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**VERB CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE KAZAKH LANGUAGE:
COMPLEX, ANALYTICAL OR SERIAL?**

Abstract. The article proposes a new point of view on the grammatical status of analytical verb constructions in the Kazakh language, which is an agglutinative language. Traditionally, Kazakh language specialists qualified them as analytical constructions, and later they began to be defined as “compound verbs”. In our opinion, a significant portion of these constructions should be classified as serial verb constructions (SVCs). The theory of serial verb sequences was developed by D. Westermann in the early 20th century, based on the material of African languages. As arguments for this interpretation, their semantics are presented – denoting multiple actions as a “single event”, the absence of subordination or coordination between the verbs within the construction, a unified syntactic function, etc. In the Kazakh language, considering the semantic characteristics of the verbs within the construction, symmetric and asymmetric verb constructions are distinguished. In symmetric SVCs, the verbs are characterized by semantic and grammatical unrestriction. The sequence of verbs in them conveys the real temporal sequence of actions that constitute a single event. An asymmetric SVC consists of two verbs: one with a broad meaning and one with a narrow meaning. Additionally, we believe that mixed symmetric-asymmetric constructions also function in the Kazakh language. The status of serial verb constructions is reflected in the semantic and syntactic features of verb chains in the Kazakh language. Thus, in agglutinative languages, serial verb constructions function as a natural part of the grammatical system, demonstrating a syncretism of meaning within a segmented sequence of verb forms.

Keywords: Kazakh language; agglutinative language; serial verb construction; “single event”; converb; compound verb

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**ҚАЗАҚ ТІЛІНДЕГІ ЕТІСТІК КОНСТРУКЦИЯЛАРЫ:
КҮРДЕЛІ, АНАЛИТИКАЛЫҚ НЕМЕСЕ СЕРИЯЛЫҚ?**

Аңдатпа. Мақалада агглютинативті типтегі тілдерге қатысты қазақ тілінің аналитикалық етістік конструкцияларының грамматикалық мәртебесін анықтауға әрекет жасалды. Дәстүр бойынша, қазақ тілі мамандары оларды аналитикалық конструкциялар ретінде анықтады, кейінірек олар «күрделі етістіктер» ретінде анықтала бастады. Біздің ойымызша, бұл конструкциялардың едәуір бөлігі сериялық етістік конструкциялары – СЕК ретінде жіктелуі керек. Сериялық етістік тізбектерінің теориясын Д. Вестерман XX ғасырдың басында Африка тілдерінің материалында жасаған. Бұл түсіндірудің дәлелі ретінде олардың семантикасы келтірілген – бірнеше әрекеттерді «бір оқиға» ретінде белгілеу, құрылымға кіретін етістіктер арасында бағыну мен композицияның болмауы, бірыңғай синтаксистік функция т.б. қазақ тілінде құрылымға кіретін етістіктердің семантикалық сипаттамаларын ескере отырып, симметриялы және асимметриялық етістік конструкциялары ерекшеленеді. Симметриялы СЕК – де етістіктер семантикалық және грамматикалық шектеусіздікпен сипатталады. Олардағы етістіктердің реттілігі бір

оқиғаны құрайтын іс-әрекеттердің нақты уақыттық реттілігін білдіреді. Асимметриялық СЕК екі етістіктен тұрады: кең мағыналы және тар мағыналы. Сонымен қатар қазақ тілінде аралас симметриялы-асимметриялық конструкциялар жұмыс істейді деп есептейміз. Сериялық етістік конструкцияларының мәртебесі қазақ тіліндегі етістік тізбектерінің семантикалық және синтаксистік ерекшеліктерін көрсетеді. Сонымен, агглютинативті тілдерде тізбекті етістік конструкциялары етістік формаларының бөлінген тізбегінде мағына синкретизмін көрсете отырып, грамматикалық жүйенің табиғи бөлігі ретінде әрекет етеді.

Тірек сөздер: қазақ тілі; агглютинативті тіл; сериялық етістік конструкциясы; «бір оқиға»; конверб; күрделі етістік

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ГЛАГОЛЬНЫЕ КОНСТРУКЦИИ В КАЗАХСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ: СЛОЖНЫЕ, АНАЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ ИЛИ СЕРИЙНЫЕ?

Аннотация. В статье предлагается новая точка зрения на грамматический статус аналитических глагольных конструкций в казахском языке, который относится к агглютинативным языкам. Традиционно специалисты по казахскому языку квалифицировали их как аналитические конструкции, несколько позже их стали определять как «сложные глаголы». По нашему мнению, значительную часть этих конструкций следует квалифицировать как серийные глагольные конструкции – SGK. Теория серийных глагольных последовательностей была разработана Д.Вестерманом в начале XX века на материале африканских языков. В качестве аргументов данной трактовки приводится их семантика – обозначение нескольких действий как «единого события», отсутствие подчинения и сочинения между глаголами, входящими в конструкцию, единая синтаксическая функция и т.д. В казахском языке с учетом семантических характеристик глаголов, входящих в конструкцию, выделяются симметричные и асимметричные глагольные конструкции. В симметричных SGK глаголы характеризуются семантической и грамматической неограниченностью. Последовательность глаголов в них передает реальную временную очередность действий, составляющих единое событие. Асимметричная SGK состоит из двух глаголов: с широким значением и узким значением. Кроме того, в казахском языке, как мы считаем, функционируют смешанные симметрично-асимметричные конструкции. Статус серийных глагольных конструкций отражают семантические и синтаксические особенности глагольных цепочек в казахском языке. Таким образом, в агглютинативных языках серийные глагольные конструкции выступают как естественная часть грамматической системы, демонстрируя синкретизм значения в разделенной последовательности глагольных форм.

