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On the Expression of Spatial Relations in Ardeşen-Laz

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This paper gives an overview of the means of expression which are used in descriptions of spatial scenes in Laz. With motion verbs, Laz uses the satellite-framed strategy with motion-manner conflation in the verbal root. Path information is given in preverbal satellites. With respect to locative expressions it belongs to the multi-verb-type languages. Hence, considering the lexical properties of the verb roots, Laz is a rather ordinary language. However, with respect to the semantics of its spatial case system and the semantics of the satellites, i.e. its system of spatial preverbs, it will be shown that Laz is typologically rather unusual.

1. Introduction¹

As a sister language of Georgian, spoken on the south-eastern coast of the Black Sea, Laz is the only member of the South Caucasian family which is spoken primarily outside of Georgia. The vast majority of its speakers live in Turkey and are bilingual. Laz is a severely endangered language and is used almost exclusively as a means of oral communication among family members. While most Laz older than forty are competent speakers of the language, an increasing number of young Laz are fluent only in Turkish, with a rapid decline of language competence with ethnic Laz younger than twenty (Kutscher 2008).

The data on Ardeşen-Laz presented in this article were collected during several fieldwork stays in Turkey. The major part of the data are elicited utterances on the basis of visual stimuli developed by the Language and Cognition Group of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen, namely the Topological Relations Picture Series (TRPS) and the Picture Series for Positional Verbs (PSPV). These two stimuli are booklets with drawings and photographs showing topological configurations and were tested with 4 fluent speakers of Laz. These data are supplemented by spontaneous elicitations and some overheard utterances during the fieldwork stay, excerpts of spoken narratives collected during an earlier fieldwork trip to Ardeşen (published as Kutscher & Genç 1998), and elicited data from some speakers of Laz living in Germany.

2. Some Basic Facts on Ardeşen-Laz

Laz as is spoken in Turkey is divided into four dialectal variants which are named after the urban centers around which the variant is spoken. The dialects are named either after the Turkish or the Laz name of the corresponding city (Turkish/Laz: Pazar/Atina, Ardeşen/Artaşeni, Fındıklı-Arhavi/Vitse-Arkabi, Hopa/Xopa). The dialects are all of equal sociolinguistic status since a standard variety of Laz has not been established (cf. Kutscher 2001, chapter 1). The variety of Laz discussed here is the one spoken in the city of Ardeşen and the villages of the Ardeşen region. Although this dialect (Ardeşen-Laz) is more or less similar to the other dialects with respect to verb morphology, it differs considerably from other Laz varieties with respect to the

¹I would like to thank Ioana Chitoran, Denis Creissels, Colette Grinevald, René Lacroix and Dejan Matić for inspiring comments on previous versions of this paper. I am also grateful to the patience and helpfulness of the Laz speakers in the region of Ardeşen and in Germany, who have supported my work for several years now.

case marking system and argument linking rules (cf. Kutscher 2001, chapter 5). While all other dialects of Laz have case marking relating to syntactic relations of core arguments (ergative, nominative/absolutive, dative), Ardeşen-Laz does not case-mark core arguments, cf. (4) below.

Laz is basically an SOV language, exhibiting the categories case and number in nominal expressions and a rich inventory of verbal categories with up to eight different morphological slots to be filled in the predicate, cf. table 1.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
NEG/MOD-	preverb-	1/2person-	version vowel-	root-	CAUS-	TAM+P-	number
		(A or U)	(voice, applicative)				

Table 1: Template for Inflectional Categories of the Verb in Laz

An example of an inflected verb form is given in (1).

- (1) varelebuxedit
 var-ele-b-u-xed-i-t
 A-B-C-D-E-G-H
 NEG-beside-1A-VV-sit-PAST.PFV+non-3rdA-PL
 ‘We did not sit beside him/her/it.’

As table 1 and example (1) show, the information on person and number in Laz predicates is not marked by a single affix but rather results from the interaction of prefixes and suffixes. The latter are portmanteau forms coding tense/aspect/mood and person simultaneously (cf. Mattissen 1995). Concerning the person marking in the predicate, Laz exhibits a characteristic asymmetry. Only 1st person and 3rd person actors as well as 1st person and 2nd person undergoers are marked on the predicate, 2nd person actors and 3rd person undergoers are unmarked but can be deduced paradigmatically. Disregarding this asymmetry in the inflectional paradigm, predicates in Laz are head marking, with up to two arguments being represented in the verbal inflection, i.e. depending on the valence of the verb, verbal inflection is mono- or polypersonal. With polypersonal verbs the finite verb inflects for both actor and undergoer, cf. (2).²

- (2) ce-k-çare
 PRV-2U-beat:[1>2]SG:FUT.PFV³
 ‘I will beat you!’

In contrast to its sister varieties, Ardeşen-Laz is an active language (Klimov 1974), i.e. monopersonal verbs subdivide into two classes, depending on whether the verb takes a controlling or non-controlling single core argument (also called semantic alignment system, cf. Donohue & Wichmann (eds.) 2008). Controlling single core arguments are marked as actor on the predicate, cf. the first person marker *b-* in (3a). Non-controlling single core arguments are

²Examples of my own data are written in the Lazoğlı/Feurstein-alphabet introduced to the Laz community in Turkey in 1984. It deviates from the Caucasianists’ transcription in the following graphemes (<Laz = Caucasianist>): <ç = č>, <ç̣ = č'>, <c =j>, <ḳ = k'>, <ḡ = p'>, <ş = š>, <č̣ = t'>, <ʒ = c>, <ʒ̣ = c'>. For cited data from other sources the original transcription and glossing has been kept.

³Polypersonal inflecting verbs are marked for two arguments. In the glosses this is represented by an angled bracket “>”, which indicates that an actor (A) is acting on an undergoer (U).

marked as undergoer, cf. the first person marker *m-* in (3b). See also Kutscher (2009: 116f.) for further discussion.

(3a) *b-ulur*
1A-go:SG:PRS
'I go.'

(3b) *m-a-çinden*
1U-VV-sneeze:SG:PRS
'I sneeze.'

While most Laz dialects have argument marking (nominative/absolute, ergative, dative) as well as adjunct marking cases (cf. Holisky 1991), in the dialect of Ardeşen argument-NPs are always unmarked for case, cf. (4). This holds for the actors of polypersonal predicates (4a, 4b), primary and secondary objects (in the sense of Dryer 1986), cf. (4b), and for the single core argument of monopersonal active and inactive predicates (4c).

(4a) *nana çay žiluy*
mother tea pluck:[3>3]SG:PRS
'Mother plucks tea.'

(4b) *oyretmeni bere kitabi me-çay*
teacher child book thither-give:[3>3]SG:PRS
'The teacher gives the book to the child.'

(4c) *biçi trayıduy / biçi aşıkurinen*
boy sing:3A:SG:PRS boy VV-be.afraid:3U:SG:PRS
'The boy sings.' 'The boy is afraid.'

The case system in Ardeşen-Laz is restricted to mark adjunct phrases, such as instrumentals (*-te* 'INS', cf. (5a)), comitatives (*-şkala* 'COM'), benefactives (*-şeni* 'BEN', cf. (5b)), goals and sources (*-şa* 'MOT'). See Kutscher (2001, chapter 5) for a detailed discussion of the case system in Ardeşen-Laz.

