

Linguistic Convergence in Asia Minor

The Internal Development of Agglutinative Inflections in Cappadocian Greek

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It is generally recognized that Cappadocian has two types of agglutinative noun inflection (Dawkins 1916; Janse 2004, 2019; Karatsareas 2016; Revithiadou et al. 2017): (1) inherited inanimate masculine o-stem nouns, e.g. *mílos* 'mill', gen. *míloz-ju*, pl. *míloz-ja*, attested in Central and South Cappadocian, (2) inherited feminine a-stem nouns, e.g. *néka* 'woman', gen. *néka-ju*, pl. *néc-es*, gen. *néc-ez-ju*, attested in South Cappadocian. The latter in particular is interpreted as a case of pattern replication from Turkish: *néc-ez-ju* :: *kadın-lar-ın* 'woman'- PL-GEN. Other reported cases include *παράj-ez-ju* 'priest'- PL-GEN (Axo, Mavrochalyvidis & Kesisoglou 1960) and *άτροποz-ja-ju* 'man'-PL-GEN (Ulağaç, Sasse 1992). In this paper I will show that a language-internal development took place in Cappadocian which produced agglutinative-like structures. The inflection of inherited animate o-stems resulted at some point of its development in extensive case syncretism: sg. nom. *άθρορ-os*, gen. *αθρόρ-(u)*, acc. def. *άθρορ-o*, indef. *άθρορ-os*, pl. nom. *αθρόρ-(i)*, gen. *αθρόρ-(u(n))*, acc. *αθρόρ-(i)*. This led to the development of an innovative pl. acc. built on the syncretic nom.-acc. in *-(i)* plus the old pl. acc. ending: *αθρορ-ί-us* > *αθρορ-j-ús* and an innovative pl. gen. *αθρορ-ί-u(n)* > *αθρορ-j-ύ(n)*. These inflections could be reanalyzed as agglutinative: *αθρορ-j-ús* 'man'- PL-ACC, *αθρορ-j-ύ(n)* 'man'- PL-GEN, and hence also *αθρόρ-(i)-∅*, 'man'- PL-NOM :: Turkish pl. nom. *adam-lar-∅*, acc. def. *adam-lar-l*, gen. *adam-lar-ın*. This in turn led to the development of the innovative sg. gen. *αθρορ-jú* :: *adam-ın*. These provided the analogs for other agglutinative structures such as pl. gen. *παράj-ez-ju* (Axo) and *néc-ez-ju* (Axo, Fertek, Ulağaç) and perhaps also *άτροποz-ja-ju* (Ulağaç). Whereas all these inflections correspond with their Turkish equivalents, their development is the result of convergence rather than mere pattern replication.

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