The exponence of grammatical number in Kamya

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► I present an explanation of how grammatical number is expressed in Kamya
► Nouns and verbs show different patterns of number marking
► Plurality is not obligatorily marked on nouns
► Nouns may show a mismatch between semantic and morphological number
► Verbs obligatorily agree with the semantic number of subjects

INTRODUCTION TO KAMYA I

- ▶ Begun in 2018 and I've been working on it on and off since
- ▶ Set in modern-day south-eastern Europe
- ▶ Intended to be coherent and naturalistic (albeit with some artistic licence)
- ▶ As well as moderately constrained but still interesting

► Typological overview:

- Nominative–accusative (with a soupçon of fluid-S)
- Predominantly suffixing synthetic morphology (largely agglutinative)
- Basic S–V–O word order
- In noun phrases, all modifiers precede nouns (except full relative clauses)
- No true class of adpositions
- No grammatical gender (including in personal pronouns)
- Eight grammatical cases
- As for grammatical number…

NOUNS

▶ Nouns display a morphological distinction between general and plural number

   📖 See e.g. Corbett (2000: 9–19) for an introduction to general number

▶ General nouns may refer to either a semantic singular or plural

   ☞ In jargon: They may include either atomic entities and pluralities in their denotation

▶ Morphological plurals refer unambiguously to semantic plurals

   📄 Cf. Amharic (Kapeliuk 1994; Leslau 1995; Baye 1996), Indonesian (Sneddon 1996), Mongolian (Juhanen 2012), Turkish (Kornfilt 1997; Schroeder 1999; Göksel & Kerslake 2005)

► Unmarked nouns are general and the plural may be marked by suffixation

- *kudi*   'book(s)'
- *vorha*   'bull(s)'
- *çulu*   'child(ren)'

- *kudida*   'books'
- *vorhada*   'bulls'
- *çuluda*   'children'

► Though such plural marking cannot co-occur with a quantifier or cardinal numeral

- *gara kudi*   'a lot of books'
- *şeda vorha*   'a few bulls'
- *iz (hiri) çulu*   'three children'

- **gara kudida*
- **şeda vorhada*
- **iz (hiri) çuluda*

▶ Except that certain nouns are invariably found with overt plural marking

- *gara layda*   'a lot of money'   - **gara lay*
- *eşek amda*   'too many people'   - **eşek am*
- *rawiz muşta*   'some alms'   - **rawiz muş*

► *-da, -ta, -ada* (cognate with *hida* 'swarm')

● *waça*	'tree(s)'	● *waçada*	'trees'
● *tom*	'goat(s)'	● *tomda*	'goats'
● *vaş*	'husband(s)'	● *vaşta*	'husbands'
● *şedheş*	'brain(s)'	● *şedheşada*	'brains'
● *begh*	'adze(s)'	● *beghada*	'adzes'
● *emek*	'sow(s)'	● *emkada*	'sows'

▶ *-çi* (cognate with *dişi* 'two')

- *kun*   'eye(s)'
- *poç*   'leg(s)'
- *diye*   'lung(s)'
- *anka*   'sleeve(s), trouser leg(s)'

- *kunçi*   'eyes'
- *poçoçi*   'legs'
- *diyeçi*   'lungs'
- *ankaçi*   'sleeves, trouser legs'

► Additional wrinkles:

- *mar*   'person'
- *kada*   'man/men'
- *staç*   'onion(s) (count)'
- *lerteska*   'pea(s) (count)'

- *amda*   'people'
- *kadanya*   'men'
- *staçanya*   'onion (mass)'
- *leret*   'peas (mass)'

► Collective nouns derived with -*anya* (from *ʕanja † 'bundle') that have animate referents may act either as semantically singular or plural

- *mugu*   'pig(s)'

- *dhuri*   'to watch'

- *muguda*   'pigs'
- *muganya*   'swine; pork'

- *dhuranya*   'audience'
- **dhuranyada*

► Personal pronouns show pervasive and obligatory suppletion for number

	SG	**PL**
1	cen	me
2	ta	kunya
3	a	hay

Table 1: Personal pronouns (nominative only)

DISTRIBUTIVE PLURAL

▶ The distributive plural refers to a number of nouns distributed in space or time

 📖 See e.g. Corbett (2000: 111–7), Dixon (2012: 50)

▶ This is conveyed in Kamya with whole-word reduplication

 (1) Cen beldit **kudiz kudiz** na temtişa.
   cen   bel-dit **kudi-z** **kudi-z** na temt-işa
   1SG.NOM find-NPST **book-ACC book-ACC** DEF room-LOC
   'I found books [strewn about] in the room.'