(5a) *žari-te go-çxu*
water-INS PRV-clean:[3>3]SG:PAST.PFV
'He cleaned it with water.' (Kutscher & Genç 1998: 184)

(5b) *oyretmeni Ali bere-şeni kitabi me-çu-i ?*
teacher Ali child-BEN book PRV-give:[3>3]SG:PAST.PFTV-QU
'Did the teacher give Ali the book for the child?'

As can be seen in (5), the core arguments of the verb *mepçam* 'give' are all unmarked for case while in contrast the beneficiary of the giving event, the child, is marked by the benefactive case marker *-şeni* 'BEN'. However, time and locative adjuncts are unmarked for case as well, cf. (6).

- (6) livadi ǰ-ǰrayudum
 garden 1A-sing:SG:PRS
 ‘I sing in the garden.’

Hence, third arguments (e.g. *kitabi* ‘book’ in (4b, 5b)) and time and locative adjuncts cannot formally be distinguished but can only be differentiated on semantic grounds.

Expressions of spatial relations frequently have a verbal predicate prefixed by a preverb with spatial semantics. In these cases, the ground-NP of the spatial expression is always unmarked for case in static and in directional expressions, cf. section 3.2. and Kutscher (2010). Since a spatial preverb has a two-place argument structure relating to the figure and the ground of a spatial configuration (Lehmann 1983: 147f; Craig & Hale 1988), we can thus conclude that ground-NPs unmarked for case are core arguments of the predicate. Since ground-NPs most commonly are non-speech-act participants, in most cases one cannot decide whether a ground-NP is a second or third argument.

3. Basic Spatial Constructions in Ardeşen-Laz

Basic Spatial Constructions⁴ in Ardeşen-Laz, i.e. the construction which is given as discourse-pragmatically unmarked answer to the question “where is X?” in the case of static spatial scenes and the one which is given to the question “where to/from where is X moving/being moved?” in the case of dynamic spatial scenes are constructed as containing three constituents: a NP referring to the entity being located (the figure), a NP referring to the place in which the figure is located or moved to or from (the ground) and a predicate which forms part of a morphological complex structure containing an inflected verb relating to the spatial orientation and shape characteristics of the figure (the spatial verb) together with a preverb giving spatial information about the configuration between figure and ground (the spatial relator). In the following sections, I will give a brief overview on the spatial semantics of the verbal root and its lexicalisation patterns (3.1) followed by some remarks on the spatial cases found in Laz, with a focus on the Motative case, a directional-ablative case which is only found in the Ardeşen variety of Laz (section 3.2) and an introductory overview on the preverbs in Laz (section 3.3). In section 4, I will then discuss the system of spatial preverbs in more detail, with a focus on the semantics of spatial preverbs which are used in expressions referring to topological spatial relations between figure and ground.

3.1 Lexicalisation Patterns of Spatial Verbs in Laz

In Ardeşen-Laz, information on spatial relations is mainly coded in the verbal complex, whereby the coding is divided among two subparts of the verbal complex, the preverb and the verb root. The spatial information given by the preverb focuses mainly on the axial orientation and the shape of the ground referent, while the verb root focuses on physical features of the figure (e.g. shape, consistency, etc.). Hence, for expressions of motion, the verb root codes motion and manner of motion and the preverb codes the path information, cf. (7). With respect to the

⁴The term Basic Spatial Construction is based on the term Basic Locative Construction as used by Levinson (2000), Levinson & Wilkins (eds.) (2006).

typology of motion verbs introduced by Talmy (1985, 2007), Laz thus uses the satellite-framed strategy, cf. schema in (8).

- (7) feluĥa mayara meŝkimĉiy
 feluĥa mayara meŝka-i-mĉiy
 boat cave in-VV-swim:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The boat floats in(to) the cave.’

- (8) schematic:
 [relator motion/manner+TAM+P]_{spatial configuration}
 PRV- verbroot+inflection

With respect to stance expressions, Laz is a multiverb type language (type II of the Ameka & Levinson 2007 locative verb typology), i.e. the positional verbs form a larger set of verbs expressing spatial dispositions of figures with respect to specific properties of the figure referent such as geometric properties, canonical vs. non-canonical orientation, single vs. aggregate, etc. (cf. Kutscher & Genç 2007). For instance, the positional verb *byun* denotes the configuration of a figure which is conceptualized as an aggregate of entities, such as beans (9a), as opposed to PRV-*zun*, which is used with non-aggregate like figures which lack a canonical orientation (9b) and PRV-*dgun* which is used with non-aggregate like figures that have a canonical vertical orientation (9c).

- (9a) lobca masa goo-byun
 beans table on-aggregate:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The beans are spread on the table.’ (PSPV 25)

- (9b) biga masa goo-zun
 stick table on-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The stick is (lying) on the table.’ (PSPV 17)

- (9c) tasi masa goo-dgun
 bowl table on-stand:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The bowl is (standing) on the table.’

In sum, we can state that with respect to the lexical properties of the verb roots, Laz is a rather ordinary language, fitting well into the attested typological patterns of spatial verbs of stance and motion. As the following sections will show, with respect to the semantics of its spatial case system and the semantics of the spatial preverbs, Laz is typologically rather unusual.

3.2 Spatial Case(s)

Spatial expressions differ in construction with respect to whether the spatial configurations they refer to are static or dynamic. With static spatial expressions the ground-NP is unmarked for case while in dynamic spatial expressions the ground may be marked with the motative case. The following examples give the two constructional schemes together with some language examples.

Static spatial expressions

The construction scheme of a static spatial expression in Ardeşen-Laz is given in (10).

(10)	figure	ground	[relator	manner+TAM+P] _{spatial configuration}	
	NP	NP	PRV-	verbroot+inflection	
	<i>şışe</i>	<i>masa</i>	<i>goo-</i>	<i>dgun</i>	(PSPV 37)
	bottle	table	on	stand:3A:SG:PRS	

As is evident from the example in (10), the Laz variety under scrutiny in this paper clearly has no morphological marking of the ground-NP which expresses the semantic role of place whatsoever. It is neither marked by case nor do we find adpositional marking in the phrase relating to the ground.

In other varieties of Laz, the semantic role of place is marked with the DAT-case affix, cf. (11) (see also Holisky 1991: 409; Lacroix 2009).

(11) Vitse-Arkabi (Fındıklı):

A	<i>msk'fa</i>	<i>bozo</i>	<i>kojiroms</i>	<i>ham</i>	<i>oxori-s</i>
A	pretty	girl	he.sees	this	house-DAT

'He sees a pretty girl in that house.' (Anderson 1963: 113)

cp. Ardeşen:

ham	oxori	a	<i>mskva</i>	<i>bozomota</i>	<i>a-ziren</i>
DEM	house	one	pretty	girl	VV-see:3A:SG:PRS

'He sees a pretty girl in that house.'

Dynamic spatial expressions

In dynamic spatial expressions in Ardeşen-Laz the ground-NP may be marked by the so-called motative case, cf. (12).⁵

(12)	figure	ground-case	[relator	manner+TAMP] _{spatial configuration}	
	NP	NP	PRV	verbroot+inflection	
	<i>şışe</i>	<i>masa-şa</i>	<i>e-</i>	<i>ǰ-çopum</i>	
	bottle	table-MOT	up	1A-take:[1>3]SG:PRS	

The term motative originates in a grammatical sketch on Laz written by Rosen (1844) and captures the particular semantics of this case, which only encodes that the referent of a figure nominal moves in relation to the motative-marked ground-nominal. The meaning of the motative is vague with respect to whether the figure is moving towards a goal, as in (13a), or moves away from a source, as in (13b). The direction of motion is usually specified by a spatial prefix to the predicate, e.g. *amo-* 'into' in (13a) or *gamo-* 'out of' in (13b) or by inference from information given in the verb root and following from properties of the figure and ground referents.

