Sketch of the Grammar of Kubachi
The simple sentence

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In this paper we present a sketch of Kubachi, a language spoken in the mountainous Dagestan in the Eastern part of the Caucasus. We focus on the major nominal and verbal categories and the structure of the simple sentence. A specific feature of Kubachi is its mixed system of noun class and person marking, which is shown to correlate with a split ergative-absolutive and nominative-accusative alignment of the marking of grammatical relations. Kubachi has also a rich system of non-finite verb forms, including participles, gerunds, verbal nouns and infinitives.

1. Introduction

In this paper we describe major nominal and verbal categories in Kubachi and give a characterisation of the marking of grammatical relations in the simple sentence. A substantial part of the paper is also devoted to non-finite verb forms and the marking of grammatical relations in non-finite clauses. Our goal is to provide a grammar of the simple sentence, which may serve as the necessary background to a forthcoming paper on the complement structures of Kubachi.

We are most grateful to professor Aleksandr Magometov of the Georgian Academy of Sciences for helping us with material about Kubachi and acting as our informant. His monograph about the grammar of Kubachi (Magometov 1963 (=M.)) has been our main source about the language. Where not otherwise noted, the examples given in the paper have been elicited during field work.

The representation of the Kubachi examples is given in IPA symbols, but otherwise follows the system used in Magometov 1963 (see Appendix).

1.1. Dargwa and Kubachi

Kubachi is spoken in a village to the west of Derbent in the Dagestan republic. The number of speakers of Kubachi is approximately five thousand. The Kubachi call themselves *ʕuːʁbug*. The name Kubachi is of Turkish origin and connected with the word for 'coat of mail', which indicates the traditional occupation of the Kubachi in metal work.

Kubachi is closely related to Dargwa, one of the bigger Dagestanian languages in the East Caucasian group. The number of speakers of Dargwa is 320.000. There is disagreement as to whether Kubachi should be considered a dialect of Dargwa (an opinion represented for instance by Abdullaev 1971:522) or a separate language, following Magometov 1963.

There is no standard writing system for Kubachi. The present literary form of Dargwa was created in 1938 and is based on the Cyrillic script. It replaced a latin-based script, which in turn had replaced the arabic writing a decade before.

2. Nominal categories

The nominal categories included in this section are noun and personal pronouns.

2.1. Nouns

Nouns distinguish number and case. The cases are usually divided into two groups, one including the ergative, absolutive, dative and genitive cases, and the other forming a group of so-called local or postpositional cases (M. 95-96).

Table 1. Cases: nouns

	Singular		
Absolutive	bits'	'wolf'	adame	'man'
Ergative	bits'-le // bic'(l)i-di-l	adami-l
Dative	bits'-li-j	adami-li-j
Genitive	bits'-la	adami-lla

	Plural	
Absolutive	buts'e	adam-te
Ergative	buts'a-d	adam-ta-d
Dative	buts'a-ddi-j	adamita-ddi-j
Genitive	buts'a-lla	adamta-lla

Absolutive is the case of subjects of intransitive verbs and direct objects of transitive verbs. Ergative, as expected, marks the subject of transitive verbs. The main functions of these cases will be further illustrated below. The genitive case marks the dependent of a common noun.

(1)   q:ala-lla   qaltala
       fortress-GEN roof
       'the roof of the fortress'

Local, or postpositional, cases is a feature commonly found in the Dagestan languages. The forms are arranged in series, creating complex spatial and directional meanings. The series take as their basis the affixes -ʒe 'on', -gu 'under', -ta 'to the front', -ts:e 'in', and -ʃːu 'towards' and combine with markers of location and direction. (2) illustrates one of the series, based on -gu 'under' (M. 122).

(2)   *Allative*   laq'ujli-gu   'to (a place under) the cradle'
       Locative   laq'ujli-gu-b   'under the cradle'
       Elative   laq'ujli-gu-l   'from under the cradle'

2.2. Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns also distinguish case and number. The case distinctions are as rich in the personal pronouns as in the common nouns and also follow the absolutive-ergative alignment. Proper personal pronouns are found only in first and second person; in the third person demonstrative pronouns are used (M. 139).

