

Repetitive prefix in Agul and its areal/genetic background

1. Agul and its prefixes

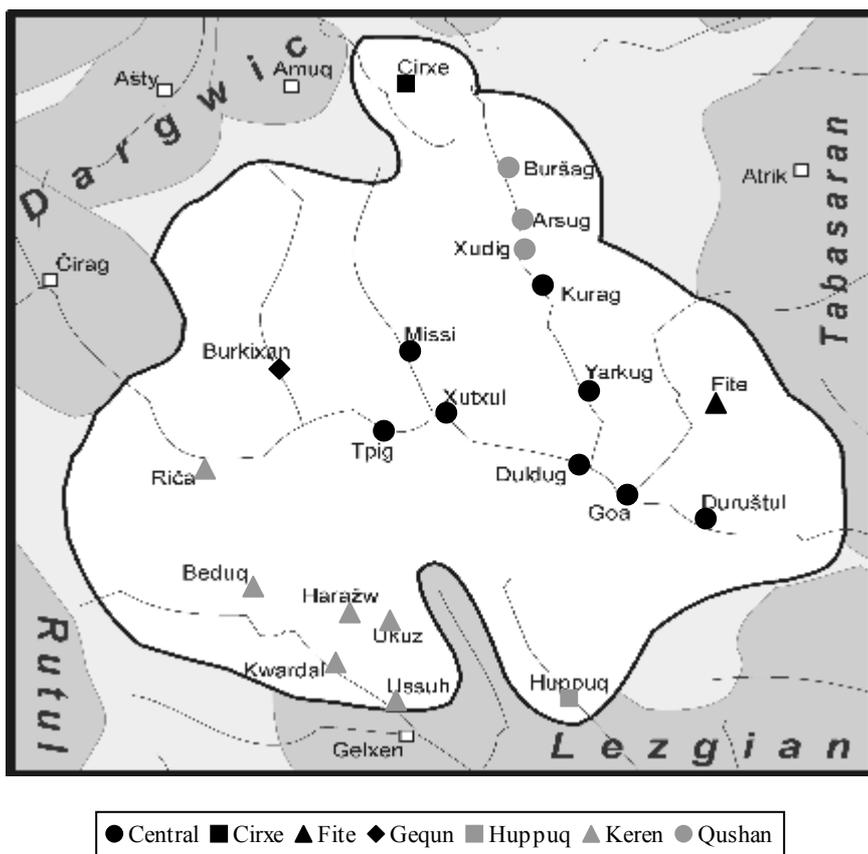
❖ **Agul (Aghul)** < Lezgi < East Caucasian (Nakh-Daghestanian)

Mostly spoken in the Agul and the Kurah districts of Daghestan, Russia (20 mountain villages) and people resettled on the lowlands.

Seven dialects:

- (i) CENTRAL AGUL,
- (ii) CIRXE,
- (iii) FITE,
- (iv) GEQUN (BURKIXAN),
- (v) **HUPPUQ**,
- (vi) KEREN,
- (vii) QUSHAN.

The QUSHAN dialect (close to Tabasaran-speaking area) is hardly understandable by speakers of other varieties.



Rich system of nominal inflection (absolutive, ergative, dative, genitive, comitative and ~20 locative cases).

Rich system of verbal prefixes, both derivational (locative, repetitive) and inflectional (negative, prohibitive).

❖ **Locative prefixes**

In the Huppuq dialect, there are two sets of locative prefixes:

- LOCALIZATION:
 - ʔ-* ‘In’, *ʕ-* ‘Inter’, *h-* ‘Ante’, *q-* ‘Post’, *f-* ‘Apud’, *al-* ‘Super’ and *k-* ‘Sub/Cont’ (the same form and meaning as locative case markers)
- DIRECTION (optional slot):
 - č-* ‘Lative’, *-at-* ‘Elative’, *-B-* ‘Up’ and *-a-* || *-da-* ‘Down’

(1) ruš.a gardan.i-q šarf qix.i-ne
 girl(ERG) neck-POST scarf {POST}put.PF-PFT
 ‘The girl put [‘behind’+‘put, lay’] a scarf on her neck’

(2) šünük:̣.i-l jurkan alčaq!
 child-SUPER shawl {SUPER-LAT}pour(IMP)
 ‘Cover [‘on-to’+‘pour, scatter’] the child with a shawl!’

