



# Differential subject marking in Georgian

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## Research question

What triggers differential subject marking in Georgian?

# Addressing the research question

## What is DSM?

In a broad sense DSM is a linguistic phenomenon that exists in a language if some subjects have a different case, agree differently or occur in different position than others. In a narrower sense such differences are regarded as DSM effects only if they depend on the features of the subject in some way.

(1) *gugul-ma*      *bude-s*      *gada-u-prin-a*  
cuckoo-ERG      nest-DAT      PR-PV-fly.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
'Cuckoo flew over the nest'

(2) *ts'ign-i*      *magida-ze*      *dev-s*  
book-NOM      nest-DAT.POSP      lie-3SG.SBJ  
'The book is at the table'

# Addressing the research question

## DSM in Georgian

- 1 Subjects have different cases
- 2 Differentiation is on the basis of formal and semantic features
- 3 DSM depends on the person/animacy scale
- 4 Subjects agree differently

# Addressing the research question

## What triggers DSM?

There are different factors that trigger DSM in Georgian. These factors are not only formal, but also semantic.

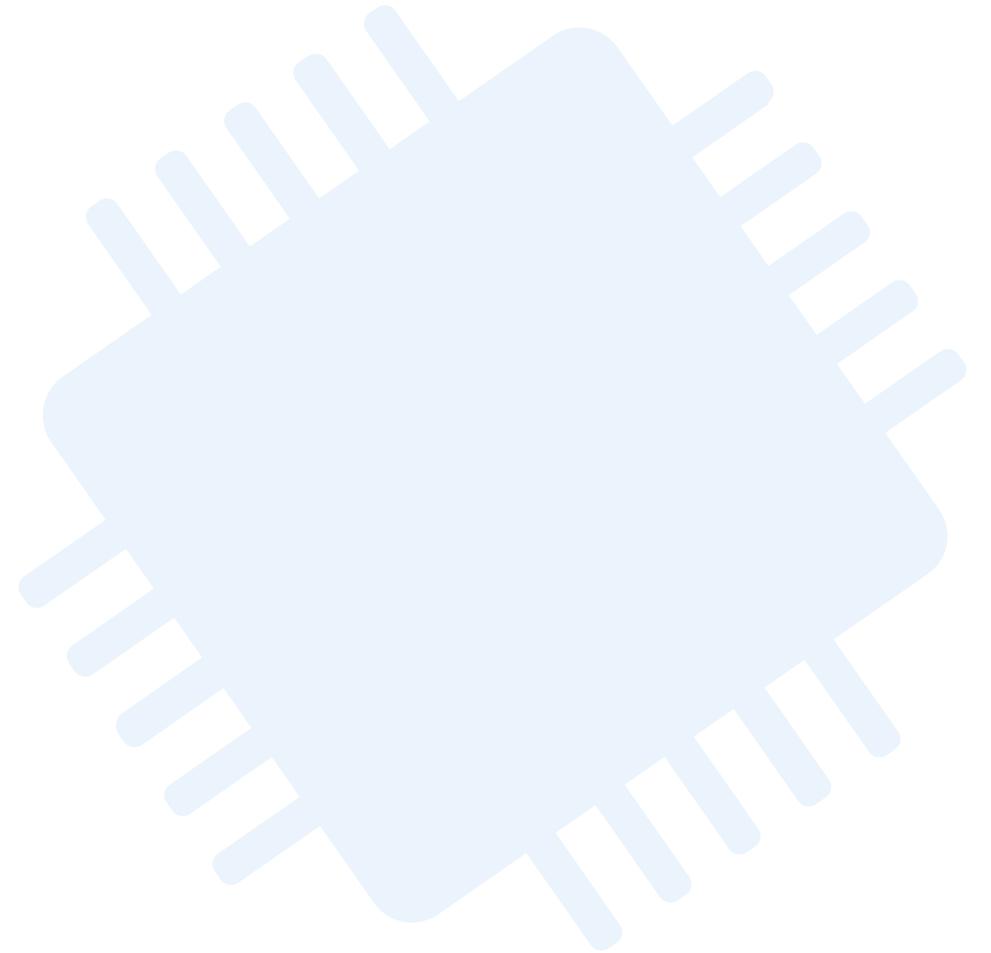
# Addressing the research question

## Factors triggering DSM in Georgian

- Formal features:
  - Tense
  - Aspect
  - Transitivity
- Semantic features:
  - volitionality
  - affectedness
  - factors relating to animacy/person scale

