

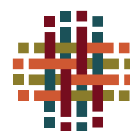
Multi-CAST

Chirag
annotation notes

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v1.0



ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR
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Multi-CAST

*Multilingual Corpus of
Annotated Spoken Texts*

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1 Notes on the GRAID annotations

The following comprises selected notes on the GRAID (Haig & Schnell 2014) and RefIND (Schiborr et al. 2018) annotations of Chirag. It corresponds to version 2507 of the annotations, published in July 2025. Unless a more recent version of this document exists, it also applies to any later versions of the annotations.

1.1 Ergativity and the distinction between S and A

Chirag is a language with ergative-absolutive alignment (Ganenkova 2022): The Patient-like argument (P) of transitive clauses and the single argument (S) of intransitive clauses receive the same (absolutive) case marking in the morphology, distinct from the (ergative) marking of the Agent-like argument (A) of transitive clauses. In Chirag, the absolutive case (ABS) is not formally marked.

For the GRAID annotations of the A, S, and P roles in Chirag, we follow the language-specific morphology in glossing the ergative-marked argument as ⟨:a⟩, an absolutive-marked object as ⟨:p⟩, and an absolutive-marked subject as ⟨:s⟩. Examples (1) and (2) illustrate this practice:

- (1) *aʔt:i nix:ala š:i:c:e čʷal uc:ile aglar χanna urče biʔunze buχ:uj kʷar*
 aʔt:i nix:a-la š:i:c:e čʷal uc:i-le
 you.SG(SUPER) we(INCL)-GEN village-INTER two brother-ERG
 #ds pro.2:ncs #ds_cc:p ln_pro.1:poss np:1 ln_num np.h:a
 aglarχan-na urče b-iʔ-un-ze b-uχ:u-j kʷar
 Aglarkhan-GEN horse N.SG-steal:PF-AOR-ATR N.SG-know:IPF-Q CIT
 ln_pn_np.h:poss np.n:p v:pred % v:pred other %
 ‘You know that two brothers in our village stole a horse from Aglarkhan.’
 [mc_chirag_urce_0007]
- (2) *ilt:e gale cajna agurrak:u*
 ilt:e gal-e cajna ag-ur-r-ak:u
 DEM.ADDR-PL boy-PL once go:PF-AOR-CVB-PRS:NEG
 #neg ln_dem np.h:s other v:pred %
 ‘At first these boys did not come.’
 [mc_chirag_urce_0044]

For the vast majority of predicates in the corpus, adherence to the language-specific morphology yields results that are compatible with our general approach to A and P, as outlined in Andrews (2007: 137). This approach has the advantage of providing clearly defined criteria for the purposes of annotation, and we have maintained it as the default throughout the corpus.

Under certain circumstances, the morphology does not align with our cross-linguistic definition of S, A, and P, which necessitates adaptations to our annotation conventions, discussed in the sections below.

1.1.1 Experiencer verbs

In Chirag, a number of predicates assign quirky subject case. The most common of these are experiencer verbs such as ‘see’, ‘hear’, and ‘know’, whose Experiencer-argument takes the dative case. We have annotated such subjects as ⟨:ncs⟩ ‘non-canonical subjects’. With bivalent experiencer verbs, the Stimulus is in the absolutive, and is hence treated as ⟨:p⟩. There are numerous ways of interpreting the argument structure of these verbs; these use of the ⟨:ncs⟩ and ⟨:p⟩

symbols is a compromise solution. Examples of experiencer verbs are illustrated in (3) and in (1) above.

- (3) *it galli cinna dat:e jaħra jaħunnak:u*
- | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>it</i> | <i>gal-l-i</i> | <i>cin-na</i> | <i>dat:e</i> | <i>j-aħ</i> | <i>=ra</i> |
| DEM.D | boy-OBL-SUP | self-GEN | father | M.SG-see:PF | =ADD |
| #neg | ln_dem | np.h:ncs | ln_refl.h:poss | np.h:p | lv_v |
| | | | | | =lv |
- j-aħ-un-n-ak:u*
M.SG-see:PF-AOR-CVB-PRS:NEG
v:pred %
'This son didn't see him at all.'
- [mc_chirag_ismail_0029]

1.1.2 Predicative expressions of possession

In predicative expressions of possession in Chirag, the possessor normally receives genitive case and the possessee absolutive case. We treat these clauses as intransitive clauses, with the possessee as subject.