Table 2. Cases: personal pronouns

	Singular		
	1st	2nd	3rd
Absolutive	du	u	id
Ergative	dudil	udil	iddil
Dative	dammij	it:ij	idij
Genitive	dila	ila	idila

	Plural		
Absolutive	nus:a	uʃ:a	it:e
Ergative	nus:ad(dil)	uʃ:ad(dil)	it:ad
Dative	nis:ij	iʃ:ij	it:addij
Genitive	nis:ila	iʃ:ila	it:alla

2.3. Noun classes

A common feature of the East Caucasian languages is the existence of noun classes. Kubachi distinguishes only three classes, whereas other Dagestanian languages such as Chamali and Archi have four classes (Xajdakov 1980:77, 122). Even more classes are found in the Nakh langauges; Chechen has six

classes (Dešeriev 1967a:194) and Tsova-tush has eight (Dešeriev 1967b:230).

The three classes in Kubachi are: I. Male (*gal*, 'boy, son', *adame* 'man'), II. Female (*xɪunul* 'woman', *jutsɪe* 'sister') and III. Other (*us* 'bull', *qal* 'house', *bik'* 'head'). The markers are more differentiated in the singular (I. -*w*, II. -*j*, III. -*b*) than in the plural (I. and II. share one marker -*b*, and III. -*d*). The noun classes are illustrated here by a noun and adjective attribute, where the adjective includes the marker as a final suffix:

Table 3. Noun classes

	Singular	
I. Male	arazi-*w* adame	'healthy man'
II. Female	arazi-*j* xɪunul	'healthy woman'
III. Other	arazi-*b* hɪaːwan	'healthy animal'

	Plural	
I. Male	araʒu-*b* adamte	'healthy men'
II. Female	araʒu-*b* xɪunne	'healthy women'
III. Other	araʒu-*d* hɪaːwante	'healthy animals'

The class markers do not generally show up in the nouns themselves but occur as cross-reference markers in all verbal categories: the finite verb as well as non-finite verb forms (participles, infinitives, gerunds, verbal nouns), adjectives and also in nouns in the locative postpositional case and locative postpositions.

3. Verbal categories

In this section we will look at some central aspects of the morphology of finite and non-finite verb forms.

3.1. Finite verbs

The finite verb distinguishes a number of categories, such as tense, aspect, mood, causation, negation, question, person, number and noun class. Here we will consider some of the major categories.

A common feature of Kubachi verb forms is compounding, both as a grammatical and lexical device. Kubachi has only two organic tense forms, the so-called general present and the past. Apart from these forms, there are a number of analytic tenses (present, imperfect, aorist, past resultative, pluperfect, future). The analytic tenses are made up of gerunds (in the

present or past) and the auxiliary *saw* 'be' (in present or past forms). Such analytic forms are illustrated by the present (consisting of a present gerund + 'is') and the resultative (formed by the past gerund + 'is'). The forms of the verb *saw* 'is' are given for comparison. One of the organic tenses, the past, is also included in the table.

(3)		*Present*	*Past resultative*		*Past*
		'I do it', etc.	'I have done it', etc.	'I am', etc.	'I did it', etc.
	1	biːq'-ul-da	baːq'ib-li-da	da	biːq'a-d
	2	biːq'-ul-de	baːq'ib-li-de	de	biːq'a-tːe
	3	biːq'-ul-sa-w	baːq'ib-li-sa-w	sa-w	biːq'-aj
		biːq'-ul-sa-j	baːq'ib-li-sa-j	sa-j	
		biːq'-ul-sa-b	baːq'ib-li-sa-b	sa-b	

3.1.1. Cross-reference. A characteristic feature of Kubachi is that the system of agreement markers is based both on noun class and person. The finite verb may include two noun class affixes, a prefix and a suffix, marking cross-reference with subject and object. In a transitive verb, the prefix position is related to the object and the suffix to the subject (a). In an intransitive verb (b), the subject is marked both in the prefix and the suffix position.

(4) a.   abadil   *w*-alχɪun-ni-sa-*j*   gal
       mother.ERG   I-feed-GER-AUX.PRES-II   son.ABS
       '(The) mother feeds (her) son.'

    b.   atːa   *w*-axul-sa-*w*
       father.ABS   I-leave-3.AUX.PRES-I
       'Father is leaving.'