# Outline

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Basic facts about Georgian
- 03** Differential Subject Marking in Georgian
- 04** Differential Subject Agreement in Georgian
- 05** Summary



# Introduction

In many languages DSM may take many forms and it does not constitute a unified phenomenon (see Silverstein 1976, Comrie 1984, Aissen 1999, 2003, Woolford 1997, 2008, de Hoop and de Swart 2008, Kornfilt 2008 etc.).

Subjects can be differentiated on the different basis, and there are different approaches of analysing DSMs (including Functional, Optimality-based, Morphological and Syntactic approaches) (see Kalin 2018, in press).

# Introduction

## DSM effects:

- depend on the lexical selection properties of the particular verbs or the argument structure positions of the arguments;
- are triggered by different syntactic contexts such as transitivity alternations;
- are the result of phonological constraints on the morphological realization of certain case features;
- involve person/animacy features.

# Introduction

example from Basque

- *Ni-ri zure oinetako-a-k-Ø gustatzen zaizkit*  
I-DAT your shoes-DET-NOM like AUX  
'I like your shoes.'
- *Gizona-k kurritu du*  
man-ERG ran AUX  
'The man ran.'
- *Miren-ek atea-Ø ireki du*  
Miren-ERG door-NOM open AUX  
'Miren opened the door.'
- *Atea-Ø ireki da*  
door-NOM open AUX  
'The door opened.'

(Woolford 2008: 19)

## Basic facts about Georgian

- **ergative** language, split ergativity (however, there are different opinions whether Georgian shows ergative alignment at all)

(3) *bavshv-ma*    *satamasho-∅*    *a-i-gh-o*  
child-ERG    toy-DAT    PR-PV-take.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
'The child took the toy'

(4) *bavshv-i*    *ak*    *iq'o*  
child-NOM    here    be.PST.3SG.SBJ  
'The child was here'

## Basic facts about Georgian

- **concatenative** morphology (however, there are examples not only of the agglutinative patterns, but of fusional as well)

(5) *megobr-eb-s*                      *dzalian*   *bevri*      *da-u-lev-i-at*  
friend-PL-DAT                      very      many      PR-PV-drink-PRF-3PL.SBJ  
'Friends drunk too much'

cf.  
(6) *megobar-t*                      *shoris*   *is*                      *iq'-o*  
friend-PL.NNOM                      among   3SG.NOM                      be.PFV.PST.-3SG.SBJ.  
'He was among his friends'

## Basic facts about Georgian

- **head-final** language (it has only postpositions, no prepositions; possessive expressions are strictly head-final, word order is mostly SOV, but is characterized by considerable freedom)

(7) *nik'a-m*                      *k'ompiut'er-i*      *i-q'id-a*  
Nika-ERG                      computer-NOM      PV-buy.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
'Nika bought a computer'

(8) *nik'a-m*                      *i-q'id-a*                      *k'ompiut'er-i*  
Nika-ERG                      PV-buy.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ      computer-NOM  
'Nika bought a computer'

## Basic facts about Georgian

- **differential case** marking; case-marking is not always associated with  $\theta$ -roles of the arguments and that causes additional problems in agreement

(9) *masts'avlebel-s*      *ts'asvla-Ø*      *u-nd-a*  
teacher-DAT      go-NOM      PV-want-3SG.SBJ  
'The teacher wants to go'