- (4) *burɁnaw q:at:a nik'a:ze qu burɁuble it:ala*
- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>burɁnaw q:at:a</i> | <i>nik'a:ze</i> | <i>qu</i> | <i>b-urɁ-ub-le</i> | <i>it:-a-la</i> |
| Gurgnav_canyon | little-ATR | field | N.SG-become:IPF-AOR-CVB | DEM.D-PL-GEN |
| # pn_np:l | ln_adj | np:s | v:predex | dem_pro.h:obl % |
- 'They had a little field in Gurgnav canyon.'
- [mc_chirag_shamil_0012]

1.1.3 Verbs of speech

Verbs of speech in Chirag are generally transitive, that is, they assign ergative case to the NP expressing the speaker. They are very commonly used to introduce direct speech, and only infrequently occur with nominal objects. As is standard practice in GRAID, direct speech complements are not formally analyzed as a ⟨:p⟩ arguments of the clauses that introduce them, but merely receive the tag ⟨#ds⟩ 'direct speech' (as per Haig & Schnell 2014: 26). As a consequence, in some Multi-CAST corpora (notably Northern Kurdish, among others), the subjects of morphologically transitive verbs of speech have been annotated as cases of S.

In the Chirag corpus, we have extended the morphological definition of A arguments to verbs of speech, even when they are not paired with a P argument in the annotations. To denote their special status, the subjects of these verbs have been annotated ⟨:a_ds⟩ 'subject of a transitive verb of speech' as in the example below.

- (5) *hic'ile cakanne ible, arganda du*
- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| <i>hic'ile</i> | <i>ca-kan-ne</i> | <i>ib-le</i> | <i>arg-an-da</i> | <i>du</i> |
| later | one-S-ERG | say:PF+AOR-CVB | go:IPF-PART-1 | 1SG |
| #cv | other | np.h:a_ds | v:pred | % |
| | | | | #ds |
| | | | | v:pred |
| | | | | pro.1:s % |
| | | | | 0001 |
- 'Then one man said, "I will go"'
- [mc_chirag_mannay_0010]

1.2 Converb clauses

Chirag has a number of verb forms that lack some of the features exhibited by normal finite verbs, such as the full range of TAM marking and agreement morphology; the most notable and by far most common of these forms are converbs.

Crucially, the imperfective and perfective converbs are homonymous with the third person affirmative forms of the present durative and present resultative, respectively. For this reason it is generally not possible to disambiguate between converbs and finite forms unless either are in their first/second person affirmative or negative forms. For instance, it is likely that at least one of the verb forms in (6) is finite, but it is impossible to say with full confidence which exactly.

Given this irresolvable ambiguity, we have chosen to adopt a somewhat non-committal stance in the treatment of these verbs, annotating all of them the same way as finite verbs but also marking the clauses they predicate with the additional tag <#cv>.

- (6) *hic'ile ca wa^sde ditaqible it:ala ance, čula ance durχuble čebže wahze, ditaqible ance.*
- | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| <i>hic'ile</i> | <i>ca</i> | <i>wa^sde</i> | <i>d-itaq-ib-le</i> | <i>it:-a-la</i> | <i>anc-e</i> |
| later | one | time | N.PL-disappear:PF-AOR-CVB | DEM.D-PL-GEN | OX-PL |
| #cv | other | 1n | np:other | v:pred | 1n_dem_pro.h:poss np.n:s % |
-
- | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <i>ču-la</i> | <i>anc-e</i> | <i>d-urχ-ub-le</i> | <i>čebže</i> | <i>wah-ze</i> |
| self:PL-GEN | OX-PL | N.PL-become:IPF-AOR-CVB | self:PL | owner-ATR |
| #cv | 1n_refl.h:poss | np.n:s | v:pred | refl.h:other rn_np.h % |
-
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>d-itaq-ib-le</i> | <i>anc-e</i> |
| N.PL-disappear:PF-AOR-CVB | OX-PL |
| #cv | v:pred np.n:s % |
- ‘One day their oxen disappeared; they had their own oxen, the oxen disappeared.’
[mc_chirag_zahrat_0005-0007]

1.3 Complex predicates

Complex predicates (CPs) combine a semantically weak light verb (or “vector verb”) such as *do*, *be*, or *become* with a some kind of non-verbal element, the latter of which supplies most of the semantic content to the expression. In many cases, the non-verbal element syntactically behaves like a regular object if nominal, but is only interpreted and annotated as such (i.e. <:p>) if it is unambiguously referential. In all other cases, including where the complement is not nominal, it instead receives the special function gloss <:1vc> ‘light verb complement’, which marks it out as a special type of expression. In this case, it also invariably receives the form gloss <other>, as its actual lexical category cannot always be ascertained. For ease of identification, the subjects of complex predicates further receive the specifier <_cp>.

