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SPECIALIZED CONVERBS IN MEHWEB

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This paper classifies the semantic inventory and describes the morphosyntactic characteristics of specialized converbs in Mehweb a lect of the Dargwa group of the East Caucasian (Nakh-Daghestanian) language family.

The data for this description were collected during a field trip to the village of Mehweb (Megeb). For Mehweb I describe converbs which have the following meaning: anteriority, immediacy, inceptivity, simultaneity, posteriority, hypothetical conditionality, counterfactuality, concessivity (and another meaning close to concessivity), causality, purpose and graduality.

JEL classification code: Z19

Key-words: East Caucasian languages, minor languages, adverbial subordination, converbs, specialized converbs, verbal morphology.
1 Introduction

Specialized converbs are a subtype of converbs which specify the semantic relation between the main and the dependent clauses (e.g. purposive or causal); for a strict definition see Section 2.2. This paper describes the semantic inventory and morphosyntactic properties of specialized converbs in Mehweb.

Mehweb is a lect of the Dargwa group of the East Caucasian (Nakh-Daghestanian) language family and is spoken in a village of the same name in Central Daghestan. The number of speakers is about 1,000 (counting both the village itself and migrants to the plains). The village is surrounded by Avar -and Lak-speaking villages. Most of its population is currently trilingual in Avar and Russian.

This paper consists of 5 sections. Section 2 presents the subject of this study and defines the terms. Section 3 is a survey of specialized converbs in some East Caucasian languages. Section 4 describes specialized converbs in Mehweb. Section 5 is the conclusion.

The data presented in this work were collected during a fieldtrip to Daghestan in August of 2015.

2. Defining the terms

2.1 Converb

According to [Haspelmath 1995a: 3], a converb is “a non-finite verb form whose main function is to mark adverbial subordination”. In other words, one can understand converbs as “verbal adverbs, just like participles are verbal adjectives”.

Another definition of converb comes from [Nedjalkov 1995]: “as a first approximation, we can define a converb as a verb form which depends syntactically on another verb form, but is not its syntactic actant, i.e., it does not realize its semantic valencies”.

Both these definitions agree in that a converb: 1) is a form of a verb; 2) depends on a verb of a main clause and 3) marks adverbial subordination (i.e. is not a semantic argument of the main verb).

2.2. Specialized converbs

For some languages, specialized and general (contextual) converbs have to be distinguished. As formulated in [Haspelmath 1995b], unlike general converbs, which “leave the precise nature of
the semantic link between the clauses open”, specialized converbs have “a quite specific adverbal meaning”, i.e. establish specific semantic relations between the matrix and the converbial clauses. The relations expressed by specialized converbs can be of temporal, locative or logical nature. A more detailed description of the semantic relations conveyed by specialized converbs found in East Caucasian languages is given in Section 3.

Further, unlike general converbs, specialized converbs

- are never used in clause chaining

- are never used in periphrasis

For a discussion of general converbs in Menweb, see [Kustova 2015].

2.3 Some problems in defining specialized converbs

Even after distinguishing between specialized and general converbs, there remain some problems with defining specialized converbs per se. The issue is telling specialized converbs apart from some other non-finite verb forms which form subordinate clauses with similar semantics. I discuss three verb forms that cause problems of this type, namely infinitives, participles and masdars inflected for case (or with other suffixation).

Distinguishing an infinitive construction from converbal clauses is difficult in sentences with purposive semantics. Here, the infinitive formally fits the definition of a converb. This issue is discussed in [Haspelmath 1995a]. Haspelmath argues that prototypical infinitives have a crucial property that converbs lack: they are primarily used in complement clauses.

The problem of participles and masdars is not as easy to solve. In this paper, I consider inflected participles, like *wak'ibičela* in the example below, to be a specialized converb.

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3 In [Haspelmath 1995a] clause chaining is defined as a sequence in which each converb depends on the verb that follows it immediately and which contain only one fully finite final verb.
(1) Гяхул вакИибичела уруве лер.
[ʔaʔul w-ak’-ib-i-če-la] ur-uwe le-r
guest M-come.PFV-PST-PTCP-TR-EL rain.IPFP-CVB COP-NPL

'From the moment the guest came, it was raining.'

However, I do not include masdars with case markers, like berχʷrilizela in the example below, in specialized conversbs.