(10) *masts'avlebel-i*      *ts'ign-s*      *k'itxul-ob-s*  
teacher-NOM      book-DAT      read-THM-3SG.SBJ  
'The teacher reads a book'

(11) *masts'avlebel-ma*      *mosts'avle-s*      *ts'ign-i*      *mi-s-ts-a*  
teacher-ERG      pupil-DAT      book-NOM      PR-3SG.OBJ-give.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
'The teacher gave a book to the pupil'

## Basic facts about Georgian

- **complex agreement** system (it is assumed that Georgian has subject-object agreement)

(12) *mshenebel-i*

builder-NOM

'The builder will build a house for us'

*saxl-s*

house-DAT

*a·gv-~~-~~shen-ek-s*

PR-1PL.OBJ-PV-build.FUT-THM-3SG.SBJ

## Subject in Georgian

- Subjects are morphologically marked for NOM, ERG and DAT. NOM and DAT have many different syntactic functions, whereas the ERG is unambiguous, it's only used to denote subjects.
- Nominative is expressed by morpheme *-i* or is null  $\emptyset$  (for vowel-final stems)
- Ergative is expressed by morphemes *-ma* or *-m* (for vowel-final stems)
- Dative is expressed by morpheme *-s*

- (13) *gogona- $\emptyset$*       *amanat-s*      *a-gzavn-i-s*  
girl-NOM      parcel-DAT      PV-send-THM-3SG.SBJ  
'The girl sends a parcel'
- (14) *gogona-m*      *amanat-i*      *ga-a-gzavn-a*  
girl-ERG      parcel-NOM      PR-PV-send.PFV-PST.3SG.SBJ  
'The girl sent a parcel'
- (15) *gogona-s*      *amanat-i*      *ga-u-gzavn-i-a*  
girl-DAT      parcel-NOM      PR[3SG.SBJ]-PV-send-PRF-3SG.OBJ  
'The girl has sent a parcel'

## Subject in Georgian

NOM and DAT cases are not associated with a particular  $\theta$  position, in comparison with ERG they are not inherent cases.

- (16) *jarisk'ats-i*      *monadire-s*      *da-ch'r-i-s*  
soldier **-NOM**      hunter **DAT**      PR-wound.FUT-THM-3SG.SBJ  
'The soldier will wound the hunter'
- (17) *jarisk'ats-s*      *monadire-Ø*      *da-u-ch'r-i-a*  
soldier **DAT**      hunter **NOM**      PR[3SG.SBJ]-PV-wound-PRF-3SG.OBJ  
'The soldier has wounded the hunter'

(Skopeteas, Fanselow and Asatiani 2010: 3)

## Subject in Georgian

- The phenomenon of differential case-marking depends also on the person/animacy scale in Georgian

Inanimate subjects are not marked for ERG, because they are not allowed to be subjects of transitives at all, so unlike the other languages the subjects are not morphologically marked towards the lower end of the Animacy Hierarchy (see Silverstein 1976, Comrie 1989, Aissen 1999, 2003 for the accounts in other languages, and de Hoop and Narasimhan 2008 for the account on Hindi)

humans > other animates > inanimates (see Dahl 2000)

still they are marked towards the lower end of the Person Hierarchy,

1PL > 1SG > 2PL > 2SG > 3PL > 3SG (see Woolford 2008)

## Subject in Georgian

Thus, the morphological spell-out of ERG case is blocked in combination with marked person features, i.e. with first or second person

(18)	<i>me</i>	<i>ts'a-v-i-k'itx-e</i>	<i>ts'ign-i</i>
	I.NGEN	PR-1SG.SBJ-SV-read-PFV.PST	book-NOM
	'I read a book'		

still ERG is morphologically realized in the third person SG

(19)	<i>man</i>	<i>ts'a-i-k'itx-a</i>	<i>ts'ign-i</i>
	he.ERG	PR-SV-read.PFV-PST.3SG.SBJ	book-NOM
	'He read a book'		

while in PL it is not overtly marked for ERG, but rather for non-nominative (NNOM), as there are two suppletive forms: one for the NOM and other syncretic form for other cases