Ключевые слова: казахский язык; агглютинативный язык; серийная глагольная конструкция; «единое событие»; конверб; сложный глагол

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Introduction

In our study, we consistently demonstrate that in the Kazakh language verb chains, traditionally classified as complex or analytic verbs, are serial verb constructions with converbs. Until that time, Serial Verb Construction (hereinafter referred to as SVC) was detected in languages of the isolating type; recently, attempts have been made to detect them in the inflectional languages. However, there are no researches in linguistics that consider the functioning of verb series in the languages of the agglutinative type. Thus, we are trying to prove the presence of them in the language of the agglutinative type – in Kazakh language, and also to establish the specifics of SVC in the agglutinative languages. In this regard, the study is distinguished by the novelty of the problem statement and new results for linguistics as a

whole.

The German researcher D. Westermann discovered “Verbalkombinationen” [‘verbal combinations’] in the West African languages Akan and Ewe. They differed in several grammatical features: “a. alle diese Verba ohne jede gegenseitige Verbindung stehen, b. alle das gleiche Tempus resp. den Reichen Modus haben, c. falls sie ein gemeinsames Subjekt und Objekt haben, diese nur beim ersten Verbum stehen, alle andern nackt sind; wird dagegen eine Konjunktion zwischen zwei Verba gesetzt, so müssen nach derselben Subjekt und Objekt wiederholt werden” (Westermann, 1907: 94). [a. all these verbs are not mutually related; b. they all have the same tense according to the modus meanings; c. if they have a common subject and object, then they stand only with the first verb, all the rest without them; if, on the other hand, a conjunction is made between two verbs, the subject and object must be repeated after each. – translated by Z. Temirgazina].

Verbalkombinationen in German can be partially translated by abbreviated sentences or sentence structures, but very often they can be expressed with a single verb. And this is due to the semantic reasons for verb constructions: “Der Eweer beschreibt nämlich jede Handlung, jeden Vorgang in allen Einzelheiten vom Beginn bis zum Ende und drückt jede solche Einzelhandlung durch ein besonderes Verbum aus; er zerlegt jede Handlung in ihre einzelnen Teile und bringt jeden Teil für sich zur Darstellung, während wir im Deutschen nur die Haupthandlung herausgreifen und sie durch ein Verbum ausdrücken, während alle Nebenhandlungen entweder ganz unberücksichtigt bleiben oder mittels einer Präposition, eines Adverbs, einer Konjunktion oder einer Vorsilbe des Verbum etc. wiedergegeben werden” (Westermann, 1907: 95). [A native speaker of Ewe describes every action, every process in great detail from the beginning to the end and expresses each such detail with a special verb; he breaks each action into separate parts and presents each part separately, whereas in English we single out only the main action and express it with a verb, and all secondary actions are either completely ignored or reproduced using a preposition, adverb, conjunction or verb prefix and etc. – translated by Z. Temirgazina]. Thus, Westermann gave a syntactic, morphological characteristic of verb complexes consisting of two or more verbs. Moreover, he described them as a specifically detailed semantic way of describing “a single event”, dictated by the view of the world of native speakers of Ewe.

The study of this specific phenomenon was continued by W. T. Balmer and F. C. F. Grant (Balmer, Grant, 1929) in the Fante-Akan language. They first used the term ‘serial verb construction.’ Since the 1970s, starting with J.M. Stewart (Stewart, 1963), in which he described the limitations in the combination of serial verbs with an object in the Twi language, scientific interest in SVC began to grow (see Givón, 1975; Essilfie, 1984; Foley, Olson, 1985; Sebba, 1987; Forson, 1990 and others). The development of a cognitive approach to language led to the fact that in the 1990s SVC began to be seen as a mental representation of ‘event’ in grammatical vs. cognitive packaging (Givón, 1991).

