1. Objectives & Introduction

- **Context:** Tehrani Armenian developed from Eastern Armenian
- **Data:** Allomorphs got promoted from ‘marked’ status to ‘elsewhere’ status
- **Story:** Analogical extension from irregular verbs to regular verbs
- **Analysis:** Realization rules changed because of frequency

2. Data at a glance

- **Armenian community in Tehran:**
  - **Formal** is Eastern Armenian
  - **Informal** is Tehrani Armenian
- **Aspect** /i/ is regularly used in Eastern, and T /i/ is the elsewhere-morph
- **But Tehrani demoted /i/ and promoted T /a/.

3. Eastern data

- **Eastern has PST being /i/ + Asp being /i/ in general:**
  - [T[PST] ↔ -/a/ ‘inchoative + A-Class’ ↔ Asp_i]
  - [T[PST] ↔ -/i/ ‘elsewhere’ ↔ Asp_p]
  - [Asp[Prf] ↔ -/i- ‘irregular’ ↔ _]
  - [Asp[Prf] ↔ -/a- ‘elsewhere’ ↔ _]
- **Theme vowels delete for some classes in the past perfective:**
  - /a/[PST] ↔ -/o- ‘inchoative’ ↔ _ Asp
  - /e/[PST] ↔ -/o- ‘irregular’ ↔ _ Asp

4. Tehrani data

- **Tehrani Armenian reorganized the defaults**
  - /i/ theme vowel likes to delete before T /i/[PST]
- **Past perfective now drops Aspect /i/ and uses T /a/.

5. Why did change happen?

- Diachronically this looks like analogical extension from irregular classes to regular classes
- **Questions:**
  - What is synchronous status of these morphs and their realization rules?
  - What diachronic factors caused these changes?

6. Other language-internal factors

- **Contrast:**
  - The /a/ morph is limited to perfective contexts, while /i/ is for imperfectives and most perfectives
  - Using /a/ would unambiguously lead to a perfective interpretation

7. Conclusion

- **Language change caused realization rules to lose or gain conditions**
- What was the marked allomorph became the default elsewhere morph
- Diachronically, it’s probably because of high-frequency of irregular verbs that use the previously marked allomorphs

References