(2) Шагъаличе бухИна берхврилизела, дикъес даиб заб.
town-OBL-SUPER HPL-inside HPL-go.down.PFV-NMLZ-OBL-INTER-EL NPL-do.IPFP-INF

d-aʔ-ib zab
NPL-begin-PST rain

'As soon as they entered the town, it began to rain.'

The main reason why participles and masdars are treated differently is the fact that, unlike masdars, modified participles seem to be a frequent source for new forms of specialized conversbs (see for example [Creissels 2010]).

It goes without saying that despite this, the decision is somewhat arbitrary. More research could reveal clearer criteria for defining a form as either a specialized converb or another non-finite verb form, or establish more distinct boundaries between this kind of converb, and masdars and participles.

3. A short survey of specialized conversbs in East Caucasian languages

The languages of the East Caucasian family usually have relatively rich inventories of specialized conversbs. In this section, I list the semantic contrasts which can be expressed by specialized conversbs, based on an analysis of the data from five languages, namely Lezgian (Lezgic), Khinalug (family isolate), Akhvakh (Avar-Andic), Ingush (Nakh) and Khwarshi (Tsezic). The description below is based on grammatical descriptions of these languages.
As above, specialized converbs may be divided into three semantic groups, namely temporal converbs, converbs of logical relation and locative converbs. Among temporal specialized converbs, the following can be distinguished: the (neutral) anterior converb, the anterior converb of recent past (as described for Khwarshi in [Khalilova 2009]), the immediate converb, the inceptive converb, the posterior converb, the imminent converb, the terminative converb, the non-posterior converb, the durative converb, the punctive converb. Specialized converbs of logical relation include the causal converb, the purposive converb, the converb of negative purpose, the similitative converb, the converb of hypothetical probability, the converb of high probability, the counterfactual converb and the concessive converb. The systems of locative converbs are set apart. They are usually formed by an affix common to all locative converbs followed by a marker of motion (essive\(^1\), lative, versative, translative, terminative, etc.), the same as used in nominal locative forms (see, for example, [Creissels, 2010:15]). Thus, a language has as many specialized locative converbs as there are orientation categories.

Note that among the converbs listed above some are typologically rare and unusual, like the anterior converb of the recent past and the converb of high probability in Khwarshi (Khalilova 2009:412) or the non-posterior converb in Akhvakh (Creissels, 2010). On the other hand, there are also extremely widespread converbs like the neutral anterior converb and the causal converb, which are present in all five languages. The semantics of those that are present in Mehweb is discussed in the next section.

### 4. Specialized converbs in Mehweb

This section provides a detailed description of the specialized converbs found in Mehweb. Each converb comes with two examples that show that the form can be used both when the subject of the converb is coreferent with the subject of the main clause and when the two clauses have different subjects. Each different subject example shows the possibility for the converbal clause to be embedded into the main clause in order to show its subordinate nature.

Only temporal converbs and converbs of logical relations are described, while locative converbs are left to further research.

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4 Commonly zero. However, this is not true for the Dargwa branch.
At the end of the section I provide a table showing the possibility of forming each specialized converb from perfective and imperfective verbal stem, together with examples of the relevant word forms.

### 4.1 Temporal converbs

#### 4.1.1 Anterior converb

The converbal clause with the anterior converb expresses an event which takes place before the event in the main clause and can be translated as 'when X happened' or 'after X happened'. There are a number of variants for markers of this converb: -a(r)łe, -a(ʁ)e, - a(r)š, -səle, -səla. The speakers vary as to the extent to which they would consider each variant acceptable. Only -a(ʁ)łe is equally accepted by all speakers. As there are so many variants, it is possible that there are subtle semantic distinctions between these markers, but I do not have data on these. In general, a speaker accepts several variants considering them to be interchangeable without any change in the meaning of the sentence. The markers of the anterior converb are added to the participle. The form is derived from participles formed from both perfective and imperfective stems.

(3) Ихишу, бархИи бухъунагъле, дурси дакIиб.

*iχ-i-šu, [barhi b-uq-un-i-əłe], dursi d-ak'-ib*

this-OBL-AD sun N-thrust.PFV-PST-PTCP-ANT girl F-come.PFV-PST

'When the sun rose, a girl came to him.'

(4) Унналишу бакIибигъале ихди ценхIе бикиб.