Noun class markers are found in both prefix and suffix position, as shown above, whereas person markers are restricted to the suffix position. In this suffix position, as in the personal pronouns, there is a division between the first/second and third person: person is marked in first/second person and noun class in the third person. Note that the presence of noun class markers in the third person is related to the auxiliary *saw*. For instance, in the past (cf. (3)), there is no noun class suffix in the third person.

(5)	*1*	dudil ʕatʃe *b*-iːq'ul-*da*	'I (male/female) do work'
	2	udil ʕatʃe *b*-iːq'ul-*de*	'You (male/female) do work'
	3	iddil ʕatʃe *b*-iːq'ul-sa-*w*	'He does work'
		iddil ʕatʃe *b*-iːq'ul-sa-*j*	'She does work'
		iddil ʕatʃe *b*-iːq'ul-sa-*b*	'It does work' (M. 152)

This might be compared to the intransitive paradigm below. From these two paradigms we can see that the first/second person subject is marked both for noun class and person in an intransitive construction, but only for person in the transitive.

(6)   *1*   du *w*-i:q'ul-*da*   'I (male) work'
          du *j*-i:q'ul-*da*   'I (female) work'
      2   u *w*-i:q'ul-*de*   'You (male) work'
          u *j*-i:q'ul-*de*   'You (female) work'
      3   id *w*-i:q'ul-sa-*w*   'He works'
          id *j*-i:q'ul-sa-*j*   'She works'
          id *b*-i:q'ul-sa-*b*   'It works'

The following categories presented below – causation, negation and interrogativity – occur in both finite and non-finite forms, but are only described in this section.

3.1.2. Causative forms. Causative verb forms are formed by adding *aqij* 'exceed, overcome' to the non-causative verb stem, resulting in a compound verb form: *ba:q'-ij* 'do' and *ba:q'-aq-ij* 'cause to do'. In clauses with causative verbs, a double assignment of the ergative case occurs. Both the causer and the causee are assigned the ergative case.

(7)   at:adil   galdil   k'a   kabi:ʒijqulsaw
         father.ERG son.ERG letter.ABS III.CAUS.write.PRES.I
         'The father makes the son write a letter.' (M. 216)

3.1.3. Marking of negation. A number of different ways of marking negation are found in Kubachi. The verbs *saw* 'is' and *lib* 'have' take negating affixes: *a-* and *-ak:wa* respectively: *du a-da* 'I am not' and *dila aba lij-ak:wa* 'I do not have a mother' (M. 224).

Reduplication or partial reduplication of the stem is another type of negation marking (M. 227): *ba:q'ij* 'do' and *ba:q'a:q'ij* 'not do', *batij* 'leave' and *bata:tij* 'not leave'.

3.1.4. Interrogative markers. Three different question markers correspond to different types of questions. In simple yes/no questions the marker *-(i)j* is added to the verb form: *u us:unnide* vs. *u us:unnidi-j* 'You sleep.' vs. 'Do you sleep?'. In *wh*-questions, the interrogative form of the verb is formed by the marker *-nu*.

(8) a.   id tʃa saw-*nu*
          he who is-Q
          'Who is he?'

     b.   k:inifk:a tʃij   bik:at:i-*n(u)*
          book.ABS to.whom gave-Q
          'To whom did he give the book?' (M. 236)

The third marker of interrogativity occurs in indirect questions: *-il.* A direct question is given in (a) and the indirect in (b).

(9) a.   dudil   x:aj-b-aʁa-d   "iddil   k'a   ka-b-g-aj-*ij*"
         I.ERG   III-ask-1.AOR   "he.ERG letter.ABS PRV-III-write-3.AOR-Q"

         j-uk'ul
         II-say-GER
         'I (fem.) asked: Did he write a/the letter?'

    b.   dudil   x:aj-b-aʁa-d   ka-b-g-aj-*il*   iddil   k'a
         I.ERG   III-ask -1AOR   PRV-III-write-3AOR-Q he.ERG letter.ABS
         'I asked if he wrote a/the letter.'

