Associated Motion in Old Assyrian

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Abstract. The Old Assyrian language belongs to the East Semitic, a language group extinct since approximately 400 BCE. The Old Assyrian texts used in this study were authored by Assyrian merchants between 1890 and 1860 BCE in Northern Mesopotamia and Central Anatolia. Despite the obvious limitations of working with an extinct language, i.e., the lack of the informants, the Old Assyrian corpus offers some advantages for a scholar. Unlike texts from the other East Semitic corpora, 99 % of the Old Assyrian texts (22 300 units according to the last estimate) were excavated in the same place, the Old Assyrian Kaneš (modern Kültepe). Old Assyrian is not only the second best attested East Semitic language, but its corpus is also the most homogenous among all other known corpora of extinct languages. Its extensive corpus that reflects day-to-day vernacular provides good material for a linguistic study. Old Assyrian, as well as most other East Semitic varieties, had a ventive deictic marker which was regularly hosted on motion verbs. This marker could also occur with some non-motion verbs relating translocational motion to non-motion verb events, that is, denoting associated motion. I analyzed the forms of verbs compatible with the associated motion marker and gathered statistical data. I treated these verbs individually and traced the evolution of the associated motion marker from the initial lexicalization to its concluding stages. In the case of genuine motion verbs, ventive, originally used to indicate motion toward the author (speaker), evolved to refer to motion directed toward other speech act participants, whereby the associated motion marker underwent gradual semantic bleaching. The proposed paper is the first corpus-based description of an associated motion marker in Semitic languages.

Keywords: motion verbs; cislocative markers; associated motion; Old Assyrian; Akkadian.

Сопутствующее движение в староассирийском языке

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Аннотация. Староассирийский язык принадлежит к восточносемитской группе языков, исчезнувшей ок. 400 г. до н. э. Тексты, проанализированные для этой статьи, были написаны в XIX в. до н. э. Староассирийский корпус не только занимает второе место по величине среди восточносемитских, но и является самым гомогенным среди известных корпусов мертвых языков. В староассирийском языке был вентив — дейктический показатель, который употреблялся при глаголах движения. Этот показатель также встречался на некоторых глаголах, не имеющих семантики движения; в таких случаях он придавал глаголу значение перемещения, т. е. обозначал сопутствующее движение.

Ключевые слова: глаголы перемещения; цислокативные показатели; сопутствующее движение; староассирийский; аккадский.

1. Introduction to the Old Assyrian language

This contribution deals with the ventive as an Associated Motion marker in Old Assyrian (OA), an East Semitic variety. East Semitic is a subgroup of closely related and amply attested ancient Semitic languages, traditionally labeled under an umbrella term "Akkadian"[1].

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[1] Genealogically, Semitic languages are divided into two branches: West and East Semitic. For reasons related to the history of Semitology, East Semitic languages are often referred to as "Akkadian" and are further subdivided into "dialects", which are nonetheless languages in their own right.

The texts of the Old Assyrian corpus, created in Northern Mesopotamia and Central Anatolia, comprise over 300 000 words[2]. The texts date back to between 1890 and 1860 BCE and include correspondence, legal records, contracts, and private notes (memos). Unlike the consonantal alphabets of certain written West Semitic languages, Akkadian writing also indicates vowels, which opens a way for a more nuanced understanding of OA morphology.

While quoting OA words and texts, I follow the transcription rules developed in N. Kouwenberg's reference work *A Grammar of Old Assyrian* [Kouwenberg 2017].

OA is believed to possess 20 consonants. In the table that follows I provide a comparative chart of the traditional way to transcribe OA consonants and their IPA correspondences.

Table 1. OA consonants

Stops and Affricates	Voiceless	Voiced	Pharyngealized
Bilabial	*p / p*	*b / b*	
Alveolar	*t / t*	*d / d*	*ṭ / tˤ*
Post-Alveolar			
Palatal			
Velar	*k / k*	*g / g*	*q / q*
Uvular			
Glottal	*ʔ / ʔ*		

Fricatives	Voiceless	Voiced	Pharyngealized
Bilabial	*p / p*	*b / b*	
Alveolar	*s / s*	*z / z*	*ṣ / sˤ*
Post-Alveolar	*š / ʃ*		
Palatal			
Velar			
Uvular	*ḫ / χ*		
Glottal			

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[2] The electronic corpus of Old Assyrian (https://oare.byu.edu/, last accessed on 24.11.2024) comprises some 8000 texts.

Sonorants	Nasal	Lateral	Apical	Approximant
Bilabial	*m* / m			*w* / w
Alveolar	*n* / n	*l* / l	*r* / r	
Post-Alveolar				
Palatal				*y* / j
Velar				
Uvular				
Glottal				

OA has eight vowels.