- locative prefixes are attested in all dialects, though there is some variation in the form/meaning of affixes and the number of slots (two or three)
- not fully productive: the combinability with verbal roots is restricted, many derived prefixed verbs have idiomatic meaning
- in the Huppuq dialect, there are ca. 350 prefixed verbs (of 120 verbal roots, only about a half has prefixed derivatives, and about 30 roots have more than one prefixed derivative)

(3) zun wa-q quχ.a-dawa
 I you.SG-POST believe.IPF-PRS:NEG
 ‘I don’t believe [POST-???] you’

(4) za-l sa idemi alčarx.u-ne
 I-SUPER one man meet.PF-PFT
 ‘I met [SUPER-LAT-get.to] a man’

❖ Negative prefixes

d- || *da-* Narrow scope negation (non-finite and some non-indicative forms)
m- || *ma-* Prohibitive (morphologically unrelated to the Imperative)

- attested in all dialects
- unrestrictedly productive with non-stative verbs

(5) d-aḵ.a-s
 NEG-say.IPF-INF
 ‘not to say’

(6) m-aḵ.a!
 PROH-say.IPF
 ‘don’t say!’

(7) d-up.u-raj
 NEG-say.PF-JUSS
 ‘let him not say!’

❖ Repetitive (refactive) prefix *q-* || *qV-*

- attested only in two southern dialects – the Huppuq dialect (spoken in 1 village) and the Keren dialect (spoken in 6 villages).
- unrestrictedly productive with non-stative verbs

(8) aḵ.a-s
 say.IPF-INF
 ‘to say’

(9) q-aḵ.a-s
 RE-say.IPF-INF
 ‘to say again, to tell more’

- Repetitive and ‘Post’ can co-occur in one and the same derivative verb:

(18) q-árx.a-s	+ RE >	(19) qa-qárx.a-s
{POST} get.to.IPF-INF		RE-{POST} get.to.IPF-INF
‘fall behind’		‘fall behind again’

❖ Productivity

Unlike locative prefixes, Repetitive is **unrestrictedly productive** and can co-occur with any verbal stems, including those that already have locative prefixes. On the whole, Repetitive is “so regular that it could even be considered an inflectional category of the verb” (Haspelmath 1993: 174, said about the Lezgian Repetitive, see below). The exception is stative verbs (‘be in’, ‘stay in’, ‘know’, etc.), which do not co-occur with the Repetitive prefix – although there are a couple exceptions, cf. *qa-k:andea* ‘wants again’, *qa-it:aa* ‘is ill again’.

The **token frequency** of Repetitive verbs is high. In a corpus of Huppuq texts containing ca. 73,000 words there are 1521 tokens of Repetitive verbs. The number of non-stative verb forms in the corpus is around 18,880, so every 12th or 13th non-stative verb form bears the Repetitive prefix.

The most frequent Repetitive verbs are motion verbs: Repetitives from three verb stems – ‘go/come’, ‘go away’ and ‘come’ – account for 50% of all uses. Verbs that occur in texts with the Repetitive prefix 10 times and more are listed below:

‘come’ (PF)*	337
‘go/come’ (IPF)	295
‘go away’ (PF)	130
‘bring’ (PF)	82
‘bring/carry away’ (IPF)	71
‘do’	69
‘give’	52
‘send’	42
‘become’	32
‘find’	29

‘take, seize’	25
‘reach’	22
‘carry away’ (PF)	20
‘put inside’	14
‘get out’	13
‘say, tell’	13
‘let in’	11
‘put on, above’	11
‘gather, collect’	10
‘see’	10

* The two basic motion verbs ‘come’ and ‘go away’ have identical imperfective stems; in the table perfective and imperfective stems are counted separately. The same is true for the verbs ‘bring’/‘carry away’ which are derived from the basic motion verbs; see Appendix for details.