*[unna-li-šu b-ak'-ib-i-bale] iχ-di cenhe b-ik-ib*

neighbor-OBL-AD HPL-come.PFV-PST-PTCP-ANT this-PL together HPL-happen.PFV-PST

'They met, when they came to their neighbour.'

(5) Ил викIулагъле, ахле лебре.

*il w-ik'.ipfv-ul-əłe], aəłe le-b-re*

this m-come.IPFV-PST-ANT, good COP-N-PST

'Every time he came, it was good.'
It appears that the last example shows that the anterior converb formed from the imperfective stem conveys the sense of multiplicity, while the meaning of anteriority seems to fade away.

### 4.1.2 Immediate converb

The immediate converb encodes an event which immediately precedes the event in the matrix clause. Its semantics is comparable to that of the English 'as soon as X happened'. The marker of the immediate converb is the suffix -rijal, which is attached to the perfective potential stem.

(7) Дяҳи, их унналишу вак'ариял, бикъес баиб.

\[
\text{Da'hi, [iχ unna-li-šu w-ak'-a-rijal], b-iq'-es b-aʔ-ib.}
\]

Snow this neighbor-OBL-AD M-come.PFV-POT-IMM N-do.IPV-INF N-become-PST

'Just after he got to his neighbour’s, it began to snow.'

(8) Ихди унналишу бак'ариял ихди ценхе бикиб.

\[
\text{[iχ-di unna-li-šu b-ak'-a-rijal], iχ-di cenhe b-ik-ib}
\]

This-PL neighbor-OBL-AD HPL-come.PFV-POT-IMM This-PL together HPL-happen.PFV-PST

'They met, as soon as they got to their neighbour’s.'

Note that the form may not be derived from the imperfective potential stem, cf. *wik'arijal, *urcarijal.

There is another way of expressing the same meaning using a masdar in the inter-relative form:

(9) Шагъаличе бухи на берхврилизела, дикъес даиб заб.

\[
\text{[šaha-li-če b-uḥna b-erχʷ-ri-li-ze-la], d-iq'-es}
\]

town-OBL-SUPER HPL-inside HPL-go.down.PFV-NMZ-OBL-INTER-EL NPL-do.IPV-INF

\[
\text{d-aʔ-ib zab}
\]

NPL-ripen.PFV-PST rain

'As soon as they entered the town, it began to rain.'
4.1.3 The inceptive converb

The event encoded by the inceptive converb is the initial boundary of the event described by the main clause. It can be translated into English as 'from the moment when' or 'since'. The marker of the inceptive converb is -čela, which is attached to the perfective participle. The converb marker comes from the case markers -če-la (SUPER-EL), which literally means 'from above'.

(10) Дус, нуни кагьар бархьибичела, гIярбякъун.


year I-ERG letter N-send.PFV-PST-PTCP-INCP away-N-go.PFV-PST

'A year passed since I sent the letter.'

(11) Их вакІнбичела нвяХІд, их дучиркІуве лев.


this M-come.PFV-PST-PTCP-INCP back this laugh.IPFV-CVB COP-M

'From the moment he came back he laughed.'

The form is impossible with the imperfective stem, cf. *wik'uličela, *urcuričela.

4.1.4 Simultaneous converb

The semantics of simultaneity can be expressed by a converb marker -ija(da)l attached to a participle\(^1\). The form exists for both perfective and imperfective verb stems. There are two examples for -ija dal below, in each case -da- can be dropped without any change in the semantics.

(12) Ну, дила узи лучІулядал, чай бужуве лелла.


I.NOM I.OBL-GEN brother read.IPFV-PTCP-SMLT tea N-drink.IPFV-CNV COP-F-1/2

'I drink tea while my brother reads.'

---

\(^1\) The most convincing description of the derivation of this form from perfective participle is that when the perfective participle (with final -i) is followed by this marker, the two vowels assimilate (Yuri Lander, pers.com).
(13) Ну лучулиядал, чай бужуве лелла.

\[ \text{I.NOM} \text{ read.IPV-PTCP-SMLT} \quad \text{tea} \quad \text{N-drink.IPV-CNVT} \quad \text{COP-F-1/2} \]

'I drink tea while reading.'

Formed from perfective participle, the converb shows semantic difference from the one formed from imperfective participle by getting the immediate semantics:

(14) Предложение белчуниядал, перевод бакъиб.

\[ \text{sentence} \quad \text{N-read.PFV-PTCP-SMLT} \quad \text{translation} \quad \text{N-do.PFV-PST} \]

'As soon as (s)he read, (s)he translated.'