The opinion has been established in science that “serial verb constructions are widespread in Creole languages, in the languages of West Africa, Southeast Asia, Amazonia, Oceania, and New Guinea...” (Aikhenvald, Dixon, 2005: 2). In addition to the Ewe and Akan languages, SVCs have been studied in the African languages Twi (Akan dialect) (Stewart, 1963), Yoruba (Ekundayo, Akinnaso, 1983), in the Oceanian languages Tok Pisin and Kalam (Givón, 1990), Lewo (Early, 1993), in Southeast Asia: in Vietnamese (Hai and Tran Trong, 1975) and Mandarin Chinese (Lu, 1973; Forson, 1976; Ying Fan, 2016). Another stereotype that exists in linguistics indicates that serial constructions of verbs are typical for the grammars of isolating languages. But the gradual expansion of the metascientific content of the term ‘a serial verb construction’ has led to the fact that some linguists began to identify serial verbs in the inflectional languages such as English and Dutch. For example, J. Hoeksema (Hoeksema, 1991) refers compound predicates in Dutch and English to a serial grammatical group. D. Weiss (Weiss, 2012) also writes about serial verbs in Russian. P. Skorodumova (Skorodumova, 2010) explores the specifics of SVC in Hebrew. For our study, it is important to note that in recent decades the SVC problem has also affected agglutinative languages. Thus, C. Bozsahin (Bozsahin, 2011) considered the serialization of verbs in Turkish, linking it with coordinate reduction. É.Á. Csató, L. Johanson (Csató, Johanson, 2021) posed in their work the problem of grammaticalization of verb sequences in Turkish, close to the serialization problem. A.V. Bajyr-ool (Bajyr-ool, 2023) analyzed Tuvan verb constructions denoting a “single event” with frustrating semantics. However, the problem of serialization of Kazakh verb chains in the context of the theory of serial constructions has not yet been addressed in linguistics. Thus, our study will mark the

beginning of the interpretation of multi-verb sequences typical of the Kazakh language with its agglutinative structure, in light of serialization theory. This will also facilitate the inclusion of the Kazakh language in cross-cultural typological studies of languages with agglutinative structure.

The definition given in (Aikhenvald, Dixon, 2005: 2) highlights the classic properties of SVC: “A serial verb construction (SVC) is a sequence of verbs which act together as a single predicate, without any overt marker of coordination, subordination, or syntactic dependency of any other sort. Serial verb constructions describe what is conceptualized as a “single event”. They are monoclausal; their intonational properties are the same as those of a monoverbal clause, and they have just one tense, aspect, and polarity value. SVCs may also share core and other arguments. Each component of an SVC must be able to occur on its own. Within an SVC, the individual verbs may have the same, or transitivity values.”

Materials and methods

The research material consisted of constructions with multiple verbs in the Kazakh language. The actantial method was applied for their analysis, which helped determine the syntactic function of words in a sentence. It is known, the actantial method is based on the idea of L. Tesnière (Tesnière, 1988) that a simple sentence is a “little drama” in which actants (syntactic forms of words) play certain roles in specific circumstances – circonstants. A.-J. Greimas, a follower of Tesnière, wrote about this: “If we recall that, according to the traditional doctrine of syntax, functions are nothing more than the roles played by individual words (the subject is “the one who performs the action,” the object is “the one who suffers the action,” etc.), then, indeed, every sentence turns out to be a spectacle that homo loquens plays out for himself” (Greimas, 2000, 154).

It is important for linguistics that in defining an actant as a functional element of a sentence, an important role is played by the grammatical characteristics of a word, for example, the form of a verb, the case of a noun, etc. Therefore, the interpretation of verb constructions in the Kazakh language is accompanied by a grammatical analysis of verb and substantive forms in a sentence. This helps to determine the actant model of a sentence, to identify syntactic relations between elements. In turn, the establishment of syntactic connections between actants in a sentence allows us to formulate the semantics of a “single event” conveyed by verb chains in the Kazakh language. B. Comrie (Comrie, 1981) attributed actants, i.e., semantic-syntactic functions of words, to linguistic universals in the field of morphology and syntax. This thesis allows us to build actant models of a sentence, regardless of their morphological structure - agglutinative, isolating or inflectional.

Literature review

In the Turkic languages, complex predicates of two or more finite verbal forms immediately following each other are traditionally qualified as compound verbs, which consist of a main and auxiliary verb expressing the nature of the action (Kononov, 1960: 263). A. Juldashiev considers them analytical constructions, in which the main verb expresses the lexical meaning, and the auxiliary verb expresses the grammatical meaning (Yuldashev, 1965: 243-244; see also Yskakov, 1974; Mamanov, 2014). Based on the definitions of A. Kononov and A. Yuldashev, it is very difficult to differentiate complex and analytic verbs, since they have structural and semantic similarities.

A number of Turkologists (Oralbayeva, 1971; 1980; Kassymova, 1992; 1996) believe that a compound verb and an analytical construction are phenomena of different levels: an analytical construction is a grammatical phenomenon, and a compound verb is a word-formation phenomenon. But the recognition of the different levels of phenomena does not explain their structural, grammatical and syntactic specificity. N. Oralbayeva claims that the semantics of a complex verb is made up of the lexical meanings of the elements included in the complex verb. And thus a complex verb denotes a holistic lexical meaning, which the scientist calls the term “a complex verbal action” (Oralbayeva, 1971).