⁵The ground is not obligatorily marked with a case marker. The presence of the case marker is conditioned by the characteristics of the spatial relator as well as the verb stem and by discourse-pragmatics. If a dynamic spatial expression does only exhibit a simplex verb, i.e. a verb that does not have a preverb, then the use of the motative case is obligatory. With verbs of motion and caused motion that contain a preverb the use of the motative is more complex (for details, cf. Kutscher 2010).

(13a) bere oxori-şa am-ulun
 child house-MOT PRV-go:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The child goes inside the house.’

(13b) bere oxori-şa gam-ulun
 child house-MOT PRV-go:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The child goes out of the house.’

This kind of conflation of the allative with the ablative meaning seems to be typologically rather exceptional, since it has never been reported before and sometimes has even been ruled out as a cognitive possibility (Andrews 1985, Ikegami 1987, Stolz 1992, Creissels 2006). Considering the fact that motion towards a ground and motion away from a ground are spatial events which are in opposition to each other and exclude each other semantically, the allative-ablative conflation seems to be in conflict with a universal cognitive principle leading to a conceptual bias for goal paths and a focus of attention more on the endpoint than on the starting point of a motion event (e.g. Andrews 1985, Regier 1996, Regier & Zheng 2007, Lakusta & Landau 2005, Ihara & Fujita 2000). But Kutscher (2010) argues that the semantics of the motative fit with this cognitive principle.

In the other Laz varieties, goal and source marking is distributed among two discrete cases. For goal-directed configurations the ground is marked by the allative case marker *-şa/-şe* (14a, 14c) whereas in source-directed configurations the source-NP is marked by the ablative case marker *-şen* (14b, 14c), cf. also Holisky (1991), Lacroix (2009). As reported by Lacroix (2009:704), in some constructions marking of the ground by the same case as used in static location (dative) is also possible.

(14) Vitse-Arkabi (Fındıklı):

(14a) Ali Vice-şe komulun
 Ali Vitse-to comes
 ‘Ali comes to Vitse.’ (Anderson 1963: 111)

(14b) Poli-şen Turani
 Istanbul-from Turhan
 ‘Turhan from Istanbul.’ Anderson (1963: 110)

(14c) oxori čkimi-şe moxti var uc’umes hemen
 house mine-to come not he.says immediately

iani muşi-şen igzalas
 side his-from he.goes

‘He (Turhan) doesn’t say, “Come to my house!” Immediately he (Ali) goes away from him.’ (Anderson 1963: 117)

As is shown in (14), in other Laz dialects there are two separate cases for goal- (*-şa/-şe*) and source-directed (*-şen*) spatial relations, which are comparatively close in phonological form. The exceptional case of Ardeşen-Laz might be a result of a phonetically motivated syncretism of the

two forms into one. Note that the motative case has been reported on by Rosen in (1844). In the middle of the 19th century, Laz was a striving language with a high amount of monolingual Laz speakers. Hence, the development of this case and its unusual semantics cannot be related to “the state of possible obsolescence of the language” at present as one reviewer suggested.

3.3 Spatial Preverbs

Ardeşen-Laz has 27 spatial preverbs which cover both the directional/locational as well as the deictic domain. Table 2 gives an overview of these preverbs. Note that two preverbs (*mola-* ‘in; hither.along’, *gola-* ‘on, thither.along’) are listed twice, i.e. in both columns of the table, since in dynamic spatial expressions, they have two distinct readings, depending on the verb semantics (deictic with verbs of motion, topological with verbs of caused motion).

directional domain		deictic domain	
<u>non-projective/topological</u>		<u>deictic</u>	
<i>ama-</i>	‘into’	<i>me-</i>	‘thither’
<i>ce-</i>	‘steep.down, on(to), in(to)’	<i>mo-</i>	‘hither; “belonging.to”’
<i>cela-</i>	‘sidewards.down, on(to)’	<u>deictic+directional</u>	
<i>ceşka-</i>	‘down.into.amidst’	<i>meo-</i>	‘across thither’
<i>dolo-</i>	‘in(to), down.through, down.along’	<i>moo-</i>	‘across hither, on.top.of another.towards’
<i>e-</i>	‘steep up’	<i>mola-</i>	‘hither.along’
<i>ela-</i>	‘sidewards.up, besides’	<i>gola-</i>	‘thither.along’,
<i>eşka-</i>	‘up.(through).amidst’	<i>moĸo-</i>	‘hither.asunder, hither.“hook”’
<i>gama-</i>	‘out of’		
<i>gola-</i>	‘on(to) 1D’		
<i>goo-</i>	‘on(to)’		
<i>mele-</i>	‘in, out.of’		
<i>meşka-</i>	‘in(to).(through).amidst’		
<i>mola-</i>	‘in(to)’		
<u>circum</u>			
<i>go-</i>	‘around’		
<u>projective</u>			
<i>eĸa-</i>	‘behind’		
<i>eža-</i>	‘under’		
<i>kožo-</i>	‘in(to) front, aside, over’		
<u>more than one entity as F or G</u>			
<i>eo-</i>	‘on(to).another’		
<i>koşka-</i>	‘heap-wise, into.one.another, amidst’		
<i>oĸo-</i>	‘asunder, together’		
<u>non-transparent</u>			
<i>oxo-</i>	‘accumulation?’		

Table 2: System of Spatial Preverbs in Ardeşen-Laz

Most of the spatial preverbs exhibit certain morpho-phonological processes. In most cases, the final vowel changes systematically in interplay with the presence and absence of personal prefixes and the preroot vowel which serves several voice and applicative functions (version vowel, cf. Boeder 1968, Kutscher 2001, chapter 1; Kutscher 2009, chapter 6). Preverbal allomorphs may e.g. alternate between final vowel /a/ and /e/ or between final vowel /o/ and /a/ or between vowel and zero. The preverb *me-* alternates between /me/ and /n/. The morpho-phonological rules are complex, depending on the presence of personal prefix and the quality of the version vowel. Furthermore the rules differ with respect to the syllabicity of the preverb. Since the morpho-phonological details are not of relevance for the subject of this paper, I did not include them in the discussion.

Apart from this rather large set of spatial preverbs, Ardeşen-Laz has a small set of preverbs that serve mainly information structure functions, i.e. the preverbs *do-*, *ko-*, *mende-* have speaker modality functions comparable to so-called focus particles (cf. also Mattissen 2001, Lacroix 2009).

Most of the preverbs used in descriptions of spatial scenes are not restricted to either dynamic or static spatial relations but rather are neutral in this respect, i.e. can be used in both kinds of expressions (15a, 15b).

(15a) zeytini yađi dolo-b-u-bi
 olive oil PRV-1A-VV-pour:[1>3]SG:PAST.PFV
 ‘I poured olive oil into (the cow’s mouth).’ (Kutscher & Genç 1998:34)

(15b) řiře řikina dolo-zun
 bottle pannier PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The bottle is in the basket (lit.: pannier).’ (PSPV 22)

A minority of preverbs, however, are restricted to expressions of dynamic spatial scenes. These are: *ama-* ‘into’, *gama-* ‘out.of’, *meo-* ‘thither.across’, *moo-* ‘hither.across’, *mođo-* ‘hither.asunder’, *e-* ‘up’, *eřka-* ‘up.amidst’, *ceřka-* ‘down.amidst’.