4.1.5 Posterior converb

The posterior converb either marks the final boundary of the event in the main clause or means that the event in the main clause happens before the event in the converbal clause. The English equivalents are 'before' or 'until'. This converb is formed by the affix \(-če\) added to the perfective stem followed by a vowel whose origin is hard to identify. There are no data concerning the existence of the form with the imperfective verb stem. The converbal suffix can be identified with the case marker \(-če\) (SUPER). The absence of the class marker allows us to consider it as, originally, the superlative marker\(^1\).

(15) Заб, ихди шагъарихе берхече, даъиб дикъес.

\[ \text{rain} \quad \text{this-PL} \quad \text{town-OBL-IN(LAT)} \quad \text{HPL-go.down.PFV-?-PSTR} \quad \text{NPL-do.PFV-PST} \quad \text{NPL-do-IN} \]

'It started raining before they entered the town'

---

6 Given that lative is unmarked in Mehweb.
4.2 Conditional and counterfactual converbs

In this section I present a brief description of morphosyntactic properties of the conditional and counterfactual converbs. For more information on conditional forms see [Dobrushina 2015], where most examples in this section are taken from.

4.2.1 Hypothetical conditional converb

The marker of the conditional converb -k'a attaches to the potential stem. The form exists for both perfective and imperfective verb stems.

(18) Нуни ґлатI гакIа, хIуни наб тIултI бакъишав.

you-ERG flour give.PFV-POT-COND you-ERG I.OBL-DAT bread N-do.PFV-FUT-Q

‘If I bring the flour, will you make chudu?’

7 A traditional dish of Dagestanian cuisine, something resembling a fried pie.
(19) Ну дила уршилини хьунул какIа, ихдилишур дуъеси.

\[ (19) \text{nu} \quad [\text{di-la} \quad \text{urši-li-}ni \quad \text{xunul} \quad \text{ka-k'}a], \]

I OBL-GEN boy-OBL-ERG wife bring.PFV-COND

\[ izdi-li-šu-r \quad d-u?-es-i \]

that.PL-OBL-AD-HPL(ESS) HPL-become-INF-OBL

'If my son gets married, I will live at their place.'

(Dobrushina 2015)

In the following example, the main and the converbal clause share the subject:

(20) Анвар вакIиле варгакIа абайсу икъэси.

\[ (20) \text{anwar} \quad w-ak'-ile \quad w-arg-a-k'a] \quad abaj-šu \quad uq'-es-(i) \]

Anwar M-come.PFV-CVB M-find.PFV-POT-COND mother-AD go-INF-(OBL)

'If Anwar came, he would go to his mother.'

(Dobrushina 2015)

The following example shows this converb formed from the imperfective stem:

(21) Дахъил кунгане лучIакIа вфкъил сикал, нушазе далгьил.

\[ (21) \text{d-aqil} \quad kung-ane \quad luč'-a-k'a] \quad d-aqil \]

NPL-a.lot book-PL read.IPFV-POT-COND NPL-a.lot

\[ si-k'al \quad nuša-ze \quad d-alh-ul \]

what-UNIV we-DAT NPL-know.IPFV-PTCP

'If we read many books, we will know many things.'
4.2.2 The counterfactual converb

The affix -q’alle marks the counterfactual conditional converb. It attaches to the perfective stem or to the imperfective participle.

(22) Ху анавайе вакъункъале, нушайни Магомет улцаре.
\[\text{\textit{hu \ anawaje}} \ w-aq’-un-q’ale \ nuša-jni \ magomet \ ulc-a-re.\]
you.NOM fast M-do.PFV-PST-CTRF we-ERG Magomet M.catch.IPV-POT-PST
‘If you had driven fast, we would have caught Magomet.’