Let's further consider the structure and semantics of Kazakh analytical and complex verbs. As analytical forms of the verb, researchers (Juldashiev, 1965: 242; Kasymova, 1992: 6) give the following examples:

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|------------|---------------|
| (1) | <i>aïm-a</i> | <i>сал</i> | <i>ма-ған</i> |
| | <i>ayt-a</i> | <i>sal</i> | <i>ma-gan</i> |

	aytu-CVB ¹ to tell-CVB 'Tell me'	salu-IMP to put-IMP	men-DAT.1SG me-DAT.1SG
(2)	<i>жүр-е</i> <i>zhur-e</i> zhuru-CVB to go-CVB 'Go home'	<i>бер</i> <i>ber</i> beru-IMP to give-IMP	<i>үй-ге</i> <i>uy-ge</i> uy-ACC home-ACC

B. Kasymova (1992: 10) names the following constructions as complex verbs:

(3)	<i>ол</i> <i>ol</i> ol-NOM.3SG he-NOM.3SG 'He returned home'	<i>үй-ге</i> <i>uy-ge</i> uy-ACC home-ACC	<i>қайт-ын</i> <i>kayt-yp</i> kaytu-CVB returned-CVB	<i>кет-мі</i> <i>ket-ti</i> ketu-PST to go away-PST
(4)	<i>Қайрат</i> <i>Kairat</i> Kairat-NOM PN-NOM 'Kairat gave the book'	<i>кітап-ты</i> <i>kitap-ty</i> kitap-ACC a book-ACC	<i>көр-ін</i> <i>kor-ip</i> koru-CVB to look-CVB	<i>бер-ді</i> <i>ber-di</i> beru-PST to give-PST

The given examples show that in understanding of analytical constructions and complex verbs in the Kazakh language, the authors do not have a fundamental difference, it is impossible to make a clear differentiation between them either in the formal grammatical or semantic terms. The components of verb constructions are designed graphically separately, including in terms of accentuation; construction denotes a single action or event; performs one syntactic function – predicative. Between the components of the construction there are no indicators of composition and submission. The verbs in the construction are full-fledged lexical units.

One of the reasons for such an interpretation of verb constructions is, according to the Turkologist N. Baskakov, that the grammar of the Turkic languages is written on the model of Russian, Latin and other languages (Baskakov, 1971: 72; see also: Temirgazina, et al., 2024). This approach, in our opinion, did not always contribute to the establishment of some peculiar grammatical features of Turkic grammar.

Accordingly, we must solve two problems: first, to identify the differentiating features of analytic verbal constructions, which will allow us to separate them from other verbal constructions; and secondly, to determine the status of other non-analytic verb constructions.

Thus, we put forward a hypothesis that serial verb complexes are actively functioning in the Kazakh language, expressing a “single event” or “a complex verbal action”. They are at the center of the Kazakh morphosyntax, which is facilitated by the agglutinative morphological structure of the language, that regulates the sequence of elements in the verb construction, determined by their meaning and contribution to the general meaning. The interpretations of the verb chains that exist in the traditional grammar as complex verbs or analytical constructions do not reflect the nature of this phenomenon, and in fact, their definitions resemble each other, as we discussed above.

Let's consider the features of SVC (Aikhenvald and Dixon, 2005: 2), compound verbs (Kassymova, 1992: 13-14) and analytic verbs (Yuldashev, 1965: 243-244) in a comparative table:

¹ The article uses the abbreviated grammatical terms: Verb = verb, CVB = converb, PST = past, PRS = prasens, IMP = imperativ, SUBST = substantive, NOM = nominative case, ACC = accusative case, INS = instrumental case, GEN = genitive case, DAT = dative case; ABL = ablative case, SG = singular, Pl = plural, 1 = first person, 2 = second person, 3 = third person, PN = personal name.

Table 1 – Comparison of features of SVC, compound verb and analytic verbs

Кесте 1 – Сериялық етістік құрылымдарының, күрделі етістіктердің және аналитикалық етістіктер белгілерінің салыстырылуы

Таблица 1 – Сопоставление признаков сериальных глагольных конструкций, сложных глаголов и аналитических глаголов

№	SVC	Complex Verb	Analytic verb
1	Two or more finite verbs; possibly one word (in African languages) ²	Two or more finite verbs	Main component (noun, verb) and auxiliary verb
2	Designation of a “single event” consisting of separate small events	Designation of “a complex verbal action” as a holistic action	The main verb conveys the lexical meaning, the auxiliary verb expresses the grammatical meaning
3	Lack of subordination and composition between verbs	Lack of subordination and composition between verbs	Lack of subordination and composition between verbs
4	A single syntactic function – a predicate	A single syntactic function – a predicate	A single syntactic function – a predicate
5	Full-fledged lexical meaning of verbs ³	Full-fledged lexical meaning of verbs	An auxiliary verb is delexicalized
6	Identical meanings of time, moods of verbs in the construction	The finite verb expresses the meaning of time, mood, common to the construction	An auxiliary verb expresses the general meaning of time, mood
7	General valency of verbs	General valency of verbs	
8	Each verb can function independently, outside the construction	Each verb can function independently, outside the construction	An auxiliary verb cannot function outside the construction

As the comparison shows, analytic verbs differ from SVC and complex verbs in most parameters, they have only two features in common: the unity of the syntactic function and the absence of indicators of composition and subordination between the elements of the construction.