— Short: *a* / a, *e* / e, *i* / i, *u* / u
— Long: *ā* / a:, *ē* / e:, *ī* / i:, *ū* / u:

The symbols *â*, *ê*, *î*, *û* are used in grammatical descriptions of Akkadian to represent long vowels that result from contractions of two vowels.

In the interlinearized text, unlike in the running transcription, I present context-free shapes of grammatical forms and affixes, in particular those of the ventive itself. The ventive is marked by the final *-m* which always gets assimilated to the subsequent consonant, if any in the same phonetic word. The broad transcription will help the reader identify the ventive within the respective verb forms.

2. Associated motion and some statistics

A linguistic category introduced in 1984, "associated motion" (AM), is an umbrella term for markers relating translocational motion to non-motion verb events [Guillaume, Koch 2021: 3]. This category is attested mostly in African, Australian and South American languages; see [Guillaume, Koch 2021] for extensive description and further references. The present study shows that the East Semitic ventive, a cislocative marker on motion verbs, can be also used as an AM marker. In the terminology

of A. Belkadi, the Old Assyrian ventive is a D-AM marker, i.e. a marker that combines a deictic directional (D) meaning when hosted on motion verbs and an AM meaning when hosted on non-motion verbs [Belkadi 2015: 51].

On the Old Assyrian language and its ventive on genuine motion verbs, see [Koval, Loesov 2024].

Before dealing with the AM marker, it is necessary to introduce the East Semitic ventive. Ventive is a directional marker suffixed on finite forms of motion verbs. Ventive has three allomorphs appearing in complementary distribution. Thus, 2nd and 3rd person plural verb forms with the inflectional suffixes *-ū* and *-ā* take the ventive *-nem*: *illikū-nem* 'they came hither,' while 2SG.F verb forms with the inflectional suffix *-ī* take *-m*: *tallikī-m* 'you (SG.F) came hither.' The rest of the finite verb forms that have no inflectional suffixes host the ventive *-am*. The original meaning of the ventive is cislocative 'hither'. In cases of author-oriented motion, this marker is mandatory. See (1) for a directional cislocative ventive hosted on a basic motion verb *alākum* 'come':

(1)   *Abu-šalim* **lillikam**.
        Abu-šalim   **l-i-llik-am**
        Abu-šalim   VOL-3SG.M-come.PRT-VN

        'Abu-šalim **must come** hither (i.e. to where I am)' [AKT 6A, 109: 18].

The key feature of the ventive is its capability for deictic shifts, whereby the deictic center shifts from the author to the addressee of the message or to non-speech-act participants (= non-SAPs). See an addressee-oriented example in (2):

(2)   **Allakam**ma ēnēka ammar.
        a-llak-am-ma   ēn-ē-ka   a-mmar
        1SG-come.FUT-VN-and   eye.C-OBL-2SG.M   1SG-see.FUT

        '**I will come** to where you are and see you (lit. "your eyes")'
                                                            [CCT 4, 43a: 50].

Addressee-oriented ventives are compulsory, while non-SAP-oriented ventives are very few and defy clear explanation: "the use of the non-SAP ventive is called for by fine pragmatic considerations difficult to grasp

in the absence of informants, notwithstanding a rather robust number
of tokens" [Koval, Loesov 2024]. As a rule, non-SAP-oriented movement
is not highlighted by the ventive morpheme. See a non-SAP-oriented ex-
ample of a caused motion verb in (3):

(3)   *Ana Aššur-ṭāb* **ništapram**. *Tîrtušu litūramma ašar šaknu nušebbal-
         akkuššu.*

        *ana   Aššur-ṭāb   **ni-štapr-am**   tîrtu-šu*
        to   Aššur-ṭāb   1PL-write.PRF-VN   message.C-3SG.M

        l-i-tūr-am-ma   ašar   šakn-u
        VOL-3SG.M-return.PRT-VN-and   where   place.SC-SBJV

        nu-šebbal-am-kum-šu
        1PL-send.FUT-VN-DAT.2SG.M-3SG.M

        '**We sent a message** to Aššur-ṭāb. As soon as his answer comes
         back to me about where it (a missing document mentioned above
         in the letter) is, we shall send it (the document) to you'

                                                    [AKT 8, 83: 10–13].

As the AM ventive is a secondary development of the directional ventive,
they are identical in form: *-am/-m/-nem*. In glossing, directional ventives are
indicated here as VN and AM ventives as AM (Associated Motion marker).

Three types of AM motion — prior, concurrent and subsequent mo-
tion — are found across world languages. Prior motion occurs before the
main action, concurrent motion happens simultaneously with it, while
subsequent motion takes place afterwards. In Old Assyrian, the AM ven-
tive can only denote **subsequent** motion.

