-TH-AOR-RPTCP book-POSS.1SG
 ‘the book that I read.’ (HD)
 (իմ) կարդացած գիրքս
- b. SEA
 (***im**) $\text{kar}^{\text{h}}\text{-a-ts}^{\text{h}}\text{-ats}$ $\text{girk}^{\text{h}}\text{-əs}$
 I.GEN read-TH-AOR-RPTCP book-POSS.1SG
 ‘the book that I read.’ (VK, ?VP)
 (իմ) կարդացած գիրքս

Note that some speakers like MA feel that having the possessive on the noun (36b) was grammatical but had a distinct meaning of ‘I own the book and I read it’. In contrast, when the possessive suffix is on the participle (35b), there is no information concerning who the owner of the book is.

7.4 Agreement-marking in nominalized relative clauses or participial clauses

In contrast in Iranian Armenian, it seems that there is optionality across these parameters. We can either follow SEA and place the possessive on the participle (37b), or we can follow SWA and place the possessive on the noun (37d). An intermediate option is to not use a possessive suffix at all (37c).

(37) IA

- a. $gi:k^h-\text{ə}$ vor $kd:t^h-d-t\hat{s}^h-i-m$
 book-DEF that read-TH-AOR-PST-1SG
 ‘the book that I read.’ (NK)
 գիրքը որ կարդացիմ
- b. (im) $kd:t^h-d-t\hat{s}^h-d\hat{t}s-\text{əs}$ $gi:k^h-\text{ə}$
 (I.GEN) read-TH-AOR-RPTCP-POSS.1SG book-DEF
 իմ կարդացածս գիրքը (KM, ?NK)
- c. im $kd:t^h-d-t\hat{s}^h-d\hat{t}s$ $gi:k^h-\text{ə}$
 I.GEN read-TH-AOR-RPTCP book-DEF
 իմ կարդացած գիրքը (KM, NK)
- d. (im) $kd:t^h-d-t\hat{s}^h-d\hat{t}s$ $gi:k^h-\text{əs}$
 (I.GEN) read-TH-AOR-RPTCP book-POSS.1SG
 ‘the book that I read’
 (իմ) կարդացած գիրքս (KM, ?NK)

For a bi-dialectal speaker like KM, all of the options were acceptable. For a mono-lectal speaker like NK, the intermediate option (37c) was judged as the best option, the SEA-style sentences were judged as odd (37b), while the SWA-sentences (37d) were judged as better than the SEA-style ones, but not as good as the intermediate.

This intermediate option (37c) was likewise accepted for SEA (38) by our consultants; VK and MA went as far to say this intermediate option is as good as the norm (35b). Katherine Hodgson informs us that all this variation is likewise attested in Colloquial Eastern Armenian.

(38) SEA

- im $kart^h-a-t\hat{s}^h-a\hat{t}s$ $gir:k^h-\text{ə}$
 I.GEN read-TH-AOR-RPTCP book-DEF
 ‘the book that I read.’ (MA, VK, VP)
 իմ կարդացած գիրքը

Among these various options, KM reports that the intermediate option is relatively more preferred (37c). The SWA-style option is attested but rather stigmatized (37d). The SEA-style option is prescriptively the rule but rather uncommon

7 *Syntax*

(37b). It seems that at some point, SEA developed this intermediate option as an acceptable colloquial alternative. IA then grammaticalized this intermediate option as the norm.

8 Text

Iranian Armenian is a spoken vernacular. Thus, it's difficult to find any written records of the language. What makes it more difficult is that, as AS informs us, Iranian Armenian is so stigmatized that he has not found any common Iranian Armenian songs or folk tales in his decade-long interaction with the community.

In recent years however, there have been Iranian Armenians who have posted online comedic sketches. These are posted on various social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. We examined and transcribed one such sketch which is a 9-minute-long scripted dialogue between six Iranian Armenian comedians (May 2021). The original video with subtitles is available on Instagram as a publicly-accessible video with subtitles.¹ Ethically, although the video is public, we wanted to obtain the consent of the comedians so that they know we were using their sketch for our academic purposes. We managed to track down and get the consent of four out of the six participants. We didn't hear back from the other two despite multiple attempts at contacting them.

The sketch is rather long with around 9 minutes of speech, and over 650 words. We transcribed the entire video using our IPA and glossing system with Praat [Boersma 2001](#).² We demarcated borrowed words with <>. The Armenian orthography line uses romanization for Persian-based loanwords. Our English translation differs slightly from the subtitles. The entire transcript can be found in our online archive as a Praat TextGrid.³ Because the video is long, we present only one dialog between Vahik and Anjel, both acted out by the same male speaker (Ryan Ebrahamian).

(1) Vahik

a. vɒndʒel ləs-el e-s es <væksin>-ə voɫ duɫs ɒ
Anjel hear-PERF.CVB AUX-2SG this vaccine-DEF that out is

¹<https://www.instagram.com/tv/COWtIvUn4KA/>

²We generally did not gloss zero morphs. We used zero morphs \emptyset for the past morpheme and past auxiliary like [\emptyset -i-m] 'AUX-PST-1SG' meaning 'I was'.

³https://github.com/jhdeov/iranian_armenian

g-ɒ-l-is

come-TH-INF-IMPF.CVB

‘Anjel, have you heard of this vaccine that’s coming out?’⁴

Անջել, լսե՞լ ես էս <vaccine>-ը որ դուրս ա գալիս:

b. mæt no.ɫ-ən ɒ

INDF.CLF new-DEF is

‘It’s a new one.’

