Alignment typology, reflexives, and reciprocals in Tsezic languages

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Nakh-Daghestanian languages are usually described has being (morphologically) ergative. Agents in transitive clauses are marked with the ergative case whereas subjects of intransitive clauses and objects of transitive clauses get the absolutive. In addition, in many Nakh-Daghestanian languages verbal and sometimes adverbial affixes agree in gender and number with the absolutive-marked argument of the clause (i.e. S or O). However, a closer look at the grammatical roles reveals many instance of neutral or accusative alignment. For example, a number of Nakh-Daghestanian languages do not distinguish absolutive and ergative for some or all SAP pronouns.

In this talk we want to take a closer look at the alignment typology in the Tsezic languages (Hunzib, Bezhta, Khwarshi, Tsez and Hinuq). We will look at coding properties such as case marking on nouns and pronouns and verb indexing, and at behavioral properties such as control. A special focus will be on reflexive and reciprocal constructions since these constructions exhibit interesting variations among the Tsezic languages.