There are two types of AM constructions in Old Assyrian: independent
and echo. In independent constructions, the motion component is added
to a non-motion verb by means of an AM marker (4):

(4)   *Šumma šannātem tašʔamānem, ṣubātē kalašunu u šannātem ana
         Il-wēdāku piqdāma ḫarrān Durḫumit* **lisridam**.

        šumma   šann-āt-em   ta-šʔam-ā-nem   ṣubāt-ē
        if   cauldron-PL-OBL   2-buy.PRT-PL-DAT.1SG   textile-OBL

        kala-šunu u   šann-āt-em   ana Ilī-wēdāku   piqd-ā-ma
        all-3PL   and   kettle-PL-OBL   to   Ilī-wēdāku   entrust.IMP-PL-and

ḫarrān   Durḫumit   **l-i-srid-am**
way.C   Durḫumit   VOL-3SG.M-load.up.PRT-AM

'If you purchased cauldrons for me, hand over all the textiles and the cauldrons to Ilī-wēdāku so **he loads** (them) **up (and comes)** (to where I am) on his way to Durḫumit' [VS 26, 18: 6–12].

The predicate of the verb phrase *ḫarrān Durḫumit lisridam* 'may he load (them) up hither on his way to Durḫumit' is a non-motion verb *sarādum* 'pack, load cargo', i.e., 'load donkeys with merchandise'. The AM ventive on *sarādum* introduces the motion event thus denoting subsequent motion: 'may he load (them) up and then come here'[3].

Echo AM constructions are defined as follows: "AM combines with multi-verb constructions expressing motion or other contextually-established motion events, suggest that AM might function more like agreement or reinforcement, instead of independently predicating fact-of-motion itself" [Ross 2021: 68].

In Old Assyrian, echo constructions are introduced by means of chaining constructions consisting of verb phrases that are connected by the post-verbal consecutive conjunction *-ma* 'and then' (5).

(5)   *Qāti aššitīka* **ṣabtam**ma **atalkam**.
      qāti   aššit-ī-ka   ṣabt-am-ma   atalk-am
      hand.C   wife.C-GEN-2SG.M   grab.IMP-VN-and depart.IMP-VN

'**Grasp** your wife's hand (to where I am) and **depart** (to where I am)!' [BIN 6, 52: 15].

In example (5), the non-motion verb *ṣabātum* 'take, grasp' anticipatorily takes the ventive that reappears on the head verb of the chaining construction *atalk-am* 'depart (to where I am)'.

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[3] Note that the verb phrase *tašʔamā-nem* 'buy for me' includes the first person singular dative pronoun 'for/to me'. It is formally identical to the ventive, to which it is related etymologically [Koval, Loesov 2024]. In the rest of the contribution, AM ventives / directional ventives are distinguished from the first person singular dative pronouns by means of the interlinear glossing.

In this paper, echo AM examples will not be discussed further; see [Koval, Loesov 2024] for more detail. However, as echo AM is important for my argumentation, I will address them again in Conclusions.

Table 2 demonstrates the distribution of independent +AM tokens vs. −AM tokens in the corpus, i.e., the number of cases like *isridam* 'he loaded up (and came)' vs. *isrid* 'he loaded up'.

Table 2. The AM ventive in OA

	+AM ventive	**−AM ventive**
ezābum 'to leave behind'	9	58
saḫārum 'to tarry, delay'	1	17
sarādum 'to pack, to load the cargo'	24	6
šalāhum 'to salvage'	6	6
utaḫḫurum 'to tarry, delay'	3	—

3. The case of advanced lexicalization

The verb *sarādum* 'load, pack' employs the AM ventive most consistently. In *Table 3*, I subdivided 30 +VEN and −VEN instances into additional categories depending on the location they point to and their motion / non-motion usage.

Table 3. Data on *sarādum*

	+AM ventive	**−AM ventive**
author's location at coding time	16	—
addressee's location at coding time	3	—
non-speech act participant location	2	2
non-motion usage	3	4

Regular author-oriented ventives make a half of the total sample thus requiring no further commentary. See example (4) above.

Example (6) highlights an important feature distinguishing some AM ventives from regular cases:

(6) *Emārē uššerâmma warīʔaka **isarridūnem**. Adi 10 ūmē uzakkâmma uṣṣiam … kaspam ubbalakkum.*

emār-ē   u-ššer-âm-ma   warīʔa-ka
donkey-OBL   1SG-release.FUT-VN-and   bronze.C-2SG.M

i-sarrid-ū-nem   *adi*   10   *ūm-ē*   *u-zakk-âm-ma*
3-pack.FUT-PL.M-AM   in   ten   day-OBL   1SG-get.ready.FUT-VN-and

u-ṣṣi-am   *kasp-am*   *u-bbal-am-kum*
1SG-leave.FUT-VN   silver-ACC   1SG-leave.FUT-VN-DAT.2SG.M

'I have released the donkeys and **they** (this form is an impersonal plural) **will load** your copper (i.e. to where you are). I will get ready to go in 10 days and I will depart (i.e. to where you are) on my way to you. … I will bring to you the silver' [POAT 30: 20–29].