[The distinction between locative prefixes and Repetitive in Agul is similar to the distinction between **lexical vs. superlexical** (or internal vs. external) prefixes, which is often made for the Slavic languages. Internal/lexical prefixes are tightly connected to the lexical semantics of the root, they can induce argument structure changes and many combinations with them have idiomatic meaning. External/superlexical prefixes contribute more predictable aspectual meanings like inceptive, delimitative, repetitive, etc.]

3. Semantics of the Repetitive prefix

We will distinguish between the following main meanings associated with the Repetitive prefix (as a rule, each Repetitive verb can have several meanings)²:

- REDITIVE – ‘movement backwards’
- REPETITIVE proper – ‘one-time repetition of an event’ (same participants)
- ADDITIVE – ‘repetition of the event of the same type’ (different participants)
- CONSECUTIVE – ‘an event is added to the series of events’
- RESPONSIVE – ‘an action produced in response to some previous action’
- RESTITUTIVE – ‘reversion of an earlier event by which an earlier state is restituted’

❖ Reditive: ‘V back’

With motion verbs, ‘give’ and some others. Very frequent, given the high token frequency of motion verbs.

(20) qaj-ne χul.a-s, uq’.u-ne ust:ul.i-q, ʃut’.u-b – uχ.u-b.
 RE:come:PF-PFT house-DAT sit.PF-PFT table-POST eat.PF-MSD drink.PF-MSD
*We **came back** home, sat at the table, (there is) food and drink.*

(21) me ɛan-ar faqš.u-na me-wur.i qa-jc’.a-j-e...
 DEMM stone-PL RE:take.away.PF-CONV DEMM-PL(ERG) RE-give.IPF-CONV-COP
 me baw.a-l-di = na sus.a-l-di.
 DEMM mother-SUPER-LAT=and bride-SUPER-LAT

*{The main hero sends jewels to his family with the merchants.} They **take** the jewels (back to the village), and **give** them (back) to his mother and wife.*

❖ Repetitive proper: ‘V again’

The most productive meaning, available to all verbs.

(22) qa-du.u-ne ʔu-d-pu sefer.i penžeg.
 RE-pull.PF-PFT two-S-ORD time(TMR) coat
*We **pulled** his coat for the second time.*

(23) aq’.u-ne zun ʔüş.i q:ulgun, gena bagijmi = ra q-aq’.u-ne q:ulgun...
 do.PF-PFT I night(TMR) prayer more in.the.morning=& RE-do.PF-PFT prayer
*I prayed (performed “namaz”) at night, and in the morning I **prayed again**...*

(24) χab q-ag°.a-j-e mi-s ʔemk’.
 again RE-see.IPF-CONV-COP DEMM-DAT dream
*Then she **has a dream again**.*

² The terminology used here is taken mainly from Lichtenberk 1991, Wälchli 2006 and Stojnova 2009.

❖ **Additive: ‘and X V’, ‘more X V’**

Additive is the repetitive in the broader sense: situation of the same type is repeated but involves another participant(s) – or another “portion” of the object³.

(25) aɣp:a če dad = ra qa-k'.i-ne, it:ar-x.u-na.
 then our:EXCL father=& RE-die.PF-PFT be.ill-become.PF-CONV
*{Soon after telling about her mother’s death.} Then our father fell ill and **also** died.*

(26) sara fi q-aɁ.a zu wa-s, sara fi.ti-k-as qa-raɣ.a
 else what RE-say.IPF I you.SG-DAT else what-SUB/CONT-ELAT RE-talk.IPF
 zu wa-s, Ha-j-dewa za-s.
 I you.SG-DAT know-CONV-COP:NEG I-DAT
*What **else** can I tell you, about what **else** can I speak, I don’t know.*

❖ **Consecutive: ‘and (in addition) V’**

This is close to the additive meaning, but what is “added” is not another participant, but the situation as a whole – it is viewed as additional in the series of events.