In sum, all spatial preverbs in Laz allow for use in descriptions of dynamic spatial scenes, and the majority of the preverbs can be used in descriptions of static spatial scenes as well. The set and function of both kinds of preverbs so far seem to be congruent to other Laz dialects (cf. Holisky 1991, Lacroix 2009).

Section 4 will focus on describing the semantics of the preverbs that can be used to denote topological spatial configurations. This subpart of the preverb system in Laz is complex with respect to its semantic structuring and from the point of view of semantic typology it is rather unusual as will become clear from the following discussion.

4. The Use of Laz Preverbs in Descriptions of Topological Spatial Scenes

In order to analyze the inventory and semantics of the preverbs which are used to express topological spatial configurations, the visual stimuli developed by the Language and Cognition Group of the Max Planck Institute Nijmegen were used, namely the Topological Relations Picture Series (TRPS) and the Picture Series for Positional Verbs (PSPV). These have been complemented by other stimuli when necessary. The stimuli show two or more entities in spatial

relation to one another which geometrically speaking are configurations of inclusion, surface contact and circumvention and which functionally are containment and support relations. As a result of these elicitation, we find that 11 different preverbs are used in Laz for describing these spatial scenes. For a first step in analysis, in the following the preverbs are ordered into two types of spatial domains, the IN-domain (cf. section 4.1) where the figure-referent is fully or partly contained in the ground-referent and the ON-domain, where the figure-referent is in a surface contact relation to the ground-referent (cf. section 4.2). This includes circumventional relations, where the figure-referent extends in a circular relation around the surface of the ground-referent (cf. section 4.4). For an overview of the preverbs to be discussed cf. table 3.

IN-configurations:	<i>ce-, dolo-, meşķa-, mola-</i>
ON-configurations:	
PLANAR	<i>cela-, goo-, gola-, eo-, me-</i>
CIRCUMVENT	<i>go-, mo-</i>

Table 3: Subsystem of Laz Preverbs Used in Descriptions of Topological Spatial Scenes

As will become clear in the following analysis of the use of these 11 preverbs, the ordering according to geometrically defined parameters as presented in table 3 does not fully reflect the categorization principles which underlie the Laz system of spatial preverbs. It will become clear in the discussion of the data that conceptual parameters of a different quality have to be taken into account.

4.1 IN-Relations

When comparing the differences in use between *ce-*, *dolo-*, *meşķa-* and *mola-*, one finds that the shape properties of the ground referent are relevant factors for the choice of the preverb. *Dolo-* is used to refer to topological spatial configurations in which the ground has an opening that is smaller than the vertical extension of the ground-referent, i.e. in which the ground referent resembles a (vertically oriented) cylinder. This kind of shape can be found e.g. with panniers, which are the prototypical baskets in the Laz culture (16a). But also bottle necks have this kind of shape (16b). Both configurations can only be referred to by the preverb *dolo-*.

(16a) *şişe* *ţikina* *dolo-zun*
 bottle pannier PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The bottle is in the pannier.’ (PSPV 22)

(16b) *mantari* *şişe* *dolv-o-nzoy*
 cork bottle PRV-VV-be.stuck:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The cork is stuck in the bottle.’ (TRPS 62)

In contrast, containers that have a broad opening and a flat vertical extension like bowls (17a) or beds (17b) trigger the use of the preverb *ce-*.

(17a) *oşķuri* *tasi* *ce-zun*
 apple bowl PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The apple is in the bowl.’ (TRPS 2)

- (19c) meşke-b-ulur
 PRV-1A-go:SG:PRS
 ‘I go horizontally (e.g. in a forest, through the brushwood)’

The preverb *mola-* is used for dynamic spatial scenes in which the figure moves or is moved into a ground horizontally. It does not include any further specific information about the properties of the ground referent in contrast to *meşka-* ([dense, narrow], cf. 19c). The preverb *mola-* contrasts with the preverb *dolo-* with respect to the axial orientation of the motion path of the figure. This difference in meaning is illustrated with the data in (20). For pouring a liquid into a container which is oriented vertically, such as the neck of a cow which is lying on the earth (or a pannier, cf. (16a) above) the preverb *dolo-* is used (20a). For pouring liquid in the mouth of a person standing, i.e. where the liquid is poured horizontally, the preverb *mola-* is used, cf. (20b).

- (20a) zeytini yağı dolo-b-u-bi
 olive oil PRV-1A-VV-pour:[1>3]SG:PAST.PFV
 ‘I poured olive oil into (the cow’s mouth).’ [the cow is lying on the ground] (Kutscher & Genç 1998:34)

- (20b) pici žari molo-b-i-bi
 mouth water PRV-1A-VV-pour:SG:PAST.PFV
 ‘I put water in my mouth.’ [in order to spray it on swarming bees] (Kutscher & Genç 1998:40)

The fact that horizontal orientation of the figure’s path is relevant for the choice of *mola-* can also be illustrated by the use of the preverb *mola-* with verbs of motion. In this case, the preverb expresses that the figure (i.e. the agent of the motion event) moves on a horizontal path towards the deictic center, cf. (21). The plantation called Merze is on the same height in the mountains as the home of the narrator of the story of which the introductory line is given in the example in (21).

- (21) şimdi andya Merze-şa ko-mola-ftitu
 well one.day Merze-MOT MOD-PRV-1A:go:PL:PAST.PFV
 ‘Well, one day we came home from Merze.’ (Kutscher & Genç 1998: 149)

Use of *meşka-*, *mola-*, *dolo-* and *ce-* in descriptions of static spatial scenes

As alluded to above, the parameter of axial orientation is even relevant when the preverbs in question are used in descriptions of static spatial scenes. The choice of the preverb depends on the axial orientation of the path on which the figure is thought to move in order to become located in the stasis configuration which is described by the expression in question. Hence, in descriptions of static spatial scenes the preverb refers to the path which was covered by the figure on its way to the ground. Thus, the static spatial configuration is inferred by the hearer rather than expressed by the preverb. I will illustrate this conclusion by opposing the preverbs *mola-*, *dolo-* and *ce-* in the following paragraphs.

The preverb *ce-* is used for topological configurations in which the figure has been placed into the container by way of a vertical motion, e.g. in cases where the opening of the container is

on the upper region of the ground-referent. For instance, an apple is placed into a bowl from above, therefore the preverb *ce-* is used for describing the topological configuration described in (17) above, while a cup is placed into a cupboard with moving it along a horizontal path. Therefore, the preverb *mola-* is chosen for describing the topological configuration in (22), while the preverb *ce-* cannot be used.

- (22) fincani dolabi mola-dgun *ce-
 cup cupboard PRV-stand:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The cup is in the cupboard.’

Furthermore, for the use of the preverb *ce-* the opening of the container need not necessarily be on the upper side of the ground referent, but may also be at the side of the ground referent, like a door on a car, as the following example (23) illustrates. For this kind of configuration, the preverb *mola-* cannot be used.

- (23) oxorza araba ce-xen *mola-
 woman car PRV-sit:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The woman sits in the car.’

The difference between the configuration in (22) and (23) lies in the axial orientation of the path along which the figure moves or is moved to reach its final location. Whereas entities that move into or are being moved into a cupboard or a house cover a more or less horizontal path, a person which sits down in a car moves along a vertical axis (i.e. from standing to sitting). This finding supports the conclusion that the path which is covered by the figure is the relevant factor and not some shape property of the ground-referent.