(20)	<i>mat</i>	<i>ts'a-i-k'itx-es</i>	<i>ts'ign-i</i>
	they.NNOM	PR-SV-read.PFV-PST.3PL.SBJ	book-NOM
	'They read a book'		

## Subject in Georgian

	<b>1SG</b>	<b>1PL</b>	<b>2SG</b>	<b>2PL</b>
NOM	me	chven	shen	tkven
ERG	me	chven	shen	tkven
DAT	me	chven	shen	tkven
GEN	chem	chven	shen	tkven

## Subject in Georgian

	<b>3SG</b>	<b>3PL</b>
NOM	is/igi	isini
ERG	man	mat
DAT	mas	mat
GEN	mis	mat
INSTR	mit	mat
ABL	mad	mat

# Subject in Georgian

- The DSM phenomenon shows differential subject agreement on verb, with different markers on the verb:
  - So-called *v* markers appear with NOM and ERG subjects
  - So-called *m* markers appear with DAT subjects

(21) *me*     *st'udent'-i*     *v-s'er*     *st'at'ia-s*  
I     student-NOM     1SG.SBJ-write     paper-DAT  
'I student write a paper'

(22) *me*     *st'udent'-ma*     *da-v-s'er-e*     *st'at'ia-Ø*  
I     student-ERG     PR-1SG.SBJ-write-PFV.PST     paper-NOM  
'I student wrote a paper'

(23) *me*     *st'udent'-s*     *da-m-i-ts'er-i-a*     *st'at'ia-Ø*  
I     student-DAT     PR-1SG.SBJ-SV-write-PRF-3SG.OBJ     paper-NOM  
'I student have written a paper'

# Georgian verbal system

Agreement markers on the verb:

v type markers

<b>Person</b>	<b>SG</b>	<b>PL</b>
1	<i>v-</i>	<i>v- -t</i>
2	<i>x-,h-, s-, Ø</i>	<i>x-,h-, s-, Ø -t</i>
3	<i>-s, -a, -o</i>	<i>-en, -an, -nen, -n, -es</i>

# Georgian verbal system

Agreement markers on the verb:

*m* type markers

<b>Person</b>	<b>SG</b>	<b>PL</b>
1	<i>m-</i>	<i>gv-</i>
2	<i>g-</i>	<i>g- -t</i>
3		

<b>Person</b>	<b>SG</b>	<b>PL</b>
1	<i>m-</i>	<i>gv-</i>
2	<i>g-</i>	<i>g- -t</i>
3	<i>h-, s-, ∅</i>	<i>h-, s-, ∅ -t</i>

# Georgian verbal system

Three construction classes:

- **ergative construction class**, verbs with changeable construction (case-variable subject: NOM – ERG – DAT): active transitive verbs, unergatives, a set of derived causatives;
- **nominative construction class**: indirect transitives, passive, unaccusatives;
- **dative construction class**: verbs with a non-volitional actor.

(see Melikishvili 2001, 2014; Melikishvili et al. 2008).

# Georgian verbal system

Georgian verbs have different case-marking patterns:

	<b>S</b>	<b>DO</b>	<b>IO</b>
Ergative construction	ERG	NOM	DAT
Nominative construction	NOM	DAT	DAT
Dative construction	DAT	NOM	GEN + P

Case-marking patterns are determined by the verb class in interaction with its TAM properties

# Georgian verbal system

TAM combinations are called “screeves” and are divided into three TAM series:

<b>Series</b>	<b>Sub-series</b>	<b>Screeves</b>
I	present	Present indicative
		Imperfect
		Present subjunctive
	future	Future indicative
		Future conditional
		Future subjunctive
II		Aorist indicative
		Aorist subjunctive (optative)
III		Perfect indicative
		Pluperfect
		Perfect subjunctive

# Georgian verbal system

The case-marked arguments are cross-referenced on the verb through person affixes.

