Locative-directional preverbs in the Hattian and Abkhazian-Adyghe languages: a comparative aspect

Abstract:
For the first time an attempt is made to single out locative-directional prefixes in the Hattian verbs, reveal their meaning and functions by comparing them with locative-directional prefixes in the Abkhazian-Adyghe languages. While singling out prefixes we took into consideration legitimate sound correspondences of vowels and consonants in the Hattian and Abkhazian-Adyghe languages: voiced–voiceless, palatal–hard, etc. Hattian sentences are given in Latin, their Abkhazian-Adyghe matches – in the Cyrillic alphabet and Latin transliteration in square brackets. The materials of the study were bilingual texts «The God of Moon Fallen from the Heaven» and «A Building Ritual». The methodology of the investigation is based on L. Talmy’s cognitive semantics and typology. Orientation relationships are used for analyzing the meaning of Hattian verbal prefixes. The analysis of the Hattian locative-directional prefixes and their comparison with Abkhazian-Adyghe locative-directional prefixes made it possible to reveal: 1) their coincidence in form and function; 2) the generality of archetype of locative-directional meanings in the matches; 3) the use of incorporation to widen the meaning of a locative prefix. Thus, in spite of a long time gap between the Hattian and Abkhazian-Adyghe languages, the locative-directional matches in the languages make it possible to speak of their close relationship. The results of the investigation may be used for writing books on history of Hattian and Abkhazian-Adyghe languages and for reconstruction of languages that have no writing.

Keywords:
Preverb, orientation, illative, allative, incorporation, localization, direction, motion.
жениях когнитивной семантики и типологии, основы которой заложил Леонард Талми. Категория глагольной ориентации в хаттском языке, являющаяся предметом настоящего исследования, до сих пор не получила освещения, если не считать фрагментарных высказываний отдельных исследователей. Анализ и сравнение хаттских локативно-направительных превербов и их абхазо-адыгских эквивалентов позволили выявить: 1) их совпадение по форме и значению, 2) общность архетипа локативно-направительных значений в сравниваемых языках, 3) использование приема инкорпорации для расширения значения того или иного преверба. Таким образом, несмотря на большой промежуток времени, который разделяет хаттский и абхазо-адыгские языки, соответствия локативно-направительных превербов в этих языках позволяют говорить об их бесспорном родстве. Результаты исследования могут быть использованы при написании истории хаттского и абхазо-адыгских языков и при реконструкции языков, не имеющих письменной истории.

Ключевые слова:
Преверб, ориентир, ориентация, иллатив, эллатив, инкорпорация, локализация, направление, перемещение

Although the non-Indo-European character of the Hattian language is undisputed and considered to be established, the interpretation and investigation of Hattian is usually based only on the Indo-European Hittite translation, which may not reflect the grammatical peculiarities of the Hattian language [1: 63].

This study is an attempt to identify the spatial value of Hattian verbal prefixes (hereinafter preverbs) on the basis of their comparison with the Abkhazian-Adyghe preverbs. Hattian and Abkhazian-Adyghe verbal prefixes were considered kindred, if their graphic representation coincided in view of regular sound correspondences of vowels and consonants provided they were used in similar contexts with the same value [2: 71-76]. The position of prefixes was taken into account according to bilingual data cited by I.M. Dunaevskaya [1: 101-102, 106; 115-116].

Alongside with I.M. Dunaevskaya a great contribution to the study of the Hattian verbs was made by E. Forrer, E. Laroche and A. Kammenhuber. However, according to I.M. Dunaevskaya, exploring the verb forms these researchers identified only root in some of them, and did not single out the prefixed part because of its ambiguity. In other verb forms, in situations more favorable for the analysis, they identified about 30 verbal prefixes, mostly personal-pronominal [1: 92]. The validity of Hattian prefixes is so far unconfirmed.

In the Hattian language formal markers of syntactic functions of the nouns are absent, therefore verb prefixes characterize not only and not so much the verbal lexeme, as assume the expression of all the components of the orientation semantics including location of the object, direction, and even the semantic type of a reference object. For more details see [3:72].

In this paper, we use terms traditional for typological descriptions [3: 67-68].

By orientation we understand a semantic category of motion, describing the spatial characteristics of the situation as a whole. Motion itself is a change in an object’s basic location from one point to another in space. So motion event pertains to both motion and location. The basic motion event consists of one object (the figure) moving or located with respect to another object (the reference object or ground – location with respect to some place of object). Orientation is conceived as a variable [4: 26].

Markers of orientation can be both verbal and nominal.