The data in (21) above also illustrate that the use of the preverb *mola-* is not restricted to configurations which geometrically are configurations of partial or complete inclusion. For the use of the preverb the parameter of axial orientation of the motion path of the figure is relevant and not whether or not the figure is included in the ground. This holds also for the preverb *dolo-*, cf. (24).

- (24) dunya usti başı şkimi mca do-b-i-i
 all clothes 1SG:POSS milk MOD-1A-VV-become:SG:PAST.PFV

 haşo dolo-m-a-oru
 like.this PRV-1U-VV-flow:3A:SG:PAST.PFV
 ‘My clothes were covered in milk. It ran all down me.’ (Kutscher & Genç 1998: 127f.)

Likewise, the preverb *ce-* is not only used in descriptions of containment configurations, but is also used in descriptions of topological spatial scenes where the figure is in contact to the surface of the ground-referent, cf. (25).

- (25a) masa hali ce-dgun
 table carpet PRV-stand:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The table is on the carpet.’

- (25b) şeyi masa ce-zun
 cloth table PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The piece of cloth is on the table.’ (PSPV 4)

Furthermore, topological spatial configurations which are related to a horizontally oriented surface can be referred to by the use of the preverb *goo-*. As (26) below illustrates, the preverb *goo-* is used in configurations of a figure which is in contact with a part of the surface of a ground-referent. In descriptions of spatial scenes in which the surface region of a ground referent is above ground-level, e.g. the surface of a table, the use of the preverb *ce-* exhibits some overlap with the use of the preverb *goo-*. For descriptions of this kind of configurations, I found that speakers did not uniquely choose the preverb *ce-*, but 2 out of 4 speakers preferred *goo-* for describing the configuration of a piece of table cloth lying on a table, cf. (26).

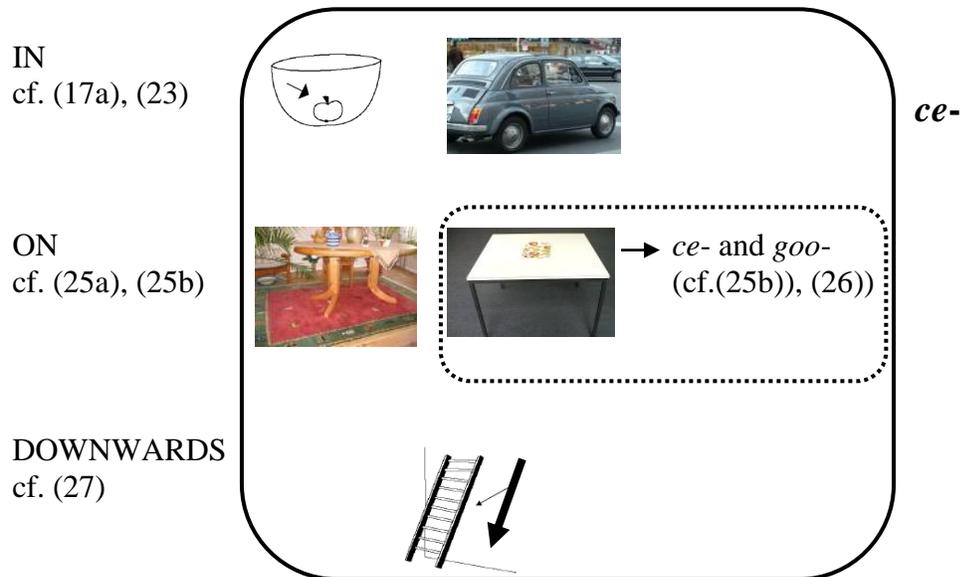
- (26) şeyi masa goo-zun
 cloth table PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The cloth is on the table.’ (PSPV 4)

In order to better understand the meaning and use of the preverb *ce-*, one has to take into consideration the fact that the preverb *ce-* is used for the description of vertically oriented dynamic spatial scenes. In cases where the figure-referent moves steeply downwards, e.g. a person on a ladder as in (27), the vertical downward motion of the figure is expressed by the preverb *ce-*.

- (27) mskala me-m-i-du ce-fti
 ladder PRV-1U-VV-put:[3>1]SG:PRS PRV-1A:go: SG:PAST.PFV
 ‘She put the ladder (on the wall) for me (and) I went down.’ (Kutscher & Genç 1998: 83)

We can thus conclude that the relevant parameter for the use of the preverb *ce-* in descriptions of topological spatial scenes is not the geometrical-functional parameter of inclusion/containment, but the parameter of axial orientation of the configuration with respect to the path the figure covered by being placed in relation to the ground. The spatial scenes for which the preverb *ce-* can be used to describe these configurations share the fact that the figure moves or is moved along a vertically oriented path in order to achieve its final static position. Whether the figure is in a containment or surface relation then follows from inferences based on world-knowledge.

Figure 1 summarizes the types of spatial configurations for which the preverb *ce-* is used and illustrates that the preverb *ce-* comprises ON, IN as well as DOWNWARD geometrical configurations.

Figure 1: Semantic Extension of the Preverb *ce-*

4.2 ON-Relations

When comparing the differences in use between *goo-*, *gola-*, *cela-* and *me-*, we find that for these preverbs the same two parameters, shape properties of the ground and axial orientation of the figure's path, are decisive factors for the choice of the preverb. As illustrated in (28a) and (26) above, the preverb *goo-* is used in configurations of a figure which is in contact with a part of the surface of a ground-referent. Additionally, as the comparison with the use of the preverb *me-* in (28b) shows, the surface of the ground is horizontally oriented, whereas for vertical (28b), (28c) and non-oriented configurations (28d) the preverb *me-* is chosen.

(28a) *fincani masa goo-dgun*
 cup table PRV-stand:3A:SG:PRS
 'The cup is on the table.' (TRPS 1)

(28b) *mskala ħoda me-zun*
 ladder wall PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 'The ladder is leaning on the wall.' (lying along a wall: *ela-zun*) (TRPS 58)

(28c) *banġi ħuċxe me-ċabun*
 band.aid leg PRV-stick.to:3A:SG:PRS
 'The band aid is on the leg.' (TRPS 35)

(28d) *pekmezi xami n-u-sun*
 jam knife PRV-VV-be.smeared:3A:SG:PRS
 'The jam is smeared on the knife.' (TRPS 12)

We also find that shape properties of the ground are relevant for the choice of preverbs in expressions of topological surface configurations. Like the preverb *goo-*, the preverb *gola-* is restricted to configurations in which the contact region of the ground is horizontally oriented.

This case seems problematic because the surface region of the ground-referent is oriented horizontally and thus one might expect that speakers choose the preverb *goo-*.

In my data, there is also one speaker who chooses *cela-* instead of *goo-* to describe a scene in which a stick is lying on a table. The spatial scene in question shows a stick lying at the edge of the table, aligned to its rim, cf. (34).

- (34) *biga masa cela-zun*
 stick table PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The stick is lying on the table (aligned with the rim of the table).’

What configurations like (33) and (34) have in common is that the spatial region relevant for the conceptualisation of the topological configuration is an edge, i.e. a 1-dimensional region at the rim of the upper region of the ground-referent. Maybe the choice of the preverb *cela-* is caused by the fact that *cela-* – when used in descriptions of dynamic spatial scenes – is restricted to downward motions along a path or road, cf. (31). In order to gain a better insight in the meaning and range of use for *cela-* more data have to be collected in future research.