Combination of verbal agreement markers and case-assigning

	<b>S</b>		<b>DO</b>		<b>IO</b>	
	case	agreement	case	agreement	case	agreement
ERG/NOM/DAT	-m(a)	v- markers	-i / Ø	m- markers	-s	m- markers
NOM/DAT/DAT	-i / Ø	v- markers	-s	m- markers	-s	m- markers
DAT/NOM/GEN	-s	m- markers	-i / Ø	v- markers	-is + -tvis	no agreement

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Ergative

- is used with **transitive** verbs, but only in combination with PFV **aspect**, which is expressed in PST **tense**, either it should be indicative or subjunctive **mood**

(24)    *k'ats-ma*            *ts'eril-i*            *da-ts'er-a*  
man-ERG            book-NOM            PR-write.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
'The man has written a letter'

(25)    *k'ats-ma*            *ts'eril-i*            *da-ts'er-os*  
man-ERG            book-NOM            PR-write.PFV-SBJV.3SG.SBJ  
'The man has to write a letter'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Ergative

The expectation therefore is that ERG should not be used with IPFV **aspect** in PST or PRS **tense**

(26)    *\*k'ats-ma*            *ts'eril-s*            *ts'er-s*  
man-ERG            book-DAT            write.3SG.SBJ  
'The man writes a letter'

(27)    *\*k'ats-ma*            *ts'eril-s*            *ts'er-d-a*  
man-ERG            book-DAT            write-IPFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
'The man wrote a letter'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Ergative

- is used with two cognitive verbs *itsis*, *uts'q'is* 'to know' in all TAM series, regardless the **PFV aspect** or **PST tense**

(28)    *ra*        *ici-s*                      *xalx-ma*                      *am-is*    *shesaxeb*  
what    know-3SG.SBJ    people-ERG                      this-GEN about  
'What do people know about this?'

(29)    *ra*        *ic-od-a*                      *xalx-ma*                      *am-is*    *shesaxeb*  
what    know-IPFV.PST-3SG.SBJ    people-ERG                      this-GEN about  
'What did people know about this?'

(30)    *ra*        *ga-ig-o*                      *xalx-ma*                      *am-is*    *shesaxeb*  
what    PR-know.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ    people-ERG                      this-GEN about  
'What did people know about this?'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Ergative

The other expectation is that ERG should not be used with **intransitive** verbs, in combination with PFV **aspect**, which is expressed in PST **tense**

(31)     *\*k'ats-ma*            *da-i-mal-a*  
          man-ERG            PR-SV-hide.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
          'The man hide (himself).'

(32)     *\*k'ats-ma*            *mo-k'vd-a*  
          man-ERG            PR-die.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
          'The man died.'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

Ergative

However, there is a set of **intransitive** unergative verbs with which ERG is used

(33)    *k'ats-ma*            *i-cek'v-a*  
man-ERG                SV-dance.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
'The man danced'

(34)    *k'ats-ma*            *i-t'ir-a*  
man-ERG                SV-cry.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
'The man cried'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Ergative

This set of intransitives expresses actions, the state of physical and mental activity. Here the subject differentiation is related to a difference in prominence of the subjects: highly agentive subjects are case marked for ERG.

These verbs have subjective version marker *-i-* that expresses reflexivity

- (35)      *k'ats-ma*                      *da-i-dzin-a*  
         man-ERG                      PR-SV-sleep.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
         'The man slept'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Ergative

Sometimes with this set of verbs ERG marker on NP is used to resolve a certain ambiguity, allowed by the predicate semantics

(36)     *da-i-q'vir-a*                      *k'ats-ma*  
PR-SV-scream.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ     man-ERG  
'The man screamed'

(37)     *da-i-q'vir-a*                      *k'ats-i*  
PR-SV-scream.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ     man-NOM  
'He screamed: man'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Ergative