The complement and light verb contribute jointly to the argument structure of the entire expression (cf. Butt 2010). In most cases, the case marking of the subject is determined by the light verb: If the light verb is transitive, the subject of the complex predicate is ergative as in (7); if intransitive, it is absolutive as in (8).

- (7) *a^ɬc:e nus:ara c'aχ: dirq'it:e, nix:ala š:ira c'aχ: birq'it:e!*
 you.SG-ERG we(EXCL) =ADD shameful LCT-do:IPF-FUT.2SG
 #ds pro.2:a_cp pro.1:p =other other:lvc v:pred %
 nix:a-la š:i =ra c'aχ: b-irq'-it:e
 we(INCL)-GEN village =ADD shameful N.SG-do:IPF-FUT.2SG
 #ds 0.2:a_cp ln_pro.1:poss np:p =other other:lvc v:pred %
 “‘You will disgrace us, (you) will disgrace our village!’” [mc_chirag_mannay_0011]
- (8) *ca wa^ɬde, ɁurɁnaw ba^ɬli badir buχuble arčala insane.*
 one time Gurgnav top-OBL-SUP appear H.PL-become:PF-AOR-CVB
 # ln np:other ln_pn_np np:l other:lvc v:pred
 arč-a-la insan-e
 horse-PL-GEN person-PL
 ln_np.n np.h:s_cp %
 ‘One day, horsemen appeared Gurgnav’s edge.’ [mc_chirag_shamil_0014]

1.4 Structurally and pragmatically suppressed arguments

In a number of constructions in Chirag, certain arguments are almost always (though not necessarily categorically) suppressed, that is there is no overt realization of the argument relation. Where these arguments are referential, they have been annotated ⟨f0⟩ ‘forced zero’, in contrast to pragmatically suppressed zero ⟨0⟩. It should be noted that ⟨f0⟩ is not a type of ⟨0⟩, so the two categories should never be conflated during analysis. The ⟨f0⟩ symbol is primarily applied to gaps in relative clauses, which are discussed in Section 1.4.1, and to the subjects of infinitival clauses, discussed in Section 1.4.2.

1.4.1 Gapped constituents in relative clauses

Relative clauses in Chirag generally contain some participial (i.e. non-finite, or less finite) form of a verb. In relative clauses modifying locative or temporal constituents like in (9), the head noun is obligatorily gapped; in other cases, it may rarely be realized as a long-distance reflexive. Since to our knowledge no instance of this occurs in this corpus, we have elected to annotate all gapped constituents with the form gloss ⟨rel_f0⟩.

- (9) *it šinzir b̄arq:ible bur̄xuble aglar̄xan kejs:un mus:a n̄aq:g buci šinzir*
 it šinzir b-̄arq:-ib-le b-ur̄x-ub-le
 DEM.D chain N.SG-carry.away:PF-AOR-CVB N.SG-become:IPF-AOR-CVB
 #cv 0.h:a 1n_dem np:p v:pred rv_aux
 aglar̄xan ke-js:-un mus:a
 Aglarkhan DOWN-(M.SG)sleep:PF-AOR place
 #rc rel_f0:1 pn_np.h:s v:pred % np:g
 n̄aq:-g b-uc-i šinzir
 hand-LOC N.SG-catch:PF-INF chain
 #ac in_f0.h:a np:l vother:pred np:p % %
 ‘(They) pulled this chain to the place where Aglarkhan slept so he could hold the chain in his
 hands [as he slept].’ [mc_chirag_husen_0031]

1.4.2 Infinitival clauses

In Chirag, overt realizations of the subjects of infinitival clauses are possible, though uncommon. Since no such instances are attested in the corpus, we have decided to treat them as functionally suppressed for the purposes of annotating this corpus, glossing them as ⟨in_f0⟩ and their corresponding predicates ⟨vother:pred⟩. Infinitival constructions commonly serve as final adverbial clauses as in (10), and as complements of ‘want’, ‘begin’, and other verbs, as in (11).