The form *issaridūnem* demonstrates that the general context of movement alone can cause the use of the AM ventive. In (6), this form does not imply that the people loading the donkeys are going to move towards the addressee, it is the author who is planning to do so. Thus, example (6) shows that the likely reason for the AM ventive developing in Old Assyrian is its connection to regular ventives hosted on genuine motion verbs. The fact that the ventive morpheme could have been induced even under the influence of verbs governed by different subjects as in (6) is particularly remarkable. See a similar example in (7) where the ventive indicates the direction to the author's whereabouts:

(7) *Ina ūmem ša ina Ḫaḫḫem **tasarridanni** nāgirka ṭurdamma ištênma ina Ḫaqa lā tasaḫḫur!*

ina   *ūm-em*   *ša*   *ina*   *Ḫaḫḫ-em*   ***ta-sarrid-an-ni***
on   day-GEN   REL   in   Ḫaḫḫum-GEN   2SG.M-pack.FUT-AM-SBJV

nāgir-ka   *ṭurd-am-ma*   *ištên-ma*   *ina*   *Ḫaqa*
messenger.C-2SG.M   send.IMP-VN-and   one-TOP   in   Ḫaqa

lā   *ta-saḫḫur*
NEG   2SG.M-delay.FUT

'On the day **you load the cargo** (i.e. to where I am) in Ḫaḫḫum (in order to come to me), send your messenger (i.e. to where

I am). Do not delay in Ḫaqa a single (day)!' [AKT 11A, 101: 11–16].

Here, *tasarridanni* retains its original meaning 'load cargo'. Rather than the act of translocational movement itself, it describes the preparation for it. Moreover, it is followed by a caused motion verb form *ṭurdam* 'send hither'. These two ventives, despite their adjacency, do not constitute a single motion event. However, *tasarridanni* seems to introduce *tasaḫḫur*: after the addressee has loaded the cargo, he is expected to go northward, to the town of Ḫaqa; on the relative positions of Ḫaḫḫum and Ḫaqa, see [Barjamovic 2011: 104].

(6) also shows that verbs hosting an AM marker might have a spatial argument introduced via a prepositional construction.

For future reference, the term **induced ventive** will be used here for markers like those hosted on *issaridūnem* in (6) and on *tasarridanni* in (7).

Now compare examples (8) and (9) describing movement directed toward non-speech-act participant (=non-SAP) locations:

(8) *Šumma … ina tîrti ubartem ša Ušḫania sarādam qabiātunu*
     ***sirdāma* ḫarrākkunu atalkā.**

 šumma   ina   tîrti   ubart-em   ša   Ušḫania   sarād-am
 if   in   letter.C station-GEN REL   Ušḫania   pack.INF-ACC

 *qabi-ātunu   **sird-ā-ma**   ḫarrān-kunu   atalk-ā*
 tell.SC-2PL.M pack.IMP-PL-and way.C-2PL.M   depart.IMP-PL

 'If you … have been ordered in the letter from the Ušḫania station to load the cargo, then **load the cargo** and depart on your trip'
                                              [CTMMA 1, 80: 5–10].

The absence of the ventive on *atalkā* 'depart!' is expected, since non-SAP ventives on genuine motion verbs are observed only in exceptional cases. The form *sirdā* 'load the cargo!', clearly connected to *atalkā* by means of the postpositive conjunction *-ma*, follows the motion verb.

(9) *Inūmi ṭuppīni ina Ālem tašammeʔāni ina puḫrīkunu ana Zalpa*
     ***sirdānem*. Kīma ana Zalpa *tērubāni*…**

inūmi   *ṭupp-ī-ni*   *ina*   *Āl-em*   *ta-šammeʔ-ā-ni*
when   letter.C-GEN-1P   in   City-GEN   2-hear.FUT-PL-SBJV

ina   *puḫr-ī-kunu*   *ana*   *Zalpa*   **sird-ā-nem**
in   assembly.C-GEN-2PL.M   to   Zalpa   pack.IMP-PL-AM

kīma   *ana*   *Zalpa*   **tē-rub-ā-ni**
when   to   Zalpa   2-enter.PRT-PL-SBJV

'When you hear our letter in the City, **load the cargo** to Zalpa all together. As soon as **you enter** Zalpa…' [ArAn 6: 19–25].

Example (9) differs from (6). Although both *sirdānem* and *tērubāni* [4] are directed toward Zalpa, a non-SAP location, the first verb form is in the imperative, while the second is in the indicative, i.e. their syntactical bond is weaker because these verb forms do not correspond in mood.

