







Ergative alignment

(1) But:a-mu buq'

PN(I)-SG.ERG grain(III)[SG.ABS]

III.SG-<IPFV>sort-IPFV-CVB

b-e<r>k'u-r-ši

III.SG-be.PRS

b-i

Butta is sorting grain.



Variation in alignments

Transitive verbs have ergative strategy available in almost all TAM combinations

(2) But:a-mu buq' e
b\k'u

PN(I)-SG.ERG grain(III)[SG.ABS] <III.SG>sort.PFV

Butta sorted grain.

Some verb forms license a **bi-absolutive** construction:

(3) But:a buq' b-e<r>k'u-r-ši w-i

PN(I)SG.ABS grain(III)[SG.ABS] III.SG-\langle IPFV\rangle sort-IPFV-CVB I.SG-be.PRS

Butta is sorting grain.



Biabsolutive alignment

Optional

(4a) to-r-mi
$$\chi^s$$
ošon b-a-r-ši b-i that-II.SG-ERG.SG dress(III)[SG.ABS] III.SG-make-IPFV-CVB III.SG-be.PRS

Obligatory

that-II.SG.ABS hay(IV)[SG.ABS] cut-IPFV-CVB II.SG-be.PRS

She is still cutting hay (she was supposed to stop some time ago).

Biabsolutive constructions: typological characteristics

- always imperfective forms
- often periphrastic forms



Views on biabsolutives

- (special) incorporation;
- antipassive (some kind of a pseudoincorporation, which is another version of antipassive demotion of the object);
- two clauses;
- monoclausal construction where the theme and the lexical verb are contained in a PP ... as a (locative type) adjunct: Tsez



"Extreme" agreement

(6) **b**-is

o(b)q^sa-t:-ib

I/II.PL-1SG.GEN

I/II.PL>leave.PFV-ATTR-PL

b-ez

dit:ab>u

I/II.PL-1SG.DAT

soon(I/II.PL)

I quickly forgot my guests who left.

χι^sele

guest(I)[PL.ABS]

e
b>χni

forget<I/II.PL>PFV





(7) tuw-mi paha-r-ši i qilin
he-ERG smoke-IPFV-CVB be.IV.SG.PRS cigarette(IV)[ABS.SG]
'He is smoking.' (In general, or as a conclusion)

(8) tuw paha-r-ši w-i qilin
he.ABS smoke-IPF-CVB I.SG-be.PRS cigarette(IV)[ABS.SG]

'He is smoking.' (direct evidence)





Biabsolutives are often used as answers to questions about the subject:

(9) χ^son b-a<r>
 cow(III)[SG.ABS] III.SG-<IPFV>milk-IPFV-CVB II.SG-be.PRS
 (Where is Shamsijat?) – milking the cow.





Kibrik (1979:70): if there is a dative pronoun or an agreeing adverb, they will agree with the subject



Adverb agreement:

(contemporary) Archi allows adverb agreement with the object:

(10a) tu-w q'onq' o‹r›kɨlin-ši w-i dit:a‹**w**›u

that-I.SG.ABS book(IV)[SG.ABS] IV.SG.read(IPFV)-CVB I.SG-be.PRS early(I.SG)

He is reading a book early.

(10b) tu-w q'onq' o<r>klin-ši w-i dit:a<t'>u

that-I.SG.ABS book(IV)[SG.ABS] IV.SG.read(IPFV)-CVB I.SG-be.PRS early(IV.SG)

He is reading a book early.



Adverb agreement:

but there is difference in semantics

(11a)	pat'i	dit:a< <mark>b</mark> >u	q ^{sw} ib	<mark>b</mark> -o‹r›kɬin-ši	d -i
	pati(II).SG.ABS	early‹III.SG›	potato(III)[SG.ABS]	III.SG-dig <ipfv>-CVB</ipfv>	II.SG-be.PRS

Pati is digging the potatoes out early (for the potatoes).

(11b) **pat'i dit:a<r>u q^{sw}ib b-o<r>kin-ši d-i** pati(II).SG.ABS early<II.SG> potato(III)[SG.ABS] III.SG-dig<IPFV>-CVB II.SG-be.PRS

Pati is digging the potatoes out early (for Pati).



Adverb agreement:

difference in semantics

(12a)	kelij‹ <mark>b</mark> ›u	pat'i	q ^{sw} ib	<mark>b</mark> -o <r>kłin-ši</r>	d -i
	completely (III.SG)	pati(II).SG.ABS	potato(III)[SG.ABS]	III.SG-dig‹IPFV›-CVB	II.SG-be.PRS

Pati is digging the potatoes out completely.

(12b)	*kelij‹ r ›u	pat'i	$\mathbf{q}^{\mathbf{v}}\mathbf{i}\mathbf{b}$	<mark>b</mark> -o <r>kłin-ši</r>	d -i
	completely ‹II.SG›	pati(II).SG.ABS	potato(III)[SG.ABS]	III.SG-dig‹IPFV›-CVB	II.SG-be.PRS

^{*}Pati is digging the potatoes out completely.



Dative agreement:

(contemporary) Archi allows dative pronoun agreement with the object:

(13b) tu-w q'onq' o-cvb">w-i w-ez

that-I.SG.ABS book(IV)[SG.ABS] IV.SG.read<(IPFV>-CVB I.SG-be.PRS [IV.SG]1SG.DAT

He is reading for me (woman speaking).

Emphatic particle: agreement?

The girl is eating the porridge, she likes it better than eating meat.

^{*}The girl is eating the porridge, she likes it better than eating meat.