The signs of SVC and complex Kazakh verbs coincide almost completely, which, in our opinion, confirms the thesis about the existence of SVC in the grammatical system of the Kazakh language. Complex verbs qualify as derivational units. And, from our point of view, the graphic separate design of the components in them, their accentuation independence does not allow us to call them full-fledged compound words – composites formed by agglutinative addition of words, word roots, etc. (see: Derunova, et al., 2024). Signs of graphic and accentuation separate design are relevant for agglutinative languages, which are characterized by “fusion” of affixes and word-building elements in a word.

An argument in favor of qualifying verb sequences as analytic constructions could be the auxiliary character of one of the components, usually the last one. It performs the grammatical function of expressing mood, tense, voice, person, number. However, researchers believe that this feature can also manifest itself in serial constructions: “In most cases, one of the verbs that form a serial construction is partially or completely delexicalized and goes into the class of verbal modifiers (for example, aspect indicators or adverbial indicators), whose scope is another verb (or verbs) of a serial construction” (Skorodumova, 2010: 3).

We believe that analytical constructions, of course, are a fact of the grammar of the Turkic languages and are actively functioning in the Kazakh language. These include constructions, which usually consist of proper functional linking verbs such as *etu* ‘to do’, *deu* ‘to say’, *zhazdau* ‘almost’. The listed auxiliary verbs do not have a full lexical meaning. Combining with different parts of speech (nouns, adjectives, adverbs), they are involved in the formation of analytical compound verbs. For example, in combination with nouns *zhalt* ‘a shine’, *arman* ‘a dream’, service verbs express the categorical meaning

² There is no single point of view among African linguists regarding the composition of serial constructions. Some recognize them as serial only constructions consisting of two or more words (Aikhenvald, Dixon, 2005: 56); others refer to them as constructions from one word, for example, in the Lakota, Tariana languages (Foley, Olson, 1985).

³ For SVC, cases are allowed when one of the verbs is partially delexicalized and modifies the meaning of the ‘single event’.

of action, mood, voice, time, person, and number in (5), (6):

(5)	<i>жалт</i>	<i>em-mi</i>
	<i>zhalt</i>	<i>et-ti</i>
	shine-NOM	do-PST.3SG
	‘shone’	

(6)	<i>арман</i>	<i>em-em</i>
	<i>arman</i>	<i>et-em</i>
	dream-NOM	do-PRS.1SG
	‘dreamed’	

The rest of the verb chains in the Kazakh language, which were treated as complex verbs or analytical constructions, can be qualified as serial verb constructions. The need to consider complex verbal constructions as serial, expressing “a single event”, is evidenced by the unsuccessful attempts of some Turkologists to interpret each verb in the construction as a separate one and, accordingly, to translate the construction words by word. This leads to semantic errors in the translation of Kazakh constructions into another language. Here is an example from the work (Grashchenkov, Yermolayeva, 2015: 54):

“Кімді Нұрлан кел-і-п өлтір-ді?
whom Nurlan to come-ST-CONV to kill-PST
Whom did Nurlan kill when he came?”

P. Grashchenkov and M. Yermolayeva interprets the verb chain *kelip oltirdi* as separate semantic-syntactic units, which is reflected in the incorrect literal translation ‘came, killed.’ At the same time, the recognition of the sequence *kelip oltirdi* as a serial verbal construction describing a “single event” ‘killed’ allows us to correctly determine their meaning and syntactic role in the sentence, respectively, to make a correct translation: ‘Whom did Nurlan kill?’ Thus, the interpretation of a significant part of the Kazakh components verb constructions as serial will lead to their correct translation into other languages, which is an important practical result of our study.

Results and discussions

1. Types of serial constructions in the Kazakh language

One of the obligatory components of a serial construction in the Kazakh language is a participle, or a converb in $-p^4$ or $-a$, $-ya$, $-e$, $-y$. M. Haspelmath believes that the converb is a non-finite form of the verb, usually in verbal subordination (Haspelmath, 1995: 3). There are different opinions about the non-finiteness of the converb. So, in Russian, the participle has grammatical signs of aspectuality, voice. In the Turkic languages, they denote aspectuality (completeness, incompleteness of an action, mode of action), voice, modality. A. Kharisov believed that the verbal construction with participles expresses “the form and manner of the action (state) given in the verb and, considering the action like a single stream, shows, on the one hand, the degree of its manifestation at the beginning, in continuation (discontinuous or continuous development or at the end – completion), or, on the other hand, gives a quantitative description of the action in its one-time or repeated occurrence, the usual or suddenness (instantaneity) of manifestation” (Kharisov, 1944: 11). Thus, if we move away from the interpretation of finiteness as the presence of the grammatical meanings of modality, tense, aspect in a word and accept its continual interpretation, then converbs cannot be unambiguously attributed to a non-finite form. Non-finiteness should probably be represented as a scale, i.e. a scalar category, and then converbs are closer to the pole of finiteness in this scale than non-finiteness, undoubtedly, taking into account the specifics of the language.