As stated above, there is no need to explain the absence of the ventive when the movement is directed toward a non-SAP location, so *tērubāni* requires no further comment. At the same time, the ventive hosted on *sirdānem* that points to the same non-SAP location does require an explanation. A way to interpret this *-nem* morpheme is to assume that it represents a fully lexicalized AM ventive devoid of deictic force. This example will be further addressed in Conclusions.

To complete the survey of *sarādum*, we have to treat the examples where this verb does not have motion semantics and is not accompanied with a motion verb (10).

(10)   *Umma Erišumma, "Igrē ša 4 emārē ša **tasridu** kaspam dinam!"*
       *Umma Dādiyama, "Amma emārē **sirid**!"*
       umma   *Erišum-ma*   *igr-ē*   *ša*   4   *emār-ē*   *ša*
       QT   Erišum-QT   wage-OBL   REL   four   donkey-OBL   REL

       ta-srid-u   *kasp-am*   *din-am*   *umma*
       2SG.M-pack.PRT-SBJV   silver-ACC   give.IMP-DAT.1SG.M   QT

       Dādiya-ma   *amma*   *emār-ē*   **sirid**
       Dādiya-TOP   there   donkey-OBL   pack.IMP

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[4] To avoid confusion, it is important to distinguish between the ventive morpheme *-nem* and the subjunctive morpheme *-ni* which are unrelated, although they may look similar.

'Erišum said: "Give me the wages in silver for the 4 donkeys that **you loaded the cargo**!" Dādiya answered: "There, **load the cargo on** the donkeys (yourself)!"'   [AKT 6D, 854: 3–9].

[Veenhof 2017: 120] remarks about the donkeys: "They have been packed, but it is not clear whether they have actually been sent off with their loads". The absence of the ventive here should be explained by the dissociation from the motion event. Cf. another non-motion –VEN example (11), with a different nuance of meaning:

(11)   *Ištu wadi **isarriduni** adi 6 šanāt ište Puzur-Anna uššab.*

   *ištu   wadi   **i-sarrid-uni**   adi   6   šanāt*
   since   already   3SG.M-pack.FUT-SBJV   for   six   year.P.ABS

   ište   Puzur-Anna   u-ššab
   with   Puzur-Anna   3SG.M-sit.FUT

   'From the moment **he starts working** as a donkey driver, he will remain in Puzur-Anna's service for 6 years'   [AAA 1, 14a: 7–11].

The absence of the ventive on non-motion forms of *sarādum* is expected. These examples, however, are contrasted to +VEN forms (12).

(12)   *Šumma ana Ālem lā ikšudamma ištēa lā **isridam**.*

   šumma   ana   Āl-em   lā   i-kšud-am-ma
   if   to   city-GEN   NEG   3SG.M-arrive.PRT-VN-and

   *ištē-a   lā   **i-srid-am***
   with-1SG   NEG   3SG.M-pack.PRT-AM

   'If he does not arrive (i.e. to where I am) into the City and **does not load the cargo** together with me' [AKT 8, 67: 6–8].

The AM ventive hosted on *isridam* might be induced by the directional ventive on *ikšudam* '(if) he arrives' and thus could be interpreted as an echo construction.

In (13), no further movement is indicated. Though the form *nisridam* in (13) resembles the forms *tasridu* and *sirid* in example (10), it hosts the ventive morpheme. This difference indicates that the lexicalization process of the AM ventive is incomplete: under the same circumstances, the non-motion forms of *sarādum* might or might not host the ventive morpheme, cf. (13).

(13) *Ammākam kāram muḫurma merā Latarak qurub lu **nisridamma**
      ina Zalpa lu nuqaʔʔišu.*

ammākam	*kār-am*	*muḫur-ma*	*merā*	*Latarak*
there	trade.factory-A	appeal.IMP-and	son.C	Latarak

qurub	*lu*	***ni-srid-am-ma***	*ina*	*Zalpa*	*lu*
approach.IMP	VOL	1PL-pack.PRT-AM-and	in	Zalpa	VOL

nu-qaʔʔi-šu
1P-wait.PRT-3SG.M

'There, apply to the trade factory and approach Latarak's son. **We
shall load the cargo** (and go there) and wait for him in Zalpa'
[AKT 9a, 10: 15–20].

As in (8), no further movement is indicated in (13), which attests to the
more advanced stage of lexicalization: the component 'and go' is intro-
duced by the AM marker without a motion verb in the context.

This analysis may be summed up as follows. The AM ventive can
be used on *sarādum* in a variety of contexts, both deictic and non-deic-
tic; it can occur in both the presence of an overtly expressed motion verb
in the context and in its absence. Deictic AM ventives hosted on *sarādum*
in the presence of a motion verb in the context are closer to directional
ventives and non-deictic AM ventives hosted in the absence of an overtly
expressed motion verb in the context attest to further lexicalization pro-
cess of the AM ventive.