- (10) *χ:̄abrac:irkačaraḥ luk’iv̄i agurre.*
 χ:̄ab-ra-c-i-rka-ča-r-aḥ
 grave-PL-INTER-ELAT-UP-F.SG-ALL
 #cv 0.h:s np:l
 luk’iv̄-i ag-ur-re
 search-INF go:PF-AOR-CVB
 #ac in_f0.h:a 0.n:p vother:pred % v:pred %
 ‘(She) went across the cemetery to search (for her cattle).’ [mc_chirag_zahrat_0035]
- (11) *nis:i na q:arbac:ille dač’i bik:lač:u*
 nis:-i na
 we(EXCL)-OBL(SUPER) now
 #neg pro.1:ncs other
 0010
 q:ar-ba-c:ille d-ač’-i
 old_woman-PL-COMIT LCT-come:PF-INF
 #cc:p in_f0.1:s np.h:obl vother:pred %
 0010 0025
 b-ik:-l-ač:u
 N.SG-want:IPF-CVB-PRS:NEG
 v:pred %
 ‘We didn’t want to go with the old women.’ [mc_chirag_sapsap_0053]

1.5 Third person pronominal forms

Chirag does not have a separate paradigm of third person personal pronouns; their role is filled by an extensive set of demonstrative pronouns. Only first and second person pronouns receive the form gloss ⟨pro⟩; third person pronouns and other demonstrative forms are glossed ⟨dem_pro⟩ instead.

- (12) *ite š:ila insanaj bursuble cara helit:e.*

<i>it-e</i>	<i>š:i-la</i>	<i>insan-a-j</i>	<i>b-urs-ub-le</i>	<i>cara</i>	<i>heli-t:e</i>
DEM.D-ERG	village-GEN	person-PL-SUPER	N.SG-tell-AOR-CVB	PTCL	DEM.A-ADV
#cv <i>dem_pro</i> .h:a	ln_np:poss	np.h:g	v:pred	other	dem_pro:other
'Like this she told the villagers (about it).'				[mc_chirag_zahrat_0043]	

- (13) *nus:ara barχle daxade.*

<i>nus:a</i>	<i>=ra</i>	<i>barχ-le</i>	<i>d-ax-ade</i>
we(EXCL)	=ADD	far-ADV	LCT-walk-IPFT.1
# <i>pro</i> .1:s	=rn	other	v:pred %
'We would go far ahead.'			
[mc_chirag_sapsap_0028]			

1.6 Verbs of speech used as quotatives

In Chirag, the verb *k'war* is very frequently used in lieu of a quotative, often interspersed throughout quoted material as in (14). In this use, it always occurs without an overt subject and any clausal modifiers. So as to not inflate the number of embedded clauses in the corpus, it has been glossed it as CIT 'quotative' and annotated simply as ⟨other⟩ rather than as the predicate of a clause where it occurs on its own alongside direct speech.

- (14) *hejze q:arbe argle k'war hic'ile bilak:wac:e s:ap's:ap'e dici*

<i>hej-ze</i>	<i>q:ar-be</i>	<i>arg-le</i>	<i>k'war</i>	<i>hic'ile</i>	<i>bilak:wac:e</i>
DEM.S-ATR	old_woman-PL	go:IPF-CVB	CIT	later	Lak+PL-INTER
#ds_cv ln_dem	np.h:s	v:pred	<i>other</i>	other	pn_np.h:g
	0012				0022

<i>s:ap's:ap'e</i>	<i>d-ic-i</i>
wild_leek-PL	N.PL-sell:PF-INF
#ds_ac in_f0.1:a	np:p vother:pred % %
0012	0020

'(She said,) "Those old women are going to the Lak people to sell wild leek."

[mc_chirag_sapsap_0013]

2 Notes on the RefIND annotations

2.1 Referents in clauses otherwise not considered

Segments that have not been annotated for whatever reason, be that because they are incomplete or not syntactically well-formed, or because they are taken out of the normal flow of narration (e.g. because they address the listener, directly reply to the interviewer's questions, or are

not produced by the primary speaker), are marked as ⟨#nc⟩ ‘not considered’, and all of the elements they contain are glossed ⟨nc⟩.

However, these segments may still contain identifiable discourse references, which are presumably registered by the listener even in cases where the clause in question is abandoned part-way through. So as to preserve the genuine sequence of references in the annotations, mentions in ⟨#nc⟩ segments are indexed with RefIND, even though they do not receive meaningful GRAID annotations. This is true of all Multi-CAST corpora with RefIND.

For the Chirag corpus, however, we have attempted to go one step further by adding form and person/animacy glosses back onto those ⟨nc⟩ elements that have referent indices. The glosses are added as specifiers to the righthand side of the ⟨nc⟩ symbol, yielding, for instance, ⟨nc_np⟩ or ⟨nc_pro.h⟩. Grammatical functions are not glossed.