In sum, we can conclude that the feature of 1-dimensionality of the spatial region of the ground is relevant for the use of the preverbs *gola-* and *cela-* as well as its orientation with respect to the vertical or horizontal axis.⁷

In my data, there is one more preverb which is used in descriptions of topological spatial scenes, the preverb *eo-*. The analysis for the range and meaning of use of this preverb is, however, at the moment rather preliminary and needs further investigation. For the moment, it can be stated that the preverb *eo-* is chosen in cases where the ground conceptually consists of more than one object, i.e. when something is placed on top of a stack as in (35a). For some speakers it is also possible to choose the preverb for configurations of multiple entities being placed on a horizontal surface (35b) or when the figure itself forms a stack as the folded cloth in (35c). Since some speakers find the use of *goo-* acceptable for (35b) and (35c) there seems to be a semantic overlap between the preverbs *eo-* and *goo-*.

- (35a) *yufka eo-b-o-dum*
 puff.pastry PRV-1A-VV-put:[1>3]SG:PRS
 ‘I put layers of puff pastry one upon the other.’

- (35b) *ṭope-pe masa eo-zunan*
 ball-PL table PRV-lie:3A:PL:PRS
 ‘The balls are (lit.: are lying) on the table.’ (PSPV 8)

⁷It may as well be argued that this also has its repercussions in morphology since all preverbs referring to the 1-dimensionality of the ground share some phonological substance, namely /IV/, which might be analysed as a marker for 1-dimensionality of the ground referent. This supposed morpheme however is not productive in modern Laz and cannot be used independently. Additionally the morpho-phonological form of this element is similar for only part of the preverbs. While it shows morpho-phonologically triggered change of the vowel for the preverbs *cela-*, *ela-*, *gola-* and *mola-*, the preverb *dolo-* does not show an alternation in phonological form. Moreover, while the preverbs *cela-* and *ela-* alternate between /la/ and /le/, the preverbs *mola-* and *gola-* alternate between /la/ and /lo/. Whether the differences in morpho-phonological behaviour for preverbs containing /IV/ and referring to the 1-dimensionality of a ground referent can be explained diachronically needs further investigation.

- (35c) masa-şi cindo oĥo-ĥoĥ-eri eo-zun
 table-GEN surface PRV-fold-PTCP PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘It is lying on the top of the table folded.’ (PSPV 14)

From the findings so far it seems reasonable to conclude that for descriptions of topological spatial scenes with respect to the surface of a ground, i.e. ON-relations, the meanings of Laz preverbs are based on the parameters [surface contact] and [axial orientation of the surface of the ground]. As (36) shows, however, the use of the preverb *goo-* is not restricted to descriptions of configurations in which the figure is in contact with a horizontally oriented surface, but is used also in non-contact relations, e.g. a branch expanding above the roof of a house or a cloud above a mountain, cf. (36).

- (36) mĥula dayi goo-xen
 cloud mountain PRV-sit:3A:PRS
 ‘The cloud is above the mountain.’ (TRPS 36)

For non-contact relations in which the figure is oriented vertically above the ground, however, the preverb *ĥoĥo-* has to be used, cf. (37).

- (37) lampa masa ĥoĥa-bun
 lamp table PRV-hang:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The lamp is hanging over the table.’ (TRPS 13)

Thus, we can conclude that for descriptions of non-contact spatial scenes, the axial orientation of the configuration is decisive as well. In order to understand the conceptual system of Laz preverbs we thus have to determine the parameters according to which spatial scenes are conceptualized. As has been illustrated in (36) and (37), for the preverb *goo-* it is not decisive whether the figure is in contact with an upper surface but rather, whether the figure is oriented horizontally with respect to the ground. Most of the preverbs presented above are used in descriptions of spatial relations in which the figure is in contact with the ground. But this might as well be a consequence of physical affordances related to gravity. Furthermore it has been argued that with respect to descriptions of relations which from a geometrical perspective are relations of inclusion, for Laz preverbs the axial orientation of the path of the figure is more relevant than whether the figure is in a geometrical-functional relation of inclusion. As it appears, for Laz the axial orientation of the path of the figure is a more prominent conceptual parameter than topological-functional ones such as [surface contact/surface support] and [inclusion/containment].

Hence, to summarize the findings for descriptions of topological configurations so far, we find that firstly, the shape property of the ground referent is a relevant parameter according to which the preverbs are chosen for descriptions of static spatial scenes. This parameter can have one of the four values listed in the following table. Exemplary preverbs are listed in the right column:

i)	ground is 1-dimensional:	<i>gola-, cela-</i>
ii)	ground is cylindrical:	<i>dolo-</i>
iii)	ground is dense, narrow:	<i>meŝka-</i>
iv)	ground forms a heap:	<i>eo-</i>

Table 4: The Parameter [shape property of the ground-referent]

Secondly, the axial orientation of the path of the figure, i.e. the path which the figure covers before it achieves its location, is relevant for the choice of a preverb. The parameter of axial orientation can have one of three values. Exemplary preverbs are listed in the right column:

i)	vertical orientation:	<i>ce-, dolo-, cela-, eo-</i>
ii)	horizontal orientation:	<i>goo-, gola-, mola-, meŝka-</i>
iii)	neutral:	<i>me-, mo-</i>

Table 5: The Parameter [axial orientation of the motion path of the figure-referent]

Thirdly, the parameter deictic perspective is relevant, cf. also section 4.4 below. It can have one of two values listed in the following table. Exemplary preverbs are listed in the right column:

i)	towards deictic center:	<i>mo-, mola-</i>
ii)	away from deictic center:	<i>me-</i>

Table 6: The Parameter [deictic perspective]

4.3 Source Constructions

The fact that the axial orientation of the configuration is a decisive parameter for the use of the preverbs in Laz is also supported by data elicited for dynamic spatial configurations in which the figure-referent is moving away from the ground-referent (source constructions). While for stance and goal constructions Laz has the above described complex system of preverbs, for source constructions the number of preverbs is much smaller and the choice of the preverb in these cases is only determined by the parameter of axial orientation and is neither determined by the geometrical-functional concepts inclusion and surface nor by the parameter of shape.⁸ The data presented in (38) – (41) give some illustrative examples.

(38) *gama-* 'out of, away from (Ground is horizontal (38) or neutral (39))':

(38a) *porça dolabi mola-b-dum* → *dolabi-ŝa gamo-b-i-ŷam*
 dress wardrobe in-1A-put:SG:PRS wardrobe-MOT out-1A-VV-take:SG:PRS
 'I put the dress into the wardrobe.' 'I take it out of the wardrobe.'

(38b) *cari soba meŝka-b-dum* → *soba-ŝa gamo-b-i-ŷam*
 bread oven in-1A-put:SG:PRS oven-MOT out-1A-VV-take:SG:PRS
 'I put the bread into the oven.' 'I take it out of the oven.'

⁸In contrast to e.g. German or English, where the geometrical-functional concepts [containment/inclusion] and [surface contact] apply to locational and goal as well as to source expressions: Grm. *in* -> *aus*, *auf/an* -> *von...runter/weg*; Engl. *in* -> *out*, *on* -> *from*.