ASSOCIATIVE PLURAL

▶ The associative plural denotes a plurality of nouns that constitute a coherent group or set in some way

📖 See e.g. Corbett (2000: 101–11), Dixon (2012: 50–51), Daniel & Moravcsik (2013)

▶ In Kamya, the associative is broader in use than usually seen cross-linguistically

▶ It is formed by postposed partial reduplication

• *Yuhan*	'John'	• *Yuhan varuhan*	'John and his friends'
• *bata*	'parent(s)'	• *bata varata*	'senior family relatives'
• *şeref*	'family/families'	• *şeref vareref*	'kith and kin'
• *goz*	'cow(s)'	• *goz varoz*	'farmyard animals'
• *ruz*	'stone(s)'	• *ruz varuz*	'stones and debris'

VERBS

NUMBER ON VERBS I

► Verbs obligatorily agree in semantic not morphological number with subjects

► The singular is unmarked and the plural is marked by suffixation

(2) a. Na çera akit n' emlaz.
     na çera   ak-it   n' eml-az
     DEF woman.NOM eat-NPST DEF apple-ACC
     'The woman ate the apple(s).'

  b. Na çera ak**ar**dit n' emlaz.
     na çera   ak-**ar**-dit   n' eml-az
     DEF woman.NOM eat-**PL**-NPST DEF apple-ACC
     'The women ate the apple(s).'

  c. Na çera**da** ak**ar**dit n' emlaz.
     na çera-**da**-Ø   ak-**ar**-dit   n' eml-az
     DEF woman-**PL**-NOM eat-**PL**-NPST DEF apple-ACC
     'The women ate the apple(s).'

► *-ar, -r* (cognate with *gara* 'many, much')

• *kavuk*	'dwell (SG)'		• *kavukar*	'dwell (PL)'
• *hagi*	'gather (SG)'		• *hagiyar*	'gather (PL)'
• *zumu*	'swell (SG)'		• *zumuwar*	'swell (PL)'
• *çehe*	'play (SG)'		• *çeher*	'play (PL)'
• *duvo*	'glow (SG)'		• *duvor*	'glow (PL)'
• *zayica*	'sharpen (SG)'		• *zayicar*	'sharpen (PL)'

NUMBER ON VERBS III

► Certain verbs also exhibit stem mutation or even suppletion

• *zadh*	'herd (SG)'	• *zedhar*	'herd (PL)'
• *diti*	'own (SG)'	• *diçar*	'own (PL)'
• *bele*	'be able to (SG)'	• *ber*	'be able to (PL)'
• *urul*	'know (SG)'	• *rular*	'know (PL)'
• *imin*	'kill (SG)'	• *imar*	'kill (PL)'
• *hem*	'go/come (SG)'	• *har*	'go/come (PL)'
• *em*	'carry (SG)'	• *ledher*	'carry (PL)'

CLAUSES

▶ Since number is recoverable from the verb, it is usually not marked on subjects

(3) Na sosa hir**ar** angluçata.
na sosa hir-**ar**-Ø angluç-ata
DEF child.NOM speak-**PL**-PRES English-INST
'The children speak English.'

(4) Na zuruvar poşin**ar**cuz.
na zuruvar poş-in-**ar**-cuz
DEF banana.NOM rotten-INCH-**PL**-FUT
'The bananas are going to go rotten.'

► But number is also often left unmarked on non-subjects

► The indefinite article strongly implies a singular rather than plural reading

    (5)   a.   Me gihardit **şi** caz luçez.
               me   gih-ar-dit   **şi**   caz luçe-z
               1PL.NOM buy-PL-NPST **INDEF** new chair-ACC
               'We've bought a new chair.'

          b.   Me gihardit caz luçez.
               me   gih-ar-dit   caz luçe-z
               1PL.NOM buy-PL-NPST new chair-ACC
               'We've bought new chairs.'