Verbal markers of orientation (in our case preverbs – verbal prefixes) serve as indicators of space: they indicate where, how,
where to or where from the motion indicated by the verb takes place.

The most common marker of orientation in Hattian is the preverb ta-.

E. Forrer was the first of the researchers to draw attention to the directional meaning of the prefix ta- and its graphical version za- (Richtungsprüffix) in phrases tu-uh-ta-šu-ul, tu-ah-za-šu-ul [5: 237].

The origin of this preverb obviously goes back to the lexeme t(a)at «seat, place»: Hattian titahzilat «throne» is the place where the Lord sits. In the Abkhazian-Adyghe languages -ma[t]a is a locative indicator: Abkhazian. ameapma [atearta] means «place, seat» from ameapa [ateara] «to sit»; -m[e]-t(e) in Adyghe иткъаным [shhant], Kabardian иткъатым [schhente] «pillow, cushion» literally means «the place for head» with shha, schhe «head», -n is an accretion (epenthesis).

The locative meaning of ta- in Hattian is clearly seen from the utterance ša wa-ah-ku-un wu-ru-še-mu ta-az-zi-ia-h-du ta/-zu-u-h/a-āš/-li «the apple-tree saw her, the sun goddess of the city of Armina, in the sky, from top to bottom with radiant garments covered»: ta is an indicator of place, which means «on top, on the surface»; zuh «garments»; aš «radiant»; ti/it «to be on» Cf. with the Kabardian утъын [itin] «to be on» zuh «clothes».

As it will be shown below, the preverb ta- in conjunction with other locative indicators is able to express the meaning of direction for all the types of verbal reference objects.

1) The direction inwards (towards the inside or centre of something), into (illative) is rendered by the compound verb, consisting of two stems with the inclusion (incorporation) of the root-suffix -l/la into the second stem (-l/la means «to put into»): ma-al-hi-ib (good)-hu te-e-ta-ah-šu-ul «good, it is said, put it inside»: a-aš-ah-bi (evil) ta-aš-ta-u-ta šu-u-la «be wary of putting evil inside (the house)». Cf. Adyghe ильъи [iili] means «to lie inside».

At the same time the directional preverb ta- and the personal-pronominal prefix ah- are put before the second stem, and the verbal reference object «House» (confined space) is expressed implicitly, i.e. it is understood only from the context. For more details see [6: 282-284].

Of particular interest are variants of the same content set forth by different Hittite scribes. If the verb ku-ua-at in the utterance tu-u-pi ta-ua-ša še-ih-ku-ua-at «fear and terror they have gripped him» may actually be interpreted as «seize, grip», in the second variant ta-a-ua-ša tu-pi ta-a-ah-ku-ua-at the verb ta-ah-ku-ua-at with the preverb ta-indicates most likely the direction inwards, «move into» and corresponds to the Abkhazian a-рахъапа [a-takuara] «drip inside» «fear and terror filtered into him»

As for the so-called prefix taš- / teš-, which is translated by the Hittites with the help of the negation «no», in fact, it is part of the verb with the warning (prohibitive) meaning. Hattian ta-aš-te has correspondence (equivalent) in the Adyghe language: тапштын [teschten] «to fear».

Like Abkhazian-Adyghe languages, Hittian builds up negative forms of verbs and pronouns by the prefix m(a)-: ia-ae ima-al-hi-ip «evil inside do not place», zi-ši-im a-ah-ku- «nobody saw him».

Presumably, the combination of the negative prefix with a reinforcement particle in the Adyghe language developed into the verbal negation -ep: Із уахъъам тын [Te wahte tiep]. «We have no time». Зыым съфайым. [Zimi sifayem] «I do not want anything». Negation in the Kabardian language is formed with the help of the suffix -къым [-kim]: ар тъъъым еджэркъым [ar thilim edzherkim] «she doesn’t read books».

Direction inwards something (illative) can also be expressed with the help of the preverb ha-: ka-a-mar итарразил ha-nuwa Hašammil «slipping into» the dark earth god Hashamil went.

In the Adyghe language preverb хе-[he] combined with a verbal root –хъэ indicates the movement «inwards», into: хэ-хъэ [hehe] «come into (e.g. the water)». The
movement «outwards» (allative) is expressed by the same preverb in conjunction with the verbal root -klu[chi] xэ-klu-гъ: «came from (e.g. the water)».

2) Direction towards the reference object, moving with the object of the verb is fulfilled by a verb consisting of two stems including the root-suffix -l, which denotes localization in space. Compare element -l with the Adyghe тэ- «foot, footprint, footstep» (та-рау) ту-u-mi-il tu-u-mi-il «Taru (god of thunder) sent after him (the god of moon) (on his heels, in the wake) downpour.»

3) The preverb та- also shows direction onto the surface of the reference object Ṣe-it-tu-uq-qu-aš «she came up to him.» This preverb ta- is used in conjunction with ablaut alternation in the root of the verb: cf. ну-u-ua «(he) reached here», there is a parallel form къэ-сыгъ [Gunem nesig] «(he) came to the end (to the border)».

In the Abkhazian language the same function is performed by the preverb къэ [ke-] Ненч тикъалэ хьакъэкээр къэ-къоцъых. [Neusch tikale hachlehe ke-kloschtyn] «Tomorrow guests will come to our town.»

In the Hattian language deictic orientation with the direction «there» is expressed by the preverb ни/не-: li-e-ua-e-el ni-i-bu-bi-e zi-i-u pala «His house (the Temple) rises there (i.e. not here but in Lahtsan) like mountains.»

The meaning «from here to there» is rendered by the preverb не in the phrase ba-la an-ne-ęš ka-han-ua-śuidd-un «then he reached the throne of the king» and, as in the Adyghe language, the reference is made with the help of the ergative case. Cf. Гъунэм нэ-съыгъ [Gunem nesig] «(he) came to the end (to the border)».

In the Abkhazian and Abazin languages the preverb на-/не- indicates movement away from the speaker: ɖ-na-ɪm «he came there».

The Adyghe language retained the preverb ne- only in one verb зо-сын [ne-sin] «reach», which is generally not used without the preverb зо- [ne-] as this preverb has lost its meaning and is now a constituent part of the root. Ҝъалэм нэ-съыгъ [Kalem nesig] «(he) reached the city». For къэ-сыгъ [ke-sig] «(he) reached here», there is a parallel form къэ-нэ-съыгъ which is used with the same meaning [6: 84].

In the Kabardian language the preverb зо- [ne-] is used with some other verbs: зо-плъысын [ne-plisin] «to reach with glance some limit» e.g. сэ-нэ-плъынш [se-ne-plash] «I looked there» [7: 192].

Direction or location inside in the Hattian language is expressed with the help of the preverb л- as, for example, in the following compound word from the verbal root Уе-уа h-iši «gods of the house»: уе л «house in the function of the attribute», уа h «gods», iš(i) «sit in»; iš(i) is the so-called «bound root»: root, which is singled out only in a number of prefixed lexemes. Compare with the Adyghe Унэм у-с [wunem is] «(he) sits in the house» = (he) is in: a static posi-
tion inside a place.

Compare Hattian ia-a-e i-ma-al-hi-ip «evil inside do not put» with Kabardian u-лъхан [i-lhan] «put into». It is an example of motion from the exterior to the interior of a place.

As you can see, the spatial orientation of the verb in the Hattian language basically goes on the horizontal and rarer on vertical axis «bottom-up» and «top-down» from the egocentric point of reference.

Lack of verbal spatial orientation on the vertical axis of the «bottom-up» and «top-down» type is compensated by nominal orientation, which is expressed with the help of a special affix -du / -tu / -šu, joined to the name: kab hu (legend has it) i-iah-du (from heaven, where from) kašku (Kashku-god of the moon) zu-du (on earth: where to ) han (fell); kuru (seeing) ka-dah-zi-uuu-ri (Kadahtsivuri – a goddess) zi-ja-ah-šü (from heaven: where from). Affix -du/tu/šu expresses the direction from top to bottom towards the speaker (from the point of view of the narrator, who is on the ground).

According to O. Soysal, -du / -tu / -šu are graphic options, markers of ablative [9: 186].

In the modern Adyghe language there are similar forms of a noun built up with the help of the suffix -du [-di], which means «location near someone or something, or direction to someone or something. U.S. Zekokh refers these forms to adesive case. Otherwise this case could be called the case of location. Adesive denotes: 1) stay about anyone, anything: Пшъэшъэжъыер лIыжъымди ичис. [Psheshezhyer lIyzhimdi schis] «The girl is sitting near an old man»; 2) direction to someone or something: Ныбжэгъумди сэкло. [Nybzhegumdi seklo] «I go to my friend» [10: 95].

The results of the research show community of archetype of the locative-directional meanings in the Hattian and Abkhazian-Adyghe languages. Hattian preverbs bear striking resemblance to Abkhazian-Adyghe preverbs and cover the same locative-directional meanings. To widen the meaning of this or that preverb both languages often use a method of incorporation, which indicates that we deal with related languages.

References:

Примечания:

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