(23) Нура их вебкIибкъаллe, дубкIаре.
\[\text{\textit{nu-ra \ [\textit{iχ \ w-ebk’-ib-q’alle}], \ d-ubk’-a-re}}\]
I-ADD this M-die.PFV-PST-CTRF F-die-POT-PST
‘If (he) had died, I would have also died.’
(Dobrushina 2015)

The following example shows this converb formed from the imperfective stem:

(24) Их ишбари ашвиркулкъалле ахле буIаре.
\[\text{\textit{iχ \ išbari \ aš-w-irk-ul-q’alle}] \ \textit{aχle \ b-u?-a-re}}\]
this today PREV-M-come.back.IPV-PTCP-CTRF good N-be-POT-PST
‘If he had come today, it would have been good.’
(Dobrushina 2015)

4.2.3 The concessive converb

The concessive converb is formed by the complex suffix -k’a-ra (-COND-ADD), added to the potential stem.
(25) Although they haven't given her flour, she baked a pie.

(26) Although it was raining, we didn't go home.

(27) Although I do (this), you are not happy.

4.2.4 The -ʔur Converb

The form -ʔur conveys concessive semantics. It is used when the event described by the converbal clause was unlikely to happen and probably undesirable; but since it nevertheless did happen, the action in the main clause takes place. The suffix -ʔur attaches to the general converb. Not all speakers accept this form and even those who find it acceptable with some verbs are unable to think of any example with other verbs. This form in Mehweb is thus marginal. There are a limited number of words for which this form is reported, and there is not enough information to support the claim that such forms are either possible or impossible with imperfective verb stem.
4.3 Other converbs of logical relations

4.3.1 The causal converb

The causal converb describes an event, which caused the situation in the main clause. The affix of the causal converb -na is attached to the general converb. The form is possible for both perfective and imperfective stems.

(30) Их, дяхи бакъилена, рузилишу вякъун.
this snow N-do.PFV-PST-CVB-CAUSE sister-OBL-AD M-go.PFV-PST
'Because it started to snow, he went to his sister.'
(31) Хьунуйни суалт хьардиуве лелле ихизе, хъули ґларагъа дакИилена.

wife-ERG  question-PL  ask-CVB  COP-NPL-PST  he-INTER  home(LAT)  late

d-ak'-i-le-na]  
F-come.PVF-CVB-CAUSE

'His wife asked him questions, because he came home late.'

(32) Мурад викІуvena, нуша хIule буъира.

Murad  M-come.IPFV-CVB-CAUSE  we  eye  HPL-be-PST-1/2

'We were expecting Murad, because he was coming'

4.3.2 The purposive converb

The purposive converb expresses an event conceptualized as the purpose of the action in the main clause ('in order to', 'so that'). It is formed by the affix -alis added to the bare verb stem and is possible with both perfective and imperfective stems. The marker is likely to originate from -a-li-s (-POT-OBL-DAT), taking into account that dative cross-linguistically often expresses the purposive meaning (see, for example, [Haspelmath 1995b]). As the purposive meaning, on the other hand, is not unrelated to irrealis domain, the use of the potential -a- may not be coincidental (Michael Daniel, pers.com). So, it could be better to analyse this converbal form as [verb stem]-POT-PURP.

(33) Ихдили, дурси гьилдихъалис, бурууш бакъиб.

this-PL-ERG  girl  down-F-lie.PVF-PURP  cloth  N-do-PST

'They made the bed so that the girl could go to bed.'
(34) Дурсилини буруш бакъиб, гьилдихьалис.

dursi-li-ni    buruš    b-aq’-ib,    [hil-d-ix-alis].
girl-OBL-ERG   cloth    N-do.pfv-PST  down-F-lie.pfv-PURP
‘The girl made the bed in order to go to bed.’

(35) Али вик’алис, нунни игрушуне асира.

[ali    w-ik’-alis]    nu-ni    igruš-une    as-ira
Ali        M-come.IPFV-PURP  I-ERG  toy-PL  take.PFV-PST
‘I brought Ali the toys so that he would come.’

The semantics of purpose can also be expressed by the infinitive.

(36) Ихдилли буруш бакъиб дурси гьилдихьес.

iχ-di-li    buruš    b-aq’-ib    [dursi  hil-d-ix-es].
this-PL-OBL  cloth    N-do-PST  girl  DOWN-F-lie.PFV-INF
‘They made the bed for the girl to go to bed.’

(37) Дурсилини буруш бакъиб, гьилдихьес.

dursi-li-ni    buruš    b-aq’-ib,    [hil-d-ix-es]
girl-OBL-ERG   cloth    N-do-PST  DOWN-F-lie.PFV-INF
‘The girl made the bed in order to go to bed.’