(27) ɣab x.u-či šuw = ra q-alčarx.u-ne it:a-jde.
 back become.PF-COND husband=& RE- {SUPER-LAT} get.to.PF-PFT be.ill-PART3
*{Telling about troubles in her life.} **Besides**, I got a husband who was ill.*

(28) me ɣažalat = ra qa-x.a-j-e šuw.a-s.
 DEMM suffering=& RE-become.IPF-CONV-COP husband-DAT
*{The man returned and saw that his wife is gone.} (Apart from other things,) the husband **also had to go through** this suffering.*

❖ **Responsive: ‘do in response’**

Responsive belongs to the same “counterdirectional” family of meanings as reditive. In this case the action is directed symmetrically to the agent of the preceding action.

(29) ti qa-ix.a-a za-s pul req:ü-ʔ.
 DENT(ERG) RE- {IN} put.IPF-PRS я-DAT money road-IN
*{I sent that woman some sheep wool.} She **send** me (back) the money.*

(30) mi = ra t’ap’ q’.u-na t’ul ladaɁ.u-ne me
 DEMM(ERG)=& IDEOPH do.PF-CONV stick {SUPER} draw.out.PF-PFT DEMM
 bühünč’aj.i-l-as, mi = ra sa-d q-aladaɁ.u-ne gi-l-as.
 clown-SUPER-ELAT DEMM(ERG)=& one-S RE- {SUPER} draw.out.PF-PFT DEMG-SUPER-ELAT
*And she – bang! – stroke the “clown” with a stick, and he **stroke** her (back).*

³ According to Arkadiev & Korotkova 2010, the additive use of repetitive (refactive) prefix -ž’ə is widely spread in Adyghe.

❖ Restitutive: ‘restitute the state by V’

The difference with the repetitive proper is in the focus on the resultant state, and not on the action itself: it is not the action that is repeated, but the earlier state is restituted.

- (31) waʔ, suwar, me q:enfet-ar qa-gunt’-q’.a-s, xe-s te idemi-s
 no Suwar DEMM candy-PL RE-<gather>-do.IPF-INF we:INCL-DAT DENT man-DAT
 c’.a-jde šeʔ k:an-du...
 give.IPF-PART3 thing need-COP:NEG:Q

{After the candies fell and scattered all over the ground.} “No, Suwar, we have to **gather** all these candies **again**, we need something to give to that man”...

- (32) adark.a-j-e ge-wur sift:a sa-d, ʔu-d, xibu jaʔ.a
 look.for.IPF-CONV-COP DEMG-PL at.first one-S two-S three day(TMR)
 aruc.u-na – aruc.u-na qa-ʒik’.a-j-dewa jac-ar.
 look.for.PF-CONV look.for.PF-CONV RE-find.IPF-CONV-COP:NEG ox-PL

{The oxen were lost in the mountains.} They are searching for one, two, three days, they keep searching but they cannot **find** the oxen.

In locative contexts, the meaning is close to ‘back’ and is not clearly distinguished from the reditive (which can be viewed as a sub-type of restitutive meaning).

- (33) q:uj.di-as qa-at:̣.a-j-e gada.
 pit-(IN)ELAT RE-{IN}take.out.IPF-CONV-COP son

He **takes** his son **out** of the pit.

- (34) ge jaʔ.a ča-f-as rub qa-ket:̣.a-s
 DEMG day(TMR) we:EXCL-APUD-ELAT needle RE-{SUB/CONT}take.out.IPF-INF
 x.u-ndawa gi-k-as, ge q-uš.u-ne ʒul.a-s.
 can.PF-PFT:NEG DEMG-SUB/CONT-ELAT DEMG RE-go.away.PF-PFT house-DAT

That day we did not manage to **take** the needle **out** of him, and he went home.