Serial constructions involving converbs that function in some languages are similar to constructions with auxiliary verbs in Indo-European languages. A series is a converb or several converbs and a verb in a finite form, the converb contains the main meaning of the clause. It is important to note that there can be several participles in a sentence, and there can be only one verb with finite indicators (Shluinsky, 2014).

A.Y. Aikhenvald and R.M.W. Dixon (2005) distinguishes two types of SVCs based on the semantic

⁴ M. Erdal writes about this suffix as the most common in the Old Turkic language: “The most common converb suffix appears to be $-(X)p$ ” (2004: 309).

characteristics of the verbs included in the construction: symmetrical and asymmetric SVCs. So, for example, in symmetrical SVCs, verbs belong to semantically and grammatically unrestricted groups of verbs. It is important to emphasize the iconic nature of symmetrical SVCs, since the sequence of verbs in them reflects the real temporal sequence of actions that make up a single event. The asymmetric SVC includes two verbs, one of them has a broad meaning and belongs to an open, practically unlimited group of words, the second verb, on the contrary, has a narrow meaning, is included in a semantically and grammatically limited, closed group. Their functions in SVC are distributed as follows: a verb from an unrestricted group describes a single event, and a verb from a closed group modifies its meaning. If it is a verb of movement or position in space, then it conveys the direction of movement or complements the construction of species with temporal characteristics. Asymmetric SVCs, unlike symmetrical ones, are not iconic (Aikhenvald, Dixon, 2005: 21-37). We believe that the typology of SVC proposed by Aikhenvald and Dixon will be confirmed with a high degree of verification using the material of verb constructions of the Kazakh language, since its agglutinative morphological nature fits well into the consistent “gluing” of grammatical forms to express specific semantics, in this case a “single event”.

2. Symmetric SVCs

A significant proportion in the symmetrical types of series are chains of two components, in which the first component is a converb to *-p*, the second component is a finite verb with grammatical indicators of mood, tense, voice, person, and number.

(7)	<i>Мен</i>	<i>Әлішер-ді</i>	<i>нан-ға</i>	<i>жұмс-ап</i>	<i>жібер-дім</i>
	Men	Alisher-di	nan-ga	zhums-ap	zhiber-dim
	Men-NOM.1SG	Alisher-GEN	nan-ABL	zhumsau-CVB	zhiberu-PST
	I-NOM.1SG	PN-GEN	bread-ABL	to force-CVB	to send for-PST

‘I sent Alisher for bread’

In the example (7) above, both verbs of the *zhumsap zhiberdim* series belong to classes of full-valued verbs that are not limited from a semantic and grammatical point of view: *zhumsau* ‘to force’, *zhiberu* ‘to send for’, which denote a “single event” with a certain sequence of actions. They have a common actant frame – subject (*men*) and object (*Alisher*).

(8)	<i>Бала-ға</i>	<i>ақыл</i>	<i>айт-ып</i>	<i>көп-іңіз</i>
	Bala-ga	Akyl	ayt-yp	kor-inis
	Bala-DAT	akyl-ACC	aytu-CVB	koru-IMP.2
	A child-DAT	advice-ACC	To tell-CVB	To look at-IMP.2

‘Advise the child.’

In symmetrical construction (8) serial verbs have a common actant – an object (*balaga*). The finite verb *koriniz*, in addition to the grammatical meaning of the 2nd person imperative, modifies the meaning of the *aytyp* converb and gives the whole construction a modal-pragmatic characteristic ‘*make an attempt, try*’, which arises idiomatically (Mamanov, 2014: 262). Thus, the meaning of this construction more accurately conveys the expression: *make an attempt / try to advise the child*. A similar meaning of the verb ‘to see, look’ in other Turkic languages is noted by some scientists: in Tubalar (Shluinsky, 2009), in Uighur (Bridges, 2008), etc. Symmetrical verb constructions tend to be idiomatized.

3. Asymmetrical SVC

In an asymmetric series of two or more components, the converbs on *-p*, *-a*, *-ya*, *-e*, *-y* belongs to a wide class of words, and the finite verb belongs to a closed class of words, for example, to the group of verbs of movement (*zhuru* ‘to walk,’ *ketu* ‘to leave,’ *kelu* ‘to come’) or a person’s physical position (*zhatu* ‘lie down,’ *otyru* ‘to sit,’ *tyru* ‘to stand’), possession and its changes (*alu* ‘to take,’ *beru* ‘to give,’ *kaytaru* ‘to return’) and so on.