- (15) *dark:^wala deble nix:ala luvāt bač’a birkle, ...*
- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|---|
| <i>dark:^wa-la</i> | <i>deble</i> | <i>nix:a-la</i> | <i>luvat</i> | <i>b-ač’a</i> | <i>b-irk-le</i> | |
| Dargwa-GEN | COP+CONC | we(INCL)-GEN | NC | N.SG-separate | N.SG-fall:IPF-CVB | |
| #nc nc | nc | nc_pro.1 | nc | nc | nc | % |
| | | 0043 | | | | |
- ‘Although the Dargins, our language is different, ...’ [mc_chirag_ismail_0110]

This approach makes it clear that while some information can be gleaned from these elements, one should not rely on being able to retrieve full information from the rest of the ⟨#nc⟩ segment. For most types of analysis, the ⟨nc_⟩ glosses should not be conflated with related GRAID symbols.

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Appendices

A List of corpus-specific GRAID symbols

The following is a list of the non-standard GRAID symbols used in the annotation of the Multi-CAST Chirag corpus. Please refer to the *GRAID manual* (Haig & Schnell 2014: 54–55) for an inventory of basic GRAID symbols.

Form symbols and specifiers

⟨f0⟩	structurally suppressed argument slot of a predicate
⟨in_f0⟩	suppressed subject of an infinitival clause
⟨rel_f0⟩	gapped argument of a relative clause
⟨dem_pro⟩	demonstrative pronoun
⟨pn_np⟩	proper name
⟨intrg_other⟩	interrogative pronoun
⟨indef_other⟩	indefinite pronoun

Function symbols and specifiers

⟨:lvc⟩	non-verbal complement of a complex predicate
⟨_ds⟩	<i>specifier:</i> subject of a verb of speech; attaches to ⟨:s⟩, ⟨:a⟩, and ⟨:ncs⟩
⟨_cp⟩	<i>specifier:</i> subject of a complex predicate; attaches to ⟨:s⟩, ⟨:a⟩, and ⟨:ncs⟩

Clause boundary symbols

⟨cv⟩, ⟨_cv⟩	<i>tag:</i> converb clause
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Subconstituent symbols

⟨_adj⟩	adjectival modifier; attaches to ⟨ln⟩ and ⟨rn⟩
⟨_dem⟩	demonstrative determiner; attaches to ⟨ln⟩ and ⟨rn⟩
⟨_num⟩	numeral modifier; attaches to ⟨ln⟩ and ⟨rn⟩
⟨_aux⟩	auxiliary; attaches to ⟨lv⟩ and ⟨rv⟩

Other symbols

⟨nc_⟩	<i>specifier:</i> marks form glosses with RefIND indices in segments otherwise not considered (i.e. those marked ⟨#nc⟩)
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B List of abbreviated morphological glosses

1	first person	INTER	locative marker ‘in a mass, between, among’
2	second person		
3	third person	INTJ	interjection
ABSTR	abstract nominalization	IPF	imperfective
AD	locative case ‘near, close to’	IPFT	imperfect
ADD	additive	IQ	indirect question
ADDR	addressee demonstrative	ITR	intransitive
ADV	adverbial	JUSS	jussive
ALL	allative case	L	low demonstrative
ANTE	spatial marker ‘before’	LCT	plural locutor agreement
ANTR	anterior	LOC	locative
AOR	aorist	LV	light verb
ASC	associative plural	M	masculine
ATR	attributive	N	neuter
AWAY	spatial prefix ‘away’	NEG	negation
CAUS	causative	NMLZ	nominalization
CIT	<i>k’war</i> uses as a quotative	NMR	numeral connector
COMIT	comitative	OBL	oblique stem
CONC	concessive	ORD	ordinal
COND	conditional	OUT	spatial prefix ‘out’
COP	copula	PART	participle
CVB	converb	PF	perfective
DEM	demonstrative	PL	plural
DIST	distal demonstrative	POST	spatial marker ‘behind’
DOWN	spatial case ‘down’	PROH	prohibitive
ELAT	elative	PRS	present
ERG	ergative	PST	past
ESS	essive	PTCL	particle
EXCL	exclusive	Q	question particle
F	feminine	RQ	speculative question (‘wonder whether’)
FUT	future	TEMP	temporal marker ‘when’
GEN	genitive	TERM	terminative
H	human	S	substantivized
HI	deictic prefix ‘hither’	SG	singular
HPL	human plural	SUB	spatial marker ‘under’
IMP	imperative	SUPER	spatial marker ‘on’
IN	spatial marker ‘in’	UP	spatial prefix ‘up’
INCL	inclusive	VOC	vocative
INDEF	indefinite		
INF	infinitive	NC	not classified
INT.FUT	intentional future		

Multi-CAST

Multilingual Corpus of Annotated Spoken Texts



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