

Title: Answered and Unanswered Questions of Kartvelian Historical Morphosyntax

Abstract:

Kartvelian has long stood as a byword for typologically unusual morphosyntactic features, but how did they come about? This talk will pose the question through the lens of what kinds of historical questions have been answered, as opposed to those which have not, and why. In the first part of the talk, we will examine a newly grammaticalized *-isa-s* converbal construction and its origins in the Old Georgian system of *Suffixaufnahme*, or genitival agreement of possessors with possessums in case and number. In the second part, we will look at the system of morphological blocking in Kartvelian person/number agreement, and suggest that it is a deeply conservative feature of the family that cannot be so easily explained in the absence of long-range historical comparative data. Finally, we will discuss what metatheoretical traits distinguish these two case studies.