4. A case of the first stage of lexicalization

A case opposite to *sarādum* 'pack, load cargo' is *saḫārum* 'delay'. Out
of the 18 examples of its use attested, only one form does host the ven-
tive morpheme, while 17 do not. See an illustrative –VEN case of the au-
thor-oriented movement:

(14) *Ammākam lā **tasaḫḫur** tibʔamma atalkam.*

ammākam	*lā*	***ta-saḫḫur***	*tibʔ-am-ma*
there	NEG	2SG.M-delay.FUT	get.up.IMP-VN-and

atalk-am
depart.IMP-VN

'**Don't delay** there, get up and depart (i.e. to where I am)'

[KTH 4: 11–13].

Despite the close semantic association with the motion verb form *atalkam* 'depart hither!' and the fact that the moods do correspond, [5] *tasaḫḫur* does not host the induced ventive morpheme as opposed to *sarādum* in (7) and (8). The contrast is highlighted by the connecting ventive morpheme hosted on *tibʔamma* 'get up and then': the non-motion verb *tabāʔum* 'get up' regularly acquires inchoative meaning as the first constituent of a phasal verb construction whose second link is a genuine verb of translocation, in this case, *atalkam*. We might expect that *saḫārum* would join the phasal verb construction **lā tasaḫḫuramma tibʔamma atalkam*, but *saḫārum* resists its influence. See (15) with non-SAP oriented movement:

(15)   *Ammala tîrtīka ana Waḫšušana attallak. Ḫurāṣam alaqqeammaat-tallakam, ūmakkal lā **asaḫḫur**.*

ammala   tîrt-ī-ka   ana   Waḫšušana
following letter.C-GEN-2SG.M   to   Waḫšušana

a-ttallak   a-laqqe-am-ma   a-ttallak-am
1SG-depart.FUT   1SG-take.FUT-VN-and   1SG-depart.FUT-VN

*ūmakkal   lā   **a-saḫḫur***
a.day   NEG   1SG-delay.FUT

'In accordance with your letter, I will go Waḫšušana. I will take the gold and depart (to where you are); **I will not delay** a day'

[AKT 9a, 26: 9–15].

In (15), *saḫārum* does not host the induced ventive despite the anaphoric ventive indicating the future location of the author on *attallak-**am***. For a detailed description and more examples of the anaphoric ventive referring to the future location of the author, see [Koval, Loesov 2024]. The motion is expressed in the pre-text, just as with *sarādum* in example (7),

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[5] The prohibitive *lā tasaḫḫur* and the imperative *atalkam*.

but the AM ventive is absent because of its incompatibility with *saḥārum*. This fact highlights that a motion event in the context does not trigger the AM ventive automatically. Moreover, the incompatibility is highlighted by the fact that the order the events are introduced in has nothing to do with their actual time ordering: irrespective of whether the delay takes place before or after the motion event, the motion verb *atlukum* precedes *saḥārum*.

In short, the author states his intention to go to Waḫšušana twice using the same verb form, and the second ventive is anaphoric: *attallakam* 'I will depart THERE'. Since *saḥārum* is introduced as a part of the same motion event, we might expect it to host the ventive as well: **attallakam ūmakkal lā asaḥḥuram* 'I will depart THERE; I will not delay a day THERE'. However, as confirmed by the previous example, the verb *saḥārum* is hardly compatible with AM ventive evens in ventive-inducing syntactic environments.

The only instance available of +VEN *saḥārum* indicates movement towards the author and reads as in (16):

(16) 2 *ūmē lā **tasaḥḥuram**. Saḥrātī napraṣ u maškē šapātēa lā tēzibam.*
      2   *ūm-ē*   *lā*   ***ta-saḥḥur-am***   *saḥr-āt-ī*   *napraṣ*
      two   day-OBL   NEG   2SG.M-delay.FUT-VN   wares.C-PL-1SG   chisel.ABS

      u   *mask-ē*   *šap-āt-ē-a*   *lā*   *tē-zib-am*
      and   fleece-OBL   wool.C-PL-OBL-1SG   NEG   2SG.M-leave.PRT-DAT.1S

      'Do not **delay** (i.e. to where I am) by two days. You did not leave me my small goods, a chisel and my woolen fleeces' [AKT 6c, 585: 15–18].

In this text, there is no genuine motion verb that could induce the ventive on *tasaḥḥuram*. However, it is hardly a coincidence that in this single example the ventive is used in its basic function as in examples (7) and (8). We might assume that originally the ventive must have been induced by adjacent genuine motion verbs; example (13) represents the second stage of lexicalization, since the AM ventive is used independently. The lack of examples where *saḥārum* represents the induced ventive is probably due to chance.