(9)	<i>Ол</i>	<i>дала-ға</i>	<i>жүгір-іп</i>	<i>кет-ті</i>
	Ol	dala-ga	zhugir-ip	ket-ti
	ol-NOM.3SG	dala-ACC	zhugyru-CVB	ketu-PST
	He-NOM.3SG	street-ACC	To run-CVB	To leave-PST

‘He ran out into the street’

The verbs of the asymmetric series (9) have a common valence frame: subject (*ol* ‘he’) and

sirconstant (*dalaga* ‘to the street’). The finite verb of the *ketti* series ‘left,’ in addition to the grammatical meaning of the indicative, past tense, active voice, indicates the specification of a “single event” – the direction of movement from the speaker: *zhugirip ketti* means ‘ran away.’

- | | | | | |
|------|--------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| (10) | <i>Аслан</i> | <i>Тас</i> | <i>лақтыр-ын</i> | <i>тұр-ды</i> |
| | Aslan | Tas | laktyr-yp | tur-dy |
| | Aslan-NOM | tas-ACC | laktyru-CVB | туру-PST |
| | PN-NOM | stone-ACC | To throw-CVB | To stand-PST |
- ‘Aslan threw stones’

The verbs of series (10) *laktyryp turdy* have one common actant – the subject (*Aslan*), the converb has an additional valency of the object (*tas* ‘a stone’). The finite verb modifies the meaning of the converb, giving it the specification of the position of the event being performed *laktyryp* ‘throwing’ – *turdy* ‘stood.’ The auxiliary verbs in it have not yet been grammaticalized into a suffix, and the simple form of the present tense from auxiliary verbs is opposed to the complex forms (participle in *-p* + auxiliary verb) of ordinary verbs. See also (11):

- | | | | |
|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| (11) | <i>қайын</i> | <i>өс-ін</i> | <i>тұр</i> |
| | kayin | os-ip | tur |
| | Kayin-NOM | osu-CVB | туру-PRS |
| | A birch-NOM | To grow-CVB | To stand-PRS |
- ‘A birch is growing’

In the Kazakh language, SVC of three or four components with finite verbs *zhuru* ‘to walk,’ *koru* ‘to look at’ and some others in the form of an imperative with negation *-me* indicate that the speaker warns another person so that he does not accidentally perform the action expressed by the first member of the series. See example (12):

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| (12) | <i>ұйықт-ап</i> | <i>қал-ын</i> | <i>жүр-ме</i> |
| | uyukt-ap | kal-yp | zhur-me |
| | uyuktau-CVB | kalu-CVB | zhuru-IMP.NEG |
| | To sleep-CVB | To stay-CVB | To go-IMP.NEG |
- ‘Don't fall asleep’

The verb *zhurme* (literally ‘don't go’) introduces into the description of the “single event” an additional modal meaning of the undesirability (even accidental) of the action expressed in the first component – the converb *uyuktap* ‘to fall asleep.’

See also a series (13) of four verbs: three converbs (in *-p* and in *-ya*) and the finite verb *korme* ‘do not look’ in the imperative with a negative indicator, which expresses the undesirability of the action *kurtyp* ‘to destroy’:

- | | | | | |
|------|----------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| (13) | <i>құрт-ын</i> | <i>жібер-ін</i> | <i>қоя</i> | <i>көр-ме</i> |
| | kurt-yp | zhiber-ip | koy-a | kor-me |
| | kyrtu-CVB | zhiberu-CVB | koyu-CVB | koru-IMP.NEG |
| | to destroy-CVB | let go-CVB | to put-CVB | to look-IMP.NEG |
- ‘Don't destroy’

4. Mixed symmetrical-asymmetric constructions

SVC, consisting of 3 or more verbs, may have a more complex semantic-compositional structure, which combines the properties of symmetrical and asymmetric constructions. In the example below (14) SVC *kagyp tastay berdi*, the first two converbs *kagyp tastay* (on *-p* and on *-y*) belong to the unlimited classes, and the finite verb *berdi* belongs to a limited group of possession verbs. It is used in the Kazakh language to modify the main meaning of the verb construction – to give instantaneousness, speed to action in the meaning of the indicative of the past tense.

- | | | | | | | |
|------|------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| (14) | <i>Али</i> | <i>дұшпан-ды</i> | <i>найза-мен</i> | <i>қаз-ын</i> | <i>таст-ай</i> | <i>бер-ді</i> |
| | Ali | dushpan-dy | nayza-men | kag-yp | tast-ay | ber-di |
| | Ali -NOM | dushpan-ACC | nayza-INS | kagu-CVB | tastau-CVB | beru-PST |
| | PN-NOM | An enemy-ACC | a spear-INS | To strike-CVB | To throw-CVB | To give-PST |

‘Ali struck down the enemy with a spear.’

In tripartite SVC (14), the verbs have common actants – a subject (*Ali*), an object (*dushpandy* ‘an

enemy’), and an instrumental tool (*nayzamen* ‘a spear’).

As the analysis of the Kazakh verbal series of a symmetrical type and a mixed symmetrical-asymmetric type showed, the finite verb sets in the specification of a “single event” in terms of the modal-pragmatic aspect, in terms of the semantics of instantaneity, speed of action, etc., for example, *aityp koriniz* means ‘try to advise’, *kagyp tastay berdi* means ‘instantly struck down’.