Մի հատ նորն ա:

c. <đʒɔnsən đʒɔnsən>-n ɒ sɒ.ɫk^h-um

Johnson Johnson-DEF is make-IMPF.CVB

‘Johnson and Johnson is making it.’

<Johnson and Johnson>-ն ա սարքում:

d. me ɒŋk^hɒm piti χəp^h-e-s t^hev-i-t

INDF time should shoot-TH-2SG arm-DAT-POSS.2SG

‘You only take it once. (Lit: You should shoot it at your arm once)’

Մի անգամ պիտի խփես թեկի:

e. himɒ ɒmen əŋke.ɫ-ne.ɫ-i-s zɒŋg-e-l-uw e-m

now all friend-PL-DAT-POSS.1SG ring-TH-INF-FUT.CVB AUX-1SG

mæt mek mek k-ɒs-e-m

INDF.CLF one one FUT-say-TH-1SG

‘I’m gonna call all my friends to tell them one-by-one. (Lit: Now I will call all my friends, tell each one-by-one)’

Յիմա ամէն ընկերներիս զանգելու եմ, մի հատ մէկ մէկ կասեմ:

(2) Anjel

a. ɒɒɒ ɔzer k^hɒʃ-i

dude hand pull-IMP.2SG

‘Just leave it alone. (Lit. and idiomatic: Dude, pull your hand)’

Բարբա ձեռք քաշի:

b. gəlɯχ kə-tɒn-e-s vɒhik ɔʒɒn-ət

head FUT-take-TH-2SG Vahik dear-POSS.2SG

‘You’ll drive people crazy, Vahik, dear. (Lit and idiomatic: you shall take away heads?)’⁵

⁴Vahik doesn’t drop the fricative /s/ of the imperfective converb suffix. It’s more typical to drop the /s/. The fact that he doesn’t suggest that there is either more variation than we found (§3.3.4), or that he may be code switching or trying to sound more formal.

⁵We find the use of the possessive suffix -t on [ɔʒɒn-ət] ‘your dear’ puzzling. We’re not sure if we’re mishearing this [t], or if this is some novel construction for some speakers of IA.

Գլուխ կը տաւես, Վահիկ ջանդ:

- c. ov voɹ uz-um ɒ iɹɒ t^hev-ə χəp^h-i intʃ^h-i het
 who that want-IMPF.CVB is he.GEN arm-DEF shoot-TH what-GEN with
 uz-um ɒ χəp^h-i kə-χəp^h-i
 want-IMPF.CVB is shoot-TH FUT-shoot-TH

‘Whoever wants to stick themselves can stick themselves with whatever they’d like.’

Ով որ ուզում ա իրա թելը խփի, ինչի հետ ուզում ա խփի կը խփի:

- d. k^hez intʃ^h
 you.SG.DAT what
 ‘What’s it to you?’
 Զե՞զ ինչ:

(3) Vahik

- a. <jæni> intʃ^h indz intʃ^h
 meaning what I.DAT what
 ‘What do you mean, “what’s it to me”?’
 <Yani> ի՞նչ «ինձ ինչ»:
 Borrowed from Persian معنی ‘meaning’

- b. jet^he me ɒŋk^hɒm piti e.ɹt-ɒ-n χəp^h-e-n iɹɒnts^h
 if INDF time should go-TH-3PL strike-TH-3PL they.GEN
 t^hev-e.ɹ-ə
 arm-PL-DEF
 ‘If they only need to stick themselves once,’
 Եթէ մի անգամ պիտի էրթան խփեն իրանց թելերը,

- c. heto ɒrɒtʃ^h tʃ^h-i piti k^həʃ-e-n vo.ɹ benzin e.ɹ-e-n
 after before NEG-is should drive-TH-3PL that gasoline burn-TH-3PL
 p^hɒk tʃɒχs-e-n
 money spend-TH-3PL
 ‘then they don’t have to drive back and forth to burn gas, spend money.’

Ետոյ առաջ չի պիտի քշեն, որ բենզին էրեն, փող ծախսեն:

- d. <nɒt^hɪŋg iz fɹi> es ɒme.ɹɪkɒ-ji metʃ^h ɒndʒel dʒɒn
 nothing is free this America-GEN in Anjel dear
 ‘Nothing is free in America, Anjel, dear.’
 <Nothing is free> էս Ամերիկայի մէջ, Անջել ջան:

- e. lɒv me bɒn el uz-um e-m ɒn-e-m
 good INDF thing also/even want-IMPF.CVB AUX-2SG do-TH-1SG
 tʰɒpʰ-um e-s gəlɣ-i-s
 throw-IMPF.CVB AUX-2SG head-DAT-POSS.1SG
 ‘Even when I want do something good, you’re still on top of me. (Lit: you throw at/on my head)’
 Լաւ մի բան էլ ուզում եմ անեմ թափում ես գլխիս:
- f. bɒbɒ dzer kʰɒʃ-i indz-n-itsʰ
 dude hand pull-IMP.2SG me-NX-ABL
 ‘Dude, leave me alone! (Lit: pull away your hand from)’
 Բաբա, ձեռ քաշի ինձնից:

Since writing this grammar, we discovered that the UCLA Phonetics Lab archive had recordings of Tehrani Armenians in Los Angeles (*The UCLA Phonetics Lab Archive 2007*).⁶ We are currently in the process of transcribing their material, with the goal of archiving more material.

⁶<http://archive.phonetics.ucla.edu/Language/HYE/hye.html>

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A grammar of Iranian Armenian

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