3.1.5. Adverbial forms. The final verb form included in this section is adverbial forms (adverbs also occur as a separate word class, but are not considered here). In sentences corresponding to adverbial subordinate clauses in, for instance, English, Kubachi has various finite forms that include the meaning of temporal adverbs. We illustrate these verb forms with two types (M: 239): The suffixes *-ma:-le* create forms with the meaning 'as soon as': *bi:q'u-mma:-le*, 'as soon as he did it'. The adverb *mu:t* 'when' and the suffix *-il* may be added to past, present and future forms of the verb, resulting in forms such as:

(10)   bi:q'u-mmu:t-il   'when he does it'
         ba:q'ib-mu:t-il   'when he did it'
         ba:q'ila-mu:t-il   'when he will do it'

3.2. Non-finite forms
Kubachi has a rather rich system of non-finite verb forms: verbal nouns, infinitives, gerunds and participles.

3.2.1. Verbal noun. The verbal noun (traditional term: *masdar*) is a category which shows both nominal and verbal features. It is formed by

adding the suffix -ne to the verb root. Similar to the noun, the masdar follows the usual nominal declension (M. 185)

(11)   *Absolutive*   wax-ne   'walking'
         Ergative   wax-ni-l-di-l
         Dative   wax-ni-li-j
         Genitive   wax-ni-lla
         Local cases   wax-ni-l-ʒe
                             wax-ne-l-ʒi-b
                             wax-ne-l-ʒi-l

Other morphological categories are noun class and number. As the noun class markers distinguish singular and plural, so does the verbal noun:

(12) a.   k'a   ka-b-iltʃ'ne
        letter.ABS   PRV-III-writing.VN
        'writing of a letter'

     b.   k'ame   ka-tː-iltʃ'ne
        letter.ABS.PL   PRV-IIIPL.writing.VN
        'writing of letters' (M. 185)

3.2.2. Infinitive. The infinitive is distinguished by the suffix -j. It does not decline, as do the noun and verbal noun. The infinitive includes noun class markers, an object marker in the transitive infinitive (a) and a subject marker in the intransitive infinitive (b). Including a subject marker thus distinguishes the Kubachi infinitive from a prototypical infinitive.

(13) a.   kːiniʃkːa   ka-b-iltʃ'i-j
        book.ABS   PRV-III-read-INF
        'read a book'

     b.   ixwle   w-aʃi-j   butsːaːra baːq'a
        quickly   I-leave.INF   try.to
        'Try to leave quickly!' (M. 184)

3.2.3. Gerunds and particples. The gerunds distinguish present and past forms (M. 217), marked respectively by -l(e) and -ib or -un: biːq'-u-l 'do, present gerund' and baːq'-ib 'do, past gerund'.

Participles are formed from various forms: gerunds, infinitives and finite verbs. They distinguish past, present and future forms as well as a neutral form, which does not express any temporal categories (M. 220) but merely the ability of someone or utility for something.

(14)   *Past*   baːq'ibziw   'having done' etc.
         Present   biːq'uziw
         Future   baːq'ilaziw
         Neutral form   baːq'ijziw

The transitive participle includes two noun class markers: one prefix and one suffix. The prefix is always related to the object, whereas the suffix may be related to the subject (a) or to the object (b), corresponding to a difference between active and passive participles.

(15) a.   ʃatʃe   b-iːq'uzi-w   usta
        work.ABS   III-doing.PRES.PART-I   craftsman.ABS
        'the craftsman doing work'

     b.   b-iːq'uzi-b   ʃatʃe
        III-doing.PRES.PART-III   work.ABS
        'the work being done' (M. 221)

4. Clause syntax

As seen from many examples above, the marking of grammatical relations in Kubachi is based on noun-class and person markers on verbal categories and case on nouns.

4.1. Finite clauses

In this section we will look at case assignment and noun class and person marking in finite clauses. Both case assignment and noun class marking is shown to follow an ergative pattern. The core grammatical relations in focus here are the subject (S) of intransitive verbs and the subject (A) and direct object (P) of transitive verbs.

4.1.1. Case assignment. We may begin with the absolutive case, as shown in the examples below, which is assigned to S and P: du 'I' in (a) and qːala 'fortress' in (b).

(16) a.   du   j-idaʒi-d
        I.ABS   II-leave-1.AOR
        'I (fem.) left.'

     b.   duʃman-ne   qːala   ʃut'-aʁ-aj
        enemy-ERG   fortress.ABS   destroy-3.AOR
        'The enemy destroyed the fortress.'

The ergative case marks A, the subject of transitive verbs:

(17)   dudil   ka-lutʃ'un-ni-da   k'a
          I.ERG   PRV-read-GER-1.PRES   letter.ABS
          'I (fem.) read (pres) a letter.'