- (39) *çitabi* *ķapayi* *mo-b-dum* → *ķapayi-řa* *gamo-b-i-yam*
 book slip.case into-1A-put:SG:PRS slip.case-MOT out-1A-VV-take:SG:PRS
 ‘I put the book into the slip case.’ ‘I take it out of the slip case.’
- (40) *e-* ‘out of, away from (Ground is below):’
- (40a) *ořkuri* *tasi* *ce-b-dum* → *tasi-řa* *e-ř-çopum*
 apple bowl in-1A-put:SG:PRS bowl-MOT up-1A-take:SG:PRS
 ‘I put the apple into the bowl.’ ‘I take it out of the bowl.’
- (40b) *ķuzi* *bardayi* *dolo-b-dum* → *bardayi-řa* *e-ř-çopum*
 spoon glass in-1A-put:SG:PRS glass-MOT up-1A-take:SG:PRS
 ‘I put the spoon into the glass.’ ‘I take it out of the glass.’
 **gamo-b-i-yam*
- (40c) *çitabi* *ti* *goo-b-dum* → *ti-řa* *e-ř-çopum*
 book head on-1A-put:SG:PRS head-MOT up-1A-take:SG:PRS
 ‘I put the book on the head.’ ‘I take it from the head.’
- (41) *ce-* ‘(out of), away from (Ground is above):’
- (41a) *çanta* *dolabi* *goo-b-dum* → *dolabi-řa* *ce-b-i-yam*
 bag wardrobe on-1A-put:PRS wardrobe-MOT down-1A-VV-take:SG:PRS
 ‘I put the bag on top of the wardrobe.’ ‘I take it down from the wardrobe.’
- cp:
- (41b) *çanta* *hali/masa* *goo-b-dum* → *hali-řa/masa-řa* *e-ř-çopum*
 bag rug/table on-1A-put:PRS rug/table-MOT up-1A-take:SG:PRS
 ‘I put the bag on the rug/table.’ ‘I take it from the rug/table.’

In sum, for the description of goal-directed spatial relations we find that the figure’s motion path away from the ground is decisive for the choice of the preverb. In cases where the starting location of the figure is above the torso height of the agent, like the top of a wardrobe, the preverb *ce-* ‘down’ is chosen, relating to the fact that the figure’s path is a downward motion. In cases where the path of the figure-referent follows an upward motion with respect to the torso of the agent, e.g. when lifting something from a pannier or a table, the preverb *e-* ‘up’ is used. In all other cases, i.e. where the motion path of the figure is horizontal or not further specified, the preverb *gama-* ‘out’ is selected.

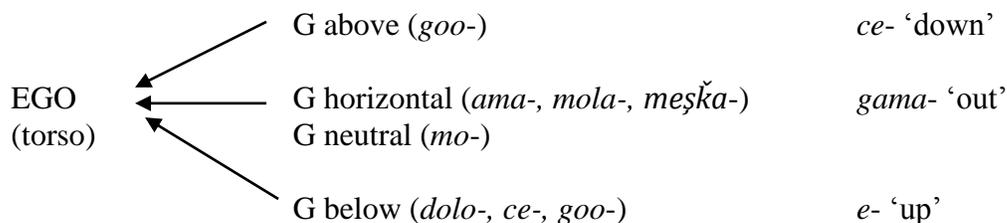


Figure 2: Subsystem of Preverbs Expressing Source Relations

4.4 Deixis

For one preverb used in descriptions of topological configurations, the preverb *mo-*, we find that the decisive feature is neither based on the axial orientation nor on the shape properties of the ground. In most cases, the use of the preverb *mo-* in descriptions of topological spatial scenes comprises scenes which from a geometrical perspective are circumvential configurations, i.e. configurations in which the figure is in contact with the surface region of the ground-referent in a circular fashion, e.g. a ring on a finger (42a), a shoe on a foot (42b), a slipcase around a book (42c).

(42a) maçindri ķiti mo-zun
 ring finger PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The ring is on the finger.’ (TRPS 10)

(42b) ķuçxe modvala ķuçxe mo-zun
 shoe foot PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The shoe is on the foot.’ (TRPS 21)

(42c) kitabi ķapayi mo-zun
 book slip.case PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The book is in the slip case.’

On scrutiny, the data reveal that it is not the geometrical parameter of circumventionality that is decisive for the use of the preverb *mo-*, but rather whether the figure is conceptualised as being a functional part of the ground or as canonically belonging to the ground. This can be shown by two observations. The first is that Laz has another preverb which is used in descriptions of circumvential configurations, the preverb *go-*. This preverb can be used in static, cf. (43a), as well as dynamic spatial configurations in which a figure circumvents a ground-referent, cf. (43b). It can also be used for undirected motion within a region (43c). For all of these situations, the preverb *mo-* cannot be used.

(43a) ťoçi çoki gv-o-ķorun
 rope root PRV-VV-be.wound:[3>3]SG:PRS
 ‘The rope is wound around the root.’ (TRPS 55)

(43b) mžu ko-gv-a-ķorey
 cherrylaurel.tree MOD-PRV-VV-wind:[3>3]PL:PAST.PFV
 ‘(The swarming bees) surrounded the cherry laurel tree.’ (Kutscher & Genç 1998:51)

(43c) g-u-ķařaman mutu var-a-xenenan
 PRV-VV-walk:3A:PL:PRS something NEG-VV-do[POT]:3U:PL:PRS
 ‘(She choked,) they walk around everywhere, but nobody can do anything.’
 (Kutscher & Genç 1998: 41)

The second finding is that the preverb *mo-* is used in certain spatial configurations which geometrically are surface contact configurations, e.g. a lid on a pot (44).

- (44) *ķapayĭ* *tencere* *mo-zun*
 lid pot PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The lid is on the pot.’ (in case of lid belonging to pot)

If the preverb *mo-* is replaced with the preverb *goo-* (normally used for descriptions of support from below/superposition-configurations, cf. (27) above), the reading of the expression changes, cf. (45).

- (45) *ķapayĭ* *tencere* *goo-zun*
 lid pot PRV-lie:3A:SG:PRS
 ‘The lid is on the pot.’ (in case of lid too big for pot)

Whereas the use of the preverb *mo-* in (44) expresses that the lid on the pot is the one which fits the pot, the use of the preverb *goo-* expresses that the lid does not fit the pot. Language consultants give the additional information that they have the feeling that *mo-* means that the lid “belongs” to the pot. Figure 3 gives an illustrative overview on the range of uses for the preverb *mo-* when used in descriptions of static spatial configurations.

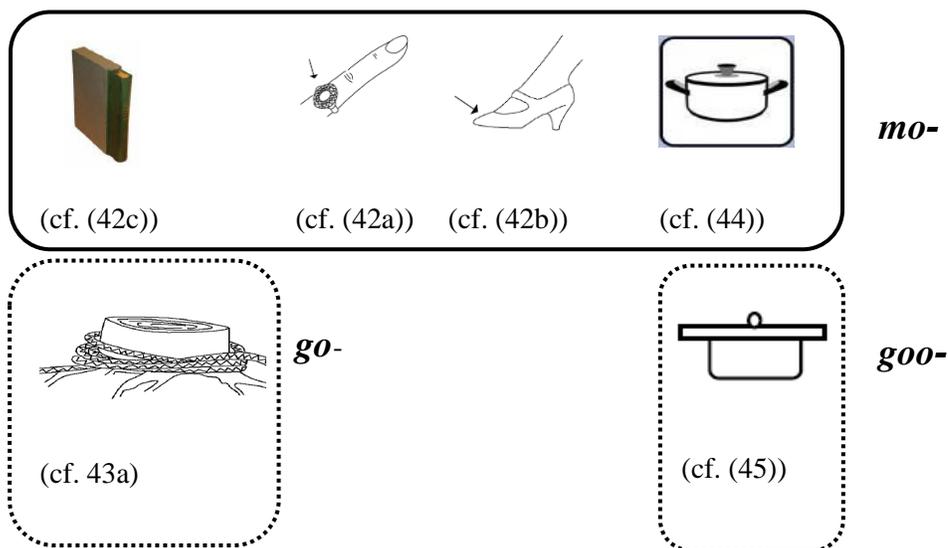


Figure 3: The Use of the Preverb *mo-* in Descriptions of Static Spatial Scenes

In order to understand the meaning and use of the preverb *mo-* in descriptions of static topological configurations, one has to take into consideration that with verbs of motion the preverb *mo-* has a deictic function, i.e. it marks that the figure moves towards the deictic center, cf. (46a). For motion away from the deictic center, the preverb *me-* is used (46b).