There are also indirect transitive verbs, which have two arguments, one for the subject and another for indirect object

(38) *k'ats-ma*                      *she-xed-a*                      *kal-s*  
man-ERG                      PR-look.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ                      woman-DAT  
'The man looked at the woman'

(39) *k'uch'-ma*                      *gul-s*                      *s-dzli-a*  
stomach-ERG                      heart-DAT                      3SG.OBJ-overpower.PFV.PST-3SG.SBJ  
'The stomach overpowered the heart'

(Boeder 1979: 464)

Both verbal markers and case point to the existence of the object that has been lost diachronically. Such verbs seem to have a latent object, if this is the case, then one of the two arguments needs to be marked.

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Nominative

- is used with **intransitive** verbs, irrespective to the aspect and tense

(40) *bavshv-i*                    *i-mal-eb-a*  
child-NOM                    PV-hide-THM-3.SG.SBJ  
'The child is hiding'

(41) *bavshv-i*                    *i-mal-eb-od-a*  
child-NOM                    PV-hide-THM-IPFV.PST-3.SG.SBJ  
'The child was hiding'

(42) *bavshv-i*                    *da-i-mal-a*  
child-NOM                    PR-PV-hide.PFV.PST-3.SG.SBJ  
'The child hid'

(43) *bavshv-i*                    *da-mal-ul-a*  
child-NOM                    PR-hide-PRF-3.SG.SBJ  
'The child hid'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Nominative

- is used in the **IPFV.PST** both with transitive and intransitive verbs

(44)    *k'ac-i*                      *mi-di-od-a*  
man-NOM                      PV-go-IPFV.PST-3.SG.SBJ  
'The man was going'

(45)    *k'ac-i*                      *kitxul-ob-d-a*                      *ts'ign-s*  
man-NOM                      read-THM-IPFV.PST-3.SG.SBJ                      book-DAT  
'The man was reading a book'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Dative

- is used with **transitive** and **unergative** verbs in PRF

(46)     *k'ats-s*                    *ts'eril-i*                    *da-u-ts'er-i-a*  
         man-DAT                    book-NOM                    PR[3SG.SBJ]-PV-write-PRF-3SG.OBJ  
         'The man has written a letter'

(47)     *k'ats-s*                    *u-tsek'v-i-a*  
         man-DAT                    [3SG.SBJ]PV-dance-PRF-3SG.OBJ  
         'The man danced'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Dative

- is used with **affective** verbs, irrespectively of the aspect and tense

(48)     *k'ats-s*                      *mo-s-ts'on-s*                      *ts'ign-i*  
man-DAT                      PR-3SG.SBJ-like-3SG.OBJ     book-NOM  
'The man likes a book'

(49)     *k'ats-s*                      *mo-s-ts'on-d-a*                      *ts'ign-i*  
man-DAT                      PR-3SG.SBJ-like-IPFV.PST-3SG.OBJ     book-NOM  
'The man liked a book'

(50)     *k'ats-s*                      *mo-s-ts'on-eb-i-a*                      *ts'ign-i*  
man-DAT                      PR-3SG.SBJ-like-THM-PRF-3SG.OBJ     book-NOM  
'The man has liked a book'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Dative

- is used with **volitional** verbs, irrespectively of the aspect and tense

(51) *k'ats-s*                      *u-nd-a*                      *ts'ign-i*  
man-DAT                      [3SG.SBJ]PV-want-3SG.OBJ                      book-NOM  
'The man wants a book'

(52) *k'ats-s*                      *u-nd-od-a*                      *ts'ign-i*  
man-DAT                      [3SG.SBJ]PV-IPFV.PST-3SG.OBJ                      book-NOM  
'The man wanted a book'

(53) *k'ats-s*                      *s-dom-eb-i-a*                      *ts'ign-i*  
man-DAT                      3SG.SBJ-like-THM-PRF-3SG.OBJ                      book-NOM  
'The man has wanted a book'