Marking the subject of a transitive verb is not the only function of this case. Another function is to mark the instrument:

(18)   dudil   istikan   ʃinne   bits'ad
          I.ERG   glass.ABS water.ERG III.filled
          'I filled the glass with water.' (M. 107)

Indirect objects are marked by the dative (a-b) or the directive (c) case (the difference in case appears to be related to the fact that the direct object is inanimate in (a-b) and human in (c)).

(19) a.   du-dil b-ikːa-d   kːiniʃkːa   utsːi-lij
          I.ERG III-give-1AOR   book.ABS   brother-DAT
          'I (fem.) gave the book to (my) brother.'

     b.   dudil b-at-b-idaʁa-d   kːiniʃkːa   utsːilij
          I.ERG III-send-1AOR   book.ABS   brother.DAT
          'I (fem) sent a book to (my) brother.'

     c.   dudil w-at-w-idaʁa-d   gal   abalaːba-ʃːu
          I.ERG I-send-1AOR   son.ABS   grandmother-DIR
          'I (fem.) sent (my) son to (his) grandmother.'

A separate group of bivalent verbs that do not follow the ergative-absolutive marking is composed of some emotion and perception verbs: *wik'ulsaw* 'he likes him', *bikːulsaw* 'he wants it', *teːbidilgunnaːsaw* 'he does not see it', *bak'uːlsaw* 'he knows it', *aχːaːlsaw* 'he does not know it', *paktakajitsːuːlsaw* 'he became fond of her'. (M. 107) Here, the subject (experiencer) is marked by the dative case/suffix and the object (the source of the emotion) by the absolutive case.

(20) a.   aba-j   sinna gal   wikːulsaj
          mother-DAT   her   son.ABS   I.like.PRES.II
          'The mother likes her son.'

     b.   gal-ij   bak'uːlsaw   dars
          boy-DAT   III.know.PRES.I   lesson.ABS
          'The boy knows the lesson.' (M. 107)

4.1.2. Noun class. The ergative pattern in the distribution of the noun class markers is realized in the following way. Class markers are triggered by the subject in sentences with intransive predicates. The marker of the first class (male) is *w-* and the second class (female) is *j-*.

(21) a.   du   w-axul-da   b.   du   j-axul-da
          I.ABS I-leave-1.PRES   I.ABS II-leave-1.PRES
          'I (masc.) leave.'   'I (fem.) leave.'

Class markers are also triggered by direct objects. As in intransitive verbs, the marker is placed initially in the transitive verb complex.

(22) a.   abadil   w-alχːun-ni-de   gal
          mother.ERG   I-feed-GER-IMP   son.ABS
          '(The) mother fed (her) son.'

     b.   dudil   j-alχːun-ni-de   juːsːe
          I.ERG   II-feed-GER-IMP   daughter.ABS
          'I (masc.) fed (my) daughter.'

We thus have an ergative pattern in the initial class markers triggered by S and P. A, subjects of transitive verbs, do not trigger any initial noun class markers.

However, in the third person, a class marker may show up as a suffix in final position in the verb complex, as in (b) below. The marker is added to the auxiliary part of the verb complex. The verb form in (b) is finite, but is formally made up of a gerund and the auxiliary 'is'. This class marker is triggered by the subject.

(23) a.   abadil   w-alχːun-ni-sa-*j*   gal
          mother.ERG   I-feed-GER-AUX.PRES-II   son.ABS
          '(The) mother feeds (her) son.'

     b.   id   w-iːq'ul-sa-*w*
          he.ABS   I-work-AUX-I
          'He works.'

Noun class markers also show up in predicative adjectives (here the class marker comes between the adjective marker and person marker). In (b) one marker occurs in the adjective and one in the auxiliary *sa-w* 'is'.

(24) a.   du   ʒahil-zi-*j*-da   b.   id   ʒahil-zi-*w*-sa-*w*
          I.ABS young-ADJ-II-1PRES   he.ABS   young-ADJ-I-AUX.PRES-I
          'I (fem.) am young.'   'He is young.'

Before turning to cross-reference by person marking, we briefly note the rather unusual case of cross-reference in clauses with nouns in locative postpositional cases. As expected, a noun class marker is triggered in the suffix position in the verb, but it also appears in the noun in the postpositional case.