The ratio between +VEN and −VEN examples allows us to conclude that the AM ventive on *saḥārum* underwent only the initial stages of the lexicalization process.

5. Intermediate cases

In contrast to *saḥārum* stands a less frequent verb with a similar meaning: *utaḫḫurum* 'delay'. It is unattested without the ventive morpheme (17):

(17) *Šumma lā **tutaḫḫiram** anākuma akannakma aṣṣēr aḫātīka ušebbalšu.*

šumma	*lā*	***tu-taḫḫir-am***		*anāku-ma*	*a-kannak-ma*
if	NEG	2SG.M-delay.FUT-AM		1SG-TOP	1SG-seal.FUT-and

aṣṣēr	*aḫāt-ī-ka*	*u-šebbal-šu*
to	sister.C-GEN-2SG.M	1SG-send.FUT-3SG.M

'If you **are not delayed** (i.e. to where I am), I will seal (the silver) and send it to your sister' [TC 3, 16: 18–22].

The verb *ezābum* requires the AM ventive whenever the context implies a motion event, see (18):

(18) *Suʔam ina panīka nanšiʔam. Šumma **tezzibašši** libbī ilamminakkum.*

suʔ-am	*ina panī-ka*	*nanši²-am*	*šumma*
hammer.stone-A	in.person-2SG.M	bring.IMP-VN	if

te-zzib-aš-ši	*libb-ī*	*i-lammin-akkum*
2SG.M-leave.FUT-AM-3SG.F	heart.C-1SG	3SG.M-be.angry.FUT-DAT.2SG.M

'Bring here a hammer stone personally. **If you leave it behind** (and come here), I will be angry at you (lit. "my heart will be angry at you")' [TC 3, 98: 19–22].

A motion event is absent from the majority of contexts. In these cases, the AM ventive is not hosted:

(19) *Mimma **tēzibu** paḫḫirāma ana ḫuršem ištên šēribāma kīma iāti kunkā.*

mimma	***tē-zib-u***	*paḫḫir-ā-ma*
everything	2SG.M-leave.PRT-SBJV	collect.IMP-PL-and

ana	*ḫurš-em*	*ištên*	*šērib-ā-ma*
to	storeroom-GEN	one	bring.IMP-PL-and

kīma iāti   kunk-ā
my.representative   seal.IMP-PL

'Collect everything **she left** and bring it into one single storeroom and seal it in my name' [AKT 8, 260: 8–12].

The same principle holds for the verb *šalāḫum* 'retrieve'. See (20) with a motion event implied:

(20)   *Ana warīʔīka ninaʔʔidma warīʔaka **nišallaḥam** ana warīʔīka lib-baka lā iparrid.*

ana   warīʔ-ī-ka   ni-naʔʔid-ma   warīʔa-ka
to   copper.C-GEN-2SG.M   1PL-take.care.FUT-and   copper.C-2SG.M

***ni-šallaḥ-am**   ana warīʔ-ī-ka   libba-ka*
1PL-retrieve.FUT-AM   to   copper.C-GEN-2SG.M   heart.C-2SG.M

lā   i-parrid
NEG   3SG.M-take.care.FUT

'We shall take care of your copper and **retrieve** your copper (and come to you). Do not worry about your copper'

[AKT6d, 796: 14–16].

Also see (21) without a motion event:

(21)   *Inūmi tattalku lā tīde kīma ḫarranātum u ekallū dannūni. Adi ṣubātē **ašluḥu** 7 warḫē ina libbi mātem asḫur.*

inūmi   ta-ttalk-u   lā   tī-de   kīma
when   2SG.M-depart.PRF-SBJV   NEG   2SG.M-know.FUT   REL

ḫarran-āt-um   u   ekall-ū   dann-ū-ni   adi
road.PL-NOM   and   palace-NOM.PL   be.hard.SC-M.PL   until

*ṣubāt-ē   **a-šluḥ-u**   7   warḫ-ē*
textile-OBL   1SG-retreive.PRT-SBJV   seven   month-OBL

ina   libbi   māt-em   a-sḫur
in   inner.part.C   country-GEN   1SG-stay.PRT

'When you departed, did you not know that the roads and the palaces were causing difficulties? Until **I had retrieved** the textiles, I stayed seven months in the inner part of the country'

[AKT 8, 190: 26–27].