# What determines what kind of case-marking?

## Dative

- is used with **non-volitional** agent irrespectively of the aspect and tense

(54) *k'ats-s*                      *she-u-q'var-d-a*                      *kal-i*  
man-DAT                      PR[3SG.SBJ]-PV-love-PASS.PST-3SG.OBJ                      woman-NOM  
'Man loved woman (non-volitionally)'

(55) *k'ats-ma*                      *she-i-q'var-a*                      *kal-i*  
man-ERG                      PR-PV-love.PST-3SG.OBJ                      woman-NOM  
'Man loved woman (volitionally)'

## DSM on verb

Differential subject marking on verbs does not show mismatches from the assigned case. *m-* markers are assigned only with external argument used in DAT, there are no cases of assigning *m-* markers on verb with any other subjects.

Subsequently, DSM on verb occurs:

- with affective verbs

(56)     *m-i-xari-a*                             *rom*             *g-xedav*  
          1SG.SBJ-PV-glad-3SG.OBJ    that            2SG.OBJ-see  
          'I am glad to see you'

(57)     *ra*             *ga-v-i-xar-e*  
          what        PR-1SG.SBJ-PV-glad-PFV.PST  
          'How I was glad'

## DSM on verb

- in the III TAM series both with verbs that have *v-* or *m-* markers in other series

(58) *da-m-its'er-i-a*                      *ts'eril-i*  
PR-1SG.SBJ-glad-3SG.OBJ letter-NOM  
'I have written a letter'

(59) *v-ts'er*                      *ts'eril-s*  
1SG.SBJ-write letter-DAT  
'I write a letter'

(60) *mo-m-natreb-i-a*                      *chem-i*                      *kveq'ana-∅*  
PR-1SG.SBJ-miss-PRF-3SG.OBJ POSS.1SG-NOM country-NOM  
'I have missed my country'

(61) *m-enatreb-a*                      *chem-i*                      *kveq'ana-∅*  
1SG.SBJ-miss-3SG.OBJ POSS.1SG-NOM country-NOM  
'I miss my country'

## DSM on verb

- with non-volitional agents

(62) *da-m-exarj-a*  
PR-1SG.SBJ-spend.PFV.PST-3SG.OBJ  
'I spent money (non-volitionally)'

*pul-i*  
money-NOM

(63) *da-v-xarj-e*  
PR-1SG.SBJ-spend-PFV.PST  
'I spent money (volitionally)'

*pul-i*  
money-NOM

## DSM on verb

Differential agreement overtly appears only with the first and second person. In the third person subject is not marked on verb, it shows default agreement

- (64) *k'ats-s*                      *ts'eril-i*                      *da-m-ts'er-i-a*  
man-DAT                      letter-NOM                      PR-1SG.SBJ-PV-write-PRF-3SG.OBJ  
'I, the man have written a letter'
- (65) *k'ats-s*                      *ts'eril-i*                      *da-g-ts'er-i-a*  
man-DAT                      letter-NOM                      PR-2SG.SBJ-PV-write-PRF-3SG.OBJ  
'You, the man have written a letter'
- (66) *k'ats-s*                      *ts'eril-i*                      *da-u-ts'er-i-a*  
man-DAT                      letter-NOM                      PR[3SG.SBJ]-PV-write-PRF-3SG.OBJ  
'The man has written a letter'

## DSM on verb

This could be explained by the fact that subject markers are inversional object markers, which do not possess third person markers for DO. However, there are the instances of marking third person

(67) *k'ats-s*                      *mo-m-s'on-eb-i-a*                      *ts'ign-i*  
man-DAT                      PR-1SG.SBJ-like-THM-PRF-3SG.OBJ                      book-NOM  
'The man has liked a book'

(68) *k'ats-s*                      *mo-q-ts'on-eb-i-a*                      *ts'ign-i*  
man-DAT                      PR-2SG.SBJ-like-THM-PRF-3SG.OBJ                      book-NOM  
'The man has liked a book'