(15) šamsi

 χ^{s} on

b-a<r>ca-r-mat

d-i

PN(II)[SG.ABS]

cow(III)[SG.ABS]

III.SG-<IPFV>milk-IPFV-CVB

II.SG-be.PRS

Shamsi is still milking the cow.

Obligatory biabsolutives: adverb

(16a) pat'i dit:a
b\u q^\sin b\u b\u o<r\k\u im\u mat d\u i pati(II).SG.ABS early<III.SG\u potato(III)[SG.ABS] III.SG\u dig<IPFV\u00e3-CVB II.SG\u00e3be.PRS

Pati is still digging the potatoes out early.

(16b) *pat'i dit:a<r>
 pati(II).SG.ABS early<II.SG> potato(III)[SG.ABS] III.SG-dig<IPFV>-CVB II.SG-be.PRS

^{*}Pati is digging the potatoes out early.

Obligatory biabsolutives: adverb agreement:

(17a) kelij**\(\dagger)\) u pat'i q^\(\mathbr{q}\) b-o\(\rangle r\) k\(\dagger)\) mat d-i completely pati(II).SG.ABS potato(III)[SG.ABS] III.SG-dig\(\text{IPFV}\)-CVB II.SG-be.PRS \(\text{III.SG}\)**

Pati is still digging the potatoes out completely. (She has a purpose to empty the potato field, and she's still doing this)

(17b) kelij<a>r>u pat'i q^{sw}ib b-o<a>k\langle im-mat d-i
completely pati(II).SG.ABS potato(III)[SG.ABS] III.SG-dig<IPFV>-CVB II.SG-be.PRS

Pati is digging the potatoes out completely. (She has a purpose to empty the potato field, and she's still doing this).

Obligatory biabsolutives: dative agreement



(18a)	tu-w	q'onq'	o <r>kłim-mat</r>	w-i	ez	
	that-I.SG.ABS	book(IV)[SG.ABS]	IV.SG.read(IPFV)-CVB	I.SG-be.PRS	[IV.SG]1SG.DAT	
	He is still reading for me (woman speaking).					

(18b) *tu-w q'onq' o<a href="https://www.nc.new.new.nc.new.new.nc.new.new.nc.new.new.nc.new.n

^{*}He is still reading for me (woman speaking).

Emphatic particle: agreement?

 $(19a) \hspace{0.2cm} lo \hspace{0.2cm} \underset{\text{child(II)[SG.ABS]}}{\chi ilib\chi^{s}i-j \cdot b \cdot u} \hspace{0.2cm} bu-kam-mat \hspace{0.2cm} e \cdot r \cdot di$ $\hspace{0.2cm} \text{child(II)[SG.ABS]} \hspace{0.2cm} porridge(III).[SG.ABS]-EMPH \cdot III.SG \rangle \hspace{0.2cm} III.SG-eat.IPFV-CVB \hspace{0.2cm} \cdot II.SG \cdot be.PST$ $\hspace{0.2cm} ak ^{4} \hspace{0.2cm} kummu-s \hspace{0.2cm} kilaw$ $\hspace{0.2cm} meat(IV).[SG.ABS] \hspace{0.2cm} [IV.SG]eat.IPFV-FIN \hspace{0.2cm} than$

The girl is still eating the porridge, she likes it better than eating meat.

^{*}The girl is still eating the porridge, she likes it better than eating meat.

Emphatic particle: agreement:

Subject agreement allowed in some contexts:

(20) sini jattik-du-t uχ

there upper-ATTR-IV.SG field(IV)[SG.ABS]

pat'i e<r>•d-i-ij<r>•u

pati(II).SG.ABS [IV.SG]cut‹IPFV›-IPFV-CVB I.SG-be.PRS-EMPH‹II.SG›

Pati is still cutting that upper field.

-mat with the perfective: "Inertial"



The shoes are (still) bought. (speaker's comment: "The shoes have not been worn at all, I can return them to the shop".)

- (22) buwa-n o^snt et'ni-mat i
 mother(II)-GEN head(IV)[SG.ABS] [IV.SG]tie.PFV-CVB IV.SG.be.PRS

 Mother's head is still bandaged. (longer than we thought it would be)
- (23) ...ja χ^{ς} u-li edi to-t ja χ^{ς} u-mat i dig.PFV-CVB IV.SG.be.PAST that-IV.SG.ABS dig.PFV-CVB IV.SG.be.PRS (They wanted to build a house) and have dug out a pit, but it's still there (abandoned).

-mat with the perfective: "Inertial"



Overt ergative is possible:

(24) zari aqaltekan χ:a-mat i

1SG.ERG shoes(IV)[SG.ABS] [IV.SG]take.PFV-CVB [IV.SG]be.PRS

I have these shoes (still) bought.

Optional and obligatory biabsolutives: summary



	optional	obligatory
semantics	emphasis on the subject	aspectual: 'still'
subject agreement: adverbs	ok when modifying the subject	ok when not modifying the subject
subject agreement: datives	ok	* (biclausal?)
subject agreement: particle	* (biclausal)	*/ok (biclausal?)

Question for the future: dative subject



(25)	laha-s	dija	w-ak:u-r-ši	w-i		
	girl(II).OBL-SG.DAT	father(I)[SG.ABS]	I.SG-see-IPFV-CVB	I.SG-be.PRS		
	A girl is seeing her father.					

(26)	lo	dija	w-ak:u-r-ši	d -i
	girl(II)[SG.ABS]	father(I)[SG.ABS]	I.SG-see-IPFV-CVB	II.SG-be.PRS

A girl is seeing her father.



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