Relevant for the status of a serial construction in the Kazakh language is the correlation of the subjects of the verbs included in the series: converbs and finite verbs. Haspelmath classified converbs according to the coreference of the subject of the participle to the subject of the main clause; he singled out single-subject, multi-subject converbs and converbs in which the coreference of the subject is variable (Haspelmath, Ekkehard, 1995). In the material we have reviewed, an important parameter of SVC is the coreference of the subject of all verbs that make up the series: converbs and finite verbs. They must have one common subject. If this parameter is not observed, then the verb chain loses its semantics of “a single event” and, accordingly, such an important syntactic feature as the unity of the predicative function. In this case, the verb sequence is a designation of several events-actions with different subjects, and the verbs perform different syntactic roles in the sentence.

For example:

(15)	<i>Айша</i>	<i>ұйықт-ап</i>	<i>жат-қанда</i>	<i>мен</i>	<i>кет-ем</i>
	Aysha	uyukt-ap	zhat-kanda	men	ket-em
	Aysha-NOM	uyuktau-CVB	zhatu-FUT.3SG	men-NOM.1SG	ketu-FUT.1SG
	PN-NOM	To sleep-CVB	To lie-FUT.3SG	I-NOM.1SG	To leave-FUT.1SG
	‘When Aysha falls asleep, I will leave.’				

In verb chain (15), two verbs *uyuktap zhatkanda* ‘will fall asleep’ have one subject *Aysha*, the verb *ketem* ‘to go away’ has another subject – 1st person. “Converbs' subjects are often identical to that of the verb to which they are subordinated; when they do have their own subject, it appears in the nominative” (Erdal, 2004: 308). Consequently, two predicative centers are distinguished in the sentence with two separate predicates *uyuktap zhatkanda*⁵ and *ketem*. Accordingly, we cannot combine these verbs into a series due to the multisubjectivity of verbs.

Thus, serial constructions in the Kazakh language necessarily include converbs with a final conjugated verb, and the number of converbs varies from one to four or five. Series with converbs convey several situations in one sentence as “a single event”, they have an obligatory position of a single subject for verbs and a chronological sequence. A typical series in Kazakh looks like this: SUBJ + CVB... (CVB...) (CVB...) Finite Verb.

Conclusion

In the course of the study of African languages of the isolating type in linguistics, a general idea of SVC has developed, which can be conventionally called the ‘prototype’ or invariant of SVC. It is most common in the languages of the world. The SVC prototype is a semantically mono-predicative non-union verbal sequence, with the same meanings of all grammatical categories of verbs, expressing ‘a single situation’ (“a single event”), and not a sequence of two different situations. However, the serial construction has a set of semantic and syntactic properties, which is not completely identical in the languages of different morphological structures. Skorodumova (Skorodumova, 2010: 3-4) notes that a number of prototypical features of SVC, for example, the obligatory coincidence of the grammatical categories of verbs that make up the series, the usefulness of their lexical meaning can be violated in the serial constructions of the languages of the world. In other words, in the languages of the world there are many variants of SVC, which, in terms of their morphosyntactic characteristics, may differ to some extent from the invariant. From a grammatical point of view, SVCs are between polypredicative clauses, in which two or more lexically complete verbs function, and constructions with delexicalized auxiliary verbs.

The analysis of verbal sequences in the agglutinative language – Kazakh – showed that a significant part of them can be qualified as SVC, which conveys the idea of the native speakers of a number of actions as “a single event”. It should be emphasized that, unlike the Russian language, in which D. Weiss (2012) found a verb series, Kazakh verbal constructions are in the center of the grammatical system, and not on

⁵ These two verbs – a converb and a finite verb – form a separate series, which does not include the third verb.

the periphery, as in Russian. Perhaps this is due to the pattern of postpositive attachment of grammatically and semantically significant units, typical for agglutinative languages: verb forms, affixes, etc. This pattern contributed to the formation of verb sequences as a characteristic phenomenon of the grammar of the agglutinative Kazakh language.

Distinctive features of Kazakh SVCs include:

- the presence of converbs (one or more), a finite verb that completes the series;
- semantics of “a single event”⁶;
- lack of indicators of composition and subordination between verbs;
- full-fledged meanings of converbs, the finite verb performs the function of a modifier;
- grammatical meanings of modality, tense, mood, aspect, voice, person and number are conveyed mainly by a finite verb, but converbs also participate in the formation of modal, aspectual meanings of SVC;

- converbs and a finite verb must have a common obligatory actant position of the subject.

In the Kazakh language, depending on the belonging of converbs and finite verbs to a wide, unlimited or limited class of words, symmetrical, asymmetric and mixed symmetrical-asymmetric serial converbs constructions function. They play an important role in the morphosyntactic structure of the Kazakh language. The participation of several verb forms in SVC allows Kazakh speakers to convey the subtlest temporal, aspectual, pragmatic shades of the meaning of the event as a whole and the actions that are part of it.

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