(69) *k'ats-s*                      *mo-s-ts'on-eb-i-a*                      *ts'ign-i*  
man-DAT                      PR-3SG.SBJ-like-THM-PRF-3SG.OBJ                      book-NOM  
'The man has liked a book'

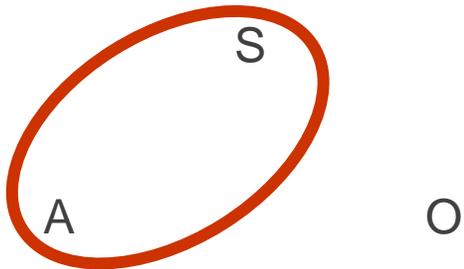
# Ergative alignment

Is Georgian really Ergative language?

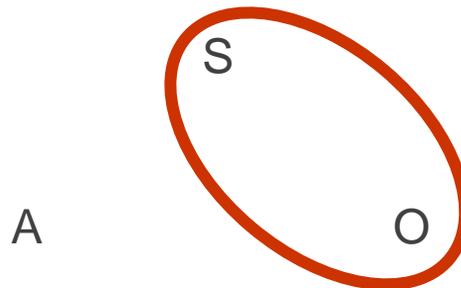
It seems that Georgian, though morphologically ergative language does not show ergative alignment.

Under an Ergative alignment pattern the intransitive subject (S) and object (O) have identical encoding (absolutive), while the transitive subject (A) has its own separate case (ergative).

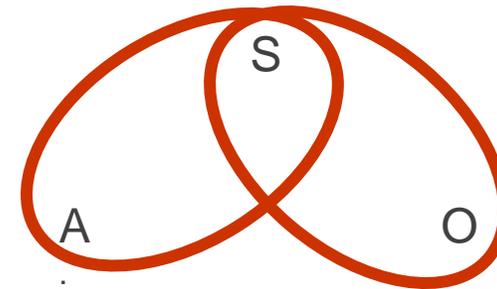
Accusative alignment



Ergative alignment



Active alignment



# Ergative alignment

The main difference is with intransitive verbs

	Accusative alignment		Ergative alignment		Active alignment	
Transitive	SNOM	OACC	SERG	ONOM	SERG	ONOM
Unergative	SNOM		SNOM		SERG	
Unaccusative	SNOM		SNOM		SNOM	

# Ergative alignment

Combination of case and verbal agreement markers in Georgian based on TAM and transitivity

	<b>I TAM Series</b>				<b>II TAM Series</b>				<b>III TAM Series</b>			
	case	agr.	case	agr.	case	agr.	case	agr.	case	agr.	case	agr.
Transitive	SNOM	v	ODAT	m	SERG	v	ONOM	m	SDAT	m	ONOM	v
Unergative	SNOM	v			SERG	v			SDAT	m		
Unaccusative	SNOM	v			SNOM	v			SNOM	v		

## Ergative alignment

According to the case marking, Georgian shows the nominative alignment in TAM Series I and the active alignment in the TAM Series II and the TAM Series III.

According to the agreement marking, Georgian shows the nominative alignment in TAM Series I and the TAM Series II and it shows the active alignment in the TAM Series III.

(see Amiridze 2006: 29)

# Summary

Differentiation of subjects in Georgian shows overt case exponents ERG and DAT vs NOM

Georgian DSM is triggered not only by one factor, but by the combination of different factors, the main ones are:

- formal - tense, aspect and transitivity for assigning ERG case; and
- semantic - volitionality for assigning DAT case.

Georgian DSM is not morphologically restricted: it applies to all inflectional class nouns, in singular and plural number.

## Summary

The following phenomena need to be analysed more precisely:

- (a) Case marking of one set of intransitive unergative verbs with the ERG;
- (b) Use of the inversional markers in TAM III series: the object markers to denote subject and the subject markers to denote object.

The desideratum of the research is to reveal is Georgian DSM syntactic or morphological effect?

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