(25) a.   laq'ujli-ʒi-*b*   kɪat'e   tʃibti-*b*
           cradle-on-III   shawl.ABS   lie.PRES-III
           'A shawl lies on the cradle.'

     b.   laq'ujli-ʃɪu-*w*   gal   χi-*w*
           cradle-towards-I   boy.ABS   stands.PRES-I
           'A boy stands by the cradle.' (M. 122)

A similar situation is found in locative postpositions. The postposition assigns the genitive case to its complement noun (location) and takes a suffix noun class marker triggered by the noun (being located).

(26)   qalla   tala-*b*   tɪuːtɪa   ti-*b*
           house.GEN   front-III   tree.ABS   is-III
           'There is a tree in front of the house.' (M. 245)

It seems obvious to relate this cross-reference marking in the postpositional constructions to the relation between verbs such as 'lie', 'stand' and 'be' and their subcategorized locative complements. However, this is not a sufficient explanation, as the directional postpositional cases and postpositions do not take any noun class markers.

4.1.3. Person marking. Finite verb forms are differentiated with respect to the marking of the first and second person subject. The alternation below is related to person. (27) shows the person markers in an intransitive verb.

(27) a.   du   w-iːq'ul-*da*   b.   u   w-iːq'ul-*de*
           I.ABS   I-work-1.PRES   you.ABS   I.work-2.PRES
           'I (masc.) work.'   'You (masc.) work.' (M. 151)

The same marking occurs in a transitive verb:

(28) a.   dudil   t'ult'e   d-uts'ul-*da*
           I.ERG   bread.ABS   III-bake-1.PRES
           'I bake bread.'

     b.   udil   t'ult'e   d-uts'ul-*de*
           you.ERG   bread.ABS   III-bake-2.PRES
           'You bake bread.' (M. 152)

Magometov (1976:213) points out that the marking of the subject in the suffix position is the usual practice in Kubachi, but mentions that parallel forms do occur in the third person of analytic present forms, where the object may be marked in this suffix position:

(29)   iddil   nusːa   gap   d-iːq'ul-da /-sa-w
           he.ERG   us.ABS   praise   I/II.PL-do-2.PRES /-3.AUX.PRES-I
           'He praises us.'

4.1.4. Summary of case, noun class and person marking. The Kubachi system may thus be analyzed as split ergative in a somewhat unusual way. The noun class prefix position of the verb is related to NP:s in the absolutive case, i.e. S and P. The ergative NP is singled out only by its case-marking and is not reflected in the prefix position.

The suffix position of the verb is related to the subject, irrespective of the transitivity of the verb. This latter marking thus follows a nominative-accusative alignment. A further complicating feature of the system is that the marking in the suffix position is split between noun class and person.
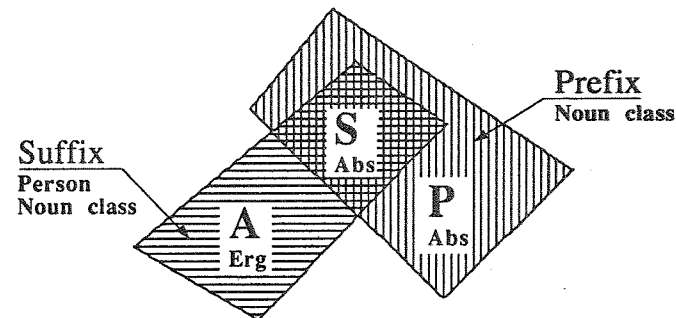

Figure 1. Marking of grammatical relations

As pointed out by Anderson 1988:35, finite verbal agreement in Kubachi is special in that it refers, in simultaneous ways, to both absolutives and subjects; i.e. to both the level of morphology and syntax.

4.2. Non-finite clauses

Above, we have studied the finite clause. In the remaining part of this section we will look at the structure of non-finite clauses. As noted above, the case assignment and noun class marking of finite and non-finite forms show great similarities.

4.2.1. Verbal noun clauses. The sentences below compare a finite clause to a non-finite clause with verbal noun as its predicate. In the verbal noun clause (b) corresponding to a finite clause with an intransitive verb (a), the subject is marked by the absolutive case and the noun class prefix of the second class is triggered.