► It is also possible to use the indefinite article with count nouns as a partitive

► But this usage is almost always found with overt plural marking

> (6) a. Na zaşka bukit **şi** keriz.
> na zaşka buk-it **şi** keri-z
> DEF bear.NOM hit-NPST **INDEF** fish-ACC
> 'The bear caught a fish.'
>
> b. (#) Na zaşka bukit **şi** keriz.
> na zaşka buk-it **şi** keri-z
> DEF bear.NOM hit-NPST **INDEF** fish-ACC
> Intended: 'The bear caught some fish.'
>
> c. Na zaşka bukit **şi** keri**da**z.
> na zaşka buk-it **şi** keri-**da**-z
> DEF bear.NOM hit-NPST **INDEF** fish-**PL**-ACC
> 'The bear caught some fish.'

► With the definite article, if there is no marking, number is ambiguous for non-subjects

► But this is often inferable from context or real-world knowledge

    (7) Cen be mal **na** şulaz **na** guşazen
        cen   be   mal   **na** şula-z   **na** guşa-zen
        1SG.NOM NEG see.PRES **DEF** star-ACC **DEF** cloud-ABL
        'I can't see the star(s) because of the cloud(s).'

    (8) Cedhesa **na** kudiz **na** gidozuri.
        cedhe-sa **na** kudi-z   **na** gido-zuri
        put-IMP **DEF** book-ACC **DEF** table-ALL
        'Put the book(s) on the table(s).'

▶ With naturally plural body parts, the definite article often implies plurality

(9) Ceş çuto vanad **na** kawaz.
ceş çut-o-Ø vand-Ø **na** kaw-az
1SG.DAT need-MDP-PRES wash-SUP **DEF** hand-ACC
'I need to wash my hands.'

▶ Though this not necessarily always the case

(10) a. Reça ceş **na** tere kawaz.
reç-a ceş **na** tere kaw-az
give-IMP 1SG.DAT **DEF** 2SG.GEN hand-ACC
'Give me your hand(s).'

b. Reça ceş **na** tere kaw**çi**z.
reç-a ceş **na** tere kaw-**çi**-z
give-IMP 1SG.DAT **DEF** 2SG.GEN hand-**PL**-ACC
'Give me your hands.'

▶ In any case, overt nominal plural marking is somewhat uncommon

▶ When it is used, this is typically to provide disambiguation or focus

    (11)   Buka zahat na pito**da**z na stenazen?
           buka   zaha-t   na pito-**da**-z   na sten-azen
           who.NOM remove-NPST DEF letter-**PL**-ACC DEF box-ABL
           'Who took the letters out of the box?'

    (12)   Cen çizat şel**da**z vosa co leşet şinko ser şelaz.
           cen   çiza-t   şel-**da**-z   vosa co leşe-t   şinko ser şel-az
           1SG.NOM request-NPST stamp-**PL**-ACC but MIR acquire-NPST only one stamp-ACC
           'I asked for stamps but only got one stamp.'

▶ In generics, unmarked nouns are used with unmarked verbs

(13) Rowdezuro reçi alaz.
rowdezuro   reçi   ala-z
crocodile.NOM give.PRES egg-ACC
'Crocodiles lay eggs.'

(14) Kez ak perçaz, ani gela agad.
kez   ak   perç-az   ani gela agad
dog.NOM eat.PRES meat-ACC but horse no
'Dogs eat meat but horses don't.'

SUMMARY

- I've showcased the exponence of grammatical number in Kamya
- Nouns exhibit a morphological general–plural distinction
- But a semantic singular–plural distinction
- Verbs agree with the semantic number of subjects
- Information on number is also recoverable from adnominal modifiers
- Or, failing that, context or real-world knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

1	first person	INDEF	indefinite
2	second person	INST	instrumental
3	third person	LOC	locative
ABL	ablative	MDP	mediopassive
ACC	accusative	MIR	mirative
ALL	allative	NEG	negative
DAT	dative	NOM	nominative
DEF	definite	NPST	near past
FUT	future	PL	plural
GEN	genitive	PRES	present
IMP	imperative	SG	singular
INCH	inchoative	SUP	supine

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