6. Conclusions

My analysis of the OA corpus allows to conclude that the AM ventive in OA denotes only subsequent motion:

— *ezābum* 'leave behind (and go)'
— *saḫārum* 'tarry, delay (and go)'
— *sarādum* 'pack (and go), load the cargo (and go)'
— *šalāḫum* 'retrieve (and go)'
— *utaḫḫurum* 'tarry, delay (and go)'

This fact does not fit well with the commonly accepted AM motion hierarchy: prior > concurrent > subsequent: "we should find no languages with Concurrent AM that do not also have Prior, and no languages with Subsequent that do not have Prior and Concurrent. Furthermore, there are implications for diachronic development, such that languages would develop first Prior, then Concurrent, and finally Subsequent AM morphology" [Ross 2021: 46][6]. Overall, subsequent motion is the least frequent AM type in the world languages [Ross 2021: 48]. Most likely, the absence of prior and concurrent motion in OA is a data distortion due to the limited corpus.

In [Belkadi 2016: 64] the following verb classes are proposed: "Path Motion > Motion translocational > Causative motion > Perception > (Natural phenomena and bodily secretions?) > Activities not involving translational motion > States. It follows from this thatsatellites triggering AM readings with verbs on the left side of the scale are more likely to be 'real' markers of motion and belong to the category of AM, while those triggering directional readings with verbs from the lower part of the scale are more likely to be path expressions. … the distinction between AM markers and path expressions is more gradual (and probably dynamic) than clear cut".

The Old Assyrian data does not allow assumptions about the verbs of perception and "natural phenomena and bodily secretions"; activities

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[6] For example, see [Guillaume 2016: 83] for South American data that supports this hierarchy.

not involving translational motion are the only group that assumes the AM ventive. States hosting the AM ventive are not attested in Old Assyrian.

Echo AM usage is more universal. A much wider range of verbs may take the echo AM marker.

Echo AM must have been the source for independent AM constructions. The verbs that were frequently introduced into echo constructions due to their contextual connection to motion started to assume the AM marker independently: initially, there were only examples like (12), but already in the pre-OA period, independent usage of the AM ventive on some verbs was developed.

The independent AM ventive underwent different stages of lexicalization on different verbs. Despite the scarcity of the evidence, we may trace the lexicalization process. In example (13), the only instance of *saḫārum* 'delay' with the AM ventive, the marker points to the whereabouts of the author, i.e., the ventive abides by its primary function. I argue that *saḫārum* represents the first stage of lexicalization of the AM ventive, that is, an explicit indication of the first-person deixis.

On the contrary, *sarādum* 'pack, load the cargo' employs the fully lexicalized and thus bleached AM ventive. At the concluding stage of the process, the AM ventive loses its deictic function and gets integrated into the paradigm. It is worthy of note that no genuine motion verbs in OA follow this strategy, since the semantics of motion is inherent to them: as a result, the ventive holds to its deictic function at all times. While on motion verbs the ventive develops in the direction of deictic shifts (author-oriented > addressee-oriented > non-SAP-oriented), the AM ventive on non-motion verbs transforms into a general marker of movement.

The verbs *ezābum* 'leave behind' and *šalāḫum* 'retrieve' represent an intermediate stage of lexicalization. They host the AM ventive whenever a movement event is implied and do not host it elsewhere.

Finally, *utaḫḫurum* 'delay' is a difficult case. It does not provide enough evidence for reliable analysis. It employs the AM ventive at all times, but the cases in question represent only movement towards the author and thus there are no contrasting cases to consider. I am unable to say whether *utaḫḫurum* follows the pattern of *sarādum* or that of *ezābum*. At any rate, it stands in stark contrast to its more frequent counterpart *saḫārum*

which, as a rule, does not host the ventive. If it is not due to lack of examples, we may assume that even verbs with similar meanings like *saḫārum* and *utaḫḫurum* might have adopted the AM ventive to varying degrees.

Abbreviations

ACC — accusative case; AM — associated motion marker; ABS — absolute state; C — construct state; DAT — dative pronoun; F — feminine; FUT — future; GEN — genitive case; IMP — imperative; INF — infinitive; M — masculine; NOM — nominative case; NEG — negative; OBL — oblique case (plural only); PL — plural; PRF — perfect; PRT — preterite; REL — relative; SG — singular; SBJV — subjunctive; SC — suffixed conjugation; TOP — topicalization; QT — quotation marker; VN — ventive; VOL — volative.

Bibliographical abbreviations

AAA — *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology*; AKT — *Ankara Kültepe Tabletleri* (Ankara); ArAn — *Archivum Anatolicum* (Ankara); BIN — *Babylonian Inscriptions in the Collection of JB. Nies* (New Haven); CCT — *Cuneiform Texts from Cappadocian Tablets in the British Museum* (London); CTMMA — *Corpus of Cuneiform Texts in the Metropolitan Museum of Art* (New York); KTH — *Lewy 1930*; POAT — *Gwaltney 1983;* TC — *Lewy 1935*; VS — *Vorderasiatische Schriftdenkmaler der staatlichen Museen zu Berlin* (Berlin).

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