(30) a. xːunul   j-axulsa-j   b.   xːunul   j-ax-ne
         woman.ABS II.leave.PRES-II   woman.ABS II-leaving-VN
         'The woman leaves.' (M. 185)   'the woman's leaving'

In the transitive case, both the subject and the object NP may occur in the corresponding verbal noun clause and are assigned the ergative and absolutive cases.

(31) a. duʃman-ne   qːala   ʕut'aʁ-aj
         enemy-ERG   fortress.ABS   destroy-3.AOR
         'The enemy destroyed the fortress.'

     b. duʃman-ne   qːala   t'ut'ubaːq'-ne
         enemy-ERG   fortress.ABS   destruction-VN
         'the destruction of the fortress by the enemy'

Another verbal feature of the verbal noun is that, similar to the finite verb, it may be modified by an adverb.

(32) a. duʃman-ne   ixwle   qːala   t'ut'u-b-aːq'-aj
         enemy-ERG   quickly   fortress.ABS   III-destroy-3.AOR
         'The enemy destroyed the fortress quickly.'

     b. duʃman-ne   ixwle   qːala   t'ut'u-b-aːq'-ne
         enemy-ERG   quickly   fortress   III-destruction-VN
         'the quick destruction of the fortress by the enemy'

4.2.2. Infinitive clauses. The infinitive is similar to the verbal noun in that it assigns case to its object in the same way as a finite verb, but differs in that it is not casemarked itself. In (33) we may also note that the infinitive is modified by an adverb: ʕaχle 'well'.

(33) ʕaχle ka-b-ʒi-j   bikːulsab k'a
      well   PRV-III-write-INF   necessary   letter.ABS
      'It is necessary to write the letter well.' (M. 184)

4.2.3. Participle and gerund clauses. As pointed out above, participles may include noun class markers of both a subject (suffix) and an object

(prefix): *b-isːsuzi-j* 'she buying it'. The object takes the absolutive case, but, as seen from (34 (=15)), the ergative case is not assigned to the subject.

(34) ʕatʃe   b-iːq'uzi-w   usta
      work.ABS   III-doing.PRES.PART-I   craftsman.ABS
      'the craftsman doing work'

In gerund clauses, as in other non-finite clauses, the absolutive case is assigned to the object, being related to the noun class prefix.

(35) dudil [k'a   ka-b-iːg-ul]   katːilʒi-d
      I.ERG letter.ABS PRV-III-write.GER.PRES   remain-AOR
      'I (fem.) continued to write the letter.'

5. Summary

In the table below are summarized some of the categories that distinguish the various verbal and nominal forms. Here the adjective and the participle are taken to be in modifying position. 'Abs.C.' stands for 'assigns absolutive case', i.e. assigns case to its object in the same way as the finite verb. The category number has not been included in the table, as it may be present in all forms, either as an inherent category or as a category accompanying the relational noun class marker.

Table 4. Contrastive features of nominal and verbal categories

	Noun	*Adj.*	*Vb N.*	*Inf.*	*Ger.*	*Partic.*	*Fin. vb.*
Case	+	-	+	-	-	-	-
Person	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Future	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Past/Pres.	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
Abs. C	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
N. class	-	+	+	+	+	+	+

The grammatical relations in Kubachi are marked by case, and by noun class markers on verbal categories. The system has been shown to represent a split system of ergative-absolutive alignment in casemarking and noun class marking (prefix) and nominative-accusative alignment of person and noun class marking in the suffix position.

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Appendix

The Kubachi vowel system consists of the vowels [a, e, i, u] and the corresponding long vowels [aː, eː, iː, uː]. The consonant system is given below, based on Magometov 1963:46 (the representation has been changed to include IPA-symbols):

p	t		k	q		
b	d		g			
pː	tː		kː	qː		
p'	t'		k'	q'		ʔ
	ts	tʃ				
	tsː	tʃː				
	ts'	tʃ'				
	s	ʃ	x	χ	ħː	h
	z	ʒ		ʁ	ʕ	
	sː	ʃː	xː	χː		
m	n					
	l					
	r					
w		j				

Ejective consonants are marked by '
Geminated consonants are marked by ː
Note also the following correspondences between the present transcription and Magometov 1963: [ʃ – š, tʃ – č, ʒ – ž, χ – x, x – x̌, ʁ – γ, ʕ – ω, ʔ – '].