However, for the reasons given in Section 2, I do not consider the infinitive construction to be a specialized converb, though in this case it does fit its definition from the functional point of view. For more detail, see the discussion in [Haspelmath 1995a: 28].

4.3.3 The gradual converb

The affix -cad(i) attached to the participle expresses the semantics of graduality. Such clauses can be translated into English using the expression 'the more … , the more …'. The affix also
exists in standard Dargwa as a nominal marker expressing the meaning 'as much as, about', (equative, [van den Berg 2001: 25]). It also occurs with verb forms, having nearly the same semantics as in Mehweb. Etymologically, the first part of this marker ('-ca-') derives from the locative marker meaning 'from the speaker', but the etymology of the second part is not clear. The form can be derived from the participle of both perfective and imperfective verb stems.

(38) Урши, дахънал дурси лучъулцади, ваънал укуве лев.

\begin{verbatim}
urši,  [d-aqnal  dursi  luč'-ul-cadi],  w-aqnal  uk-uwe  le-w
\end{verbatim}

boy  [F-often  girl  read.IPFV-PTCP-GRAD]  M-often  M.eat.IPFV-CVB  COP-M

‘The more the girl reads, the more the boy eats.’

(39) Ит кунг белчъунцад, наб белчъес диган.

\begin{verbatim}
it   kung   b-elč-un-i-cad   na-b   b-elč-es   d-ig-an
\end{verbatim}

this  book  N-read.PFV-PST-PTCP  you-DAT  N-read.PFV-INFNPL-want.IPFV-PRS

‘The more I read this book, the more I want to read.’

Note that, apart from this logical relation, this form may also have a temporal interpretation (with semantics of simultaneity), as shown in the example below.

(40) Дурси шябях И къуведерцад ихия пикрУм лелле рузылицер.

\begin{verbatim}
[dursi  ša'ba'h  q'-uwe  le-r-cad  zama-jni]  ixiija  pikr-u-me  le-l-le
\end{verbatim}

girl  village  go-CVB  COP-F-GRAD  time-OBL  this.GEN  thought-PS-PL  COP-F-PST

ruzi-li-če-r

sister-OBL-SUPER-F(ESS)

‘While going to the village, the girl was thinking about her sister.’

8 Literally: her thoughts were about her sister.
### 4.4 Examples of the forms

This section contains two tables. Table 1 shows the compatibility of converbal markers with perfective or imperfective verb stems and the verb forms which serve as the base for the corresponding converbs. Table 2 provides examples of each of the specialized converb described above with perfective and imperfective verb stem.

**Tab. 1. Compatibility of converbal markers with perfective or imperfective verb stems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>converb</th>
<th>marker</th>
<th>perfective</th>
<th>imperfective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ant</td>
<td>-a(r)le, -a(w), -a(r)al, -ala</td>
<td>+ (3, 4)</td>
<td>participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imm</td>
<td>-rijal</td>
<td>+ (7, 8)</td>
<td>potential stem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incp</td>
<td>-čeela</td>
<td>+ (10, 11)</td>
<td>participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smlt</td>
<td>-ijadal</td>
<td>+ (14)</td>
<td>participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pstr</td>
<td>-ače</td>
<td>+ (17)</td>
<td>?(potential stem)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cond</td>
<td>-k’a</td>
<td>+ (18, 19, 20)</td>
<td>potential stem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ctrf</td>
<td>-q’ale</td>
<td>+ (22, 23)</td>
<td>aorist form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conc</td>
<td>-k’a-ra</td>
<td>+ (25)</td>
<td>potential stem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conc2</td>
<td>-pur</td>
<td>+ (28, 29)</td>
<td>general converb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cause</td>
<td>-na</td>
<td>+ (31)</td>
<td>general converb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purp</td>
<td>-alis</td>
<td>+ (33, 34)</td>
<td>verb stem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grad</td>
<td>-cad(i)</td>
<td>+ (39)</td>
<td>participle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tab. 2. Examples of each of the specialized converb