❖ Other meanings

- ‘do in turn to someone else’

- (35) dars.una-k-as wuri ʔawur.di arx.a-j x.u-čin = na
 lesson-SUB/CONT-ELAT all understanding(IN) {IN}get.to.IPF-CONV become.PF=COND=&
 qa-qat:q’.a-s x.a-dawa...
 RE-recount.IPF-INF can.IPF-PRS:NEG

{Many children don’t speak Russian well.} Even if they understand everything during the lessons, they cannot **retell** this (to others)...

- ‘continue doing (after a break)’

- (36) ha-ge aʒp:a qa-qat:q’.a-s-e zun...
 ha-DEMG then RE-recount.IPF-INF-COP I

I will later **continue** telling about that...

- ‘do to completion’

(37) ha-le = ra qa-ʕutʕ, q:učma p.u-na-a, ha-le = ra qa-ʕutʕ ...
 ha-DEML=& RE-eat(IMP) friend say.PF-RES-PRS ha-DEML=& RE-eat(IMP)
{You’ve eaten a lot.} Eat up this one, my friend, eat it up, – he said.

- ‘already’

(38) jeri-d-pu is qa-x.u-naje-f-e sara.
 seven-S-ORD year RE-become.PF-PART2-S-COP PTCL
Seven years have passed already {since she died}.

❖ Idiomatic Repetitives

xas ‘become’ > *qa-xas* ‘get better, recover’ (also ‘become again’)
aqʕas ‘do, make’ > *q-aqʕas* ‘heal, cure, repair’ (also ‘do again’)

(39) ha-ti-č fajš.u-na, ha-te pir.a-l-di,
 ha-DEMT-LAT take.away.PF-CONV ha-DEMT sanctuary-SUPER-LAT
 qa-x.a-s-e zübejdat...
 RE-become.IPF-INF-COP Zibejdat
If they take her to the local sanctuary, Zibejdat will recover (from illness)...

(40) we ruš q-aqʕ.u-na-wa zun, aʕ.a-a zun.
 your.SG daughter RE-do.PF-RES-PRS:Q I say.IPF-PRS I
Didn’t I heal your daughter? – said I.

The same meanings of repetitive ‘become’ and ‘do’ are attested in Lezgian and in Adyghe (Wälchli 2006: 95-96).

4. Repetitive prefixes in other Lezgian languages

❖ LEZGIAN

Prefixes *q-* / *χ-* ‘back’, ‘again’ (probably go back to the same source):

- *q-*, *qi-* – restricted to a handful of verbs: *q-uwun* ‘do again’, *q-lahun* ‘say again’, *qi-wehun* ‘throw again’, *q-fin* ‘go away; go back’ and some others
- *χ-* (also an infix), *χu-* – productive: *χ-gun* ‘give again’, *χ-kun* ‘bring again, bring back’, *χu-taχun* ‘take back’, *a-χ-kun* ‘see again’, *ru-χ-gun* ‘boil again’ etc.

According to Alekseev (1985: 121), the prefix goes back to the Proto-Lezgian **q-* ‘Post’: its original meaning (‘behind’) is lost, repetitive is the derived secondary meaning.

❖ TABASARAN

Locative prefix *q-* with ‘Post’ meaning (‘behind’, also ‘back’).
No uses of *q-* or any other prefix as repetitive marker.

Literary Tabasaran (Khanmagomedov, Shalbuzov 2001)

qiwub ‘put behind’, *qtibt’ub* / *qtit’ub* ‘tie behind (e.g. a belt)’

qebgub / *qergub* ‘run behind, pursue’

qtabkub / *qtakub* ‘come back, return’, *qtap’ub* / *qta?ub* ‘give back’

❖ RUTUL and TSAKHUR

Locative prefix *qV-* ‘behind’/‘back’, can also mean ‘again’