- (46a) *var-idu* *ama* *askere-pe* *ko-mo-xtey*
 NEG-leave:3A:SG:PAST.PFV but soldier-PL MOD-PRV-go:3A:PL:PAST.PFV
 ‘He didn’t leave but the soldiers came (to his house).’ (Kutscher & Genç 1998: 224)

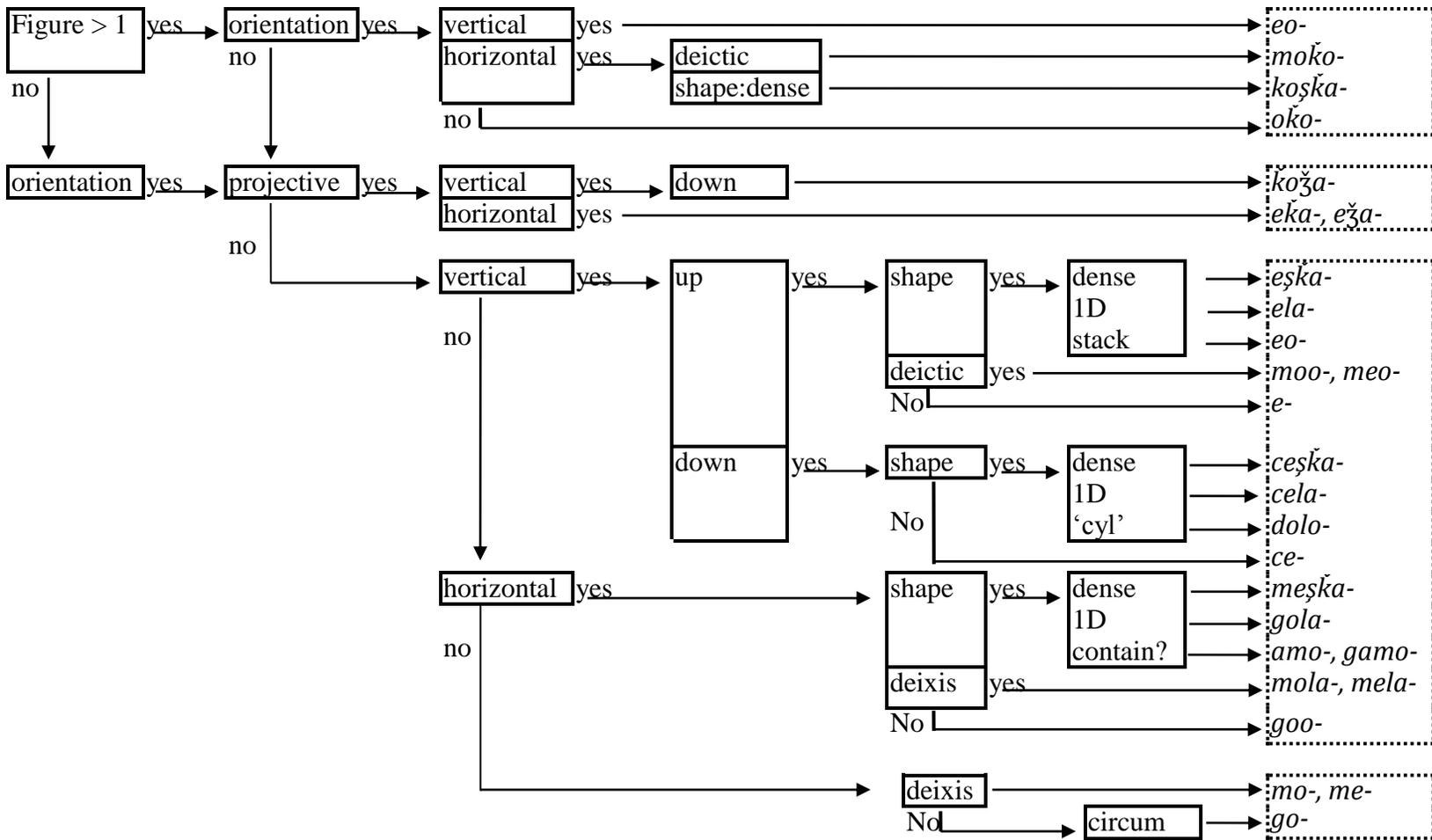


Figure 5: Flowchart of Concepts Relevant for the Use of Spatial Preverbs in Laz

6. Summary

In sum, the data in this paper show that Laz means for the descriptions of spatial relations give some interesting insights in the differences and commonalities of spatial conceptualization.

It has been shown that Laz prefers the satellite-framed strategy, i.e. motion-manner conflation in the roots of motion verbs. With respect to locative expressions it belongs to the multi-verb-type languages. Ardeşen-Laz differs from the other varieties of Laz with respect to its spatial cases; it has a motative case which conflates the allative with the ablative function and thus has a spatial case which seems to be typologically exceptional.

Spatial configurations are expressed mainly in the verbal complex. Preverbs relate to the configurational properties of the ground while the verb root focuses on the properties of the figure. It has been shown that even in description of static spatial scenes the use of Laz spatial preverbs relates to the path along which the figure moves or is moved to achieve its final locative position. Whether the figure is in a containment- or surface-relation then follows from world-knowledge, i.e., is the result of pragmatic inference by the hearer. It has been argued that the parameters i) [axial orientation of the configuration] (with the values [vertical], [horizontal] and [neutral]), ii) [shape property of the ground] (with the values [1D], [cylindrical], [dense], [heap]), and iii) [deictic perspective] (with the values [towards deictic center/belonging-to], [away from deictic center]) are the relevant meaning components of Laz preverbs. It has further been argued that for Laz, geometrical-functional spatial concepts such as [surface/superposition] and [inclusion/containment] are not the primary spatial concepts and that the IN-ON-scale proposed e.g. by Bowerman & Choi (2001) and Levinson & Meira (2003) does not hold for spatial relators in Laz.

Abbreviations

A	Actor
CAUS	causative
cyl	cylindrical
DAT	dative
F	Figure
FUT.PFV	future perfective
G	Ground
IMPER	imperative
MOD	speaker modality/focus particle
MOT	motative case
NEG	negation
NOM	nominative
P	person
PAST.PFV	past perfective
PL	plural
POSS	possessive
POT	potential
PRS	present tense
PRV	preverb
PTCP	participle
QU	question marker

QUOT	quotative marker
SG	singular
TAM	tense aspect mood
U	Undergoer
VV	version vowel
[>]	verbform is marked for two arguments, subject (= A) acting on object (= U)

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