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>pvf</th>
<th>translation</th>
<th></th>
<th>ipvf</th>
<th>translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ant</td>
<td>example</td>
<td>'when they came'</td>
<td>w-ik'-ul-ašle (5)</td>
<td>'when he came'</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>imm</td>
<td>w-ak'-a-rijal (7)</td>
<td>'just after he came'</td>
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<tr>
<td>incp</td>
<td>w-ak'-i-čela (11)</td>
<td>'since he came'</td>
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<tr>
<td>smlt</td>
<td>b-elč'-un-ijadal (14)</td>
<td>'as soon as X read'</td>
<td>luč'-ul-ijadal (12)</td>
<td>'while X read'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pstr</td>
<td>b-ak'-a-če (17)</td>
<td>'before they came'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>cond</td>
<td>g-a-k'a (18)</td>
<td>'if X gave'</td>
<td>luč'-a-k'a (21)</td>
<td>'if X read'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ctrl</td>
<td>w-aq'-un-q'al (22)</td>
<td>'if he had done'</td>
<td>aš-w-irk-ul-q'alle (24)</td>
<td>'if he comes'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conc</td>
<td>ha-g-a-k'ara (25)</td>
<td>'though X didn't give'</td>
<td>b-iq'-a-k'ara (27)</td>
<td>'though X does'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conc2</td>
<td>w-ak'-i-le-ʔur (33, 34)</td>
<td>'since he came'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cause</td>
<td>d-ak'-i-le-na (31)</td>
<td>'because she came'</td>
<td>w-ik'-uwe-na (32)</td>
<td>'because he came'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purp</td>
<td>hildix-alis (33, 34)</td>
<td>'in order to go to sleep'</td>
<td>w-ik'-alis (35)</td>
<td>'in order for him to come'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 Conclusion

Mehweb has a relatively rich inventory of specialized converbs, with five temporal converbs and seven converbs of logical relations. There are a great number of variants of the anterior converbal marker, while other converbal markers are more or less uniform: there are only two variants for the marker of the simultaneous converb (-jadal / -jal) and two variants for the gradual converb (-cad / -cadi).

There are five morphological structures for forming a specialized converb. The converb marker can be attached:

1) to a bare verbal stem (this is the case with the purposive converb);
2) to an aorist form (the counterfactual converb);
3) to a potential stem (for example, the immediate converb);
4) to a participle (the anterior, the inceptive, the simultaneous and the gradual converbs);
5) to a general converb1 (the second concessive and the causal converbs).

In Mehweb, the fourth way of forming a specialized converb—from the participle—is the most widespread.

Etymologically, the converb markers often come from case markers, which also seems to be typologically widespread.

6 Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AD</th>
<th>‘near’ (localization)</th>
<th>INF</th>
<th>infinitive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADD</td>
<td>additive</td>
<td>INTER</td>
<td>‘inter’ (localisation)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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9 Strictly speaking, the resulting form should probably be considered as a secondary converb (in the sense that the marker in this case does not form a converb but only semantically modifies an already existing general converb).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANT</td>
<td>anterior converb</td>
<td>IPFV</td>
<td>imperfective</td>
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<tr>
<td>AOR</td>
<td>aorist</td>
<td>LAT</td>
<td>lative</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAUSE</td>
<td>causal converb</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>masculine</td>
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<tr>
<td>COND</td>
<td>hypothetical conditional converb</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>neutral</td>
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<td>COP</td>
<td>copula</td>
<td>NEG</td>
<td>negative</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONC</td>
<td>concessive converb</td>
<td>NMLZ</td>
<td>nominalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONC2</td>
<td>the -ur converb</td>
<td>NOM</td>
<td>nominative</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTRF</td>
<td>counterfactual converb</td>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>oblique stem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVB</td>
<td>general converb</td>
<td>PTCP</td>
<td>participle</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAT</td>
<td>dative</td>
<td>PFV</td>
<td>perfective</td>
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<tr>
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<td>elative</td>
<td>PL</td>
<td>plural</td>
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<td>ergative</td>
<td>POT</td>
<td>potential</td>
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<td>PRS</td>
<td>present</td>
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<td>feminine</td>
<td>PS</td>
<td>plural stem</td>
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<td>future</td>
<td>PST</td>
<td>past</td>
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<td>genitive</td>
<td>PSTR</td>
<td>posterior converb</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRAD</td>
<td>gradual converb</td>
<td>PURP</td>
<td>purposive converb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>human</td>
<td>SG</td>
<td>singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPL</td>
<td>human plural</td>
<td>SMLT</td>
<td>simultaneous converb</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMM</td>
<td>immediate converb</td>
<td>SUPER</td>
<td>super (localization)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


Kustova, M. A. 2015. ‘General converbs in Mehweb’. In print.


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