Language Contact and the Origins of Multiple Exponence in Archi Pronouns[1]

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In multiple exponence (ME) the same morpheme occurs multiple times within a single word. ME has been described in a number of languages of the Nakh-Daghestanian language family (Harris 2009, Bokarev 1949, and elsewhere), as well as in Kirenti, Yuman, and certain other families (for example, van Driem 1987, Watahomigie, et al. 1982). In this paper we concentrate on the occurrence of ME in a Nakh-Daghestanian language, Archi. Corbett (1991), following Kibrik (1977) shows that in Archi multiple agreement markers occur on pronouns, and up to four CMs can surface in a word at the same time, as in (1).

(1) a. d-asːa-(a)-r-(u)-ej-r-u-tːu-r
CM-of.myself-SUF-CM-SUF-SUF-CM-SUF-SUF-CM
'my own [female]'.

b. [d-asːa]-[(a)-r-(u)]-[ej-r-u]-[tːu-r]

Pronominal forms such as those in (1a) consist of four independent morphemes, as in (1b), each taking a class marker (underlined here). Searching for the origins of multiple exponence in these Archi pronouns, we examine the histories of these independent morphemes and find contact between Archi and Lak are responsible for the current status of at least two.

[1] The research reported here was supported in part by the National Science Foundation under Grants Number SRB-9710085, BCS 0215523, and BCS 0745522, and by the International Research and Exchanges Board under the ACLS-Academy of Sciences Exchange with the Soviet Union (1989). We are grateful to our Udi consultants, especially Luiza Neshumashvili and Zina Silik'ashvili, to our Batsbi consultant, Naira Tsisk'arishvili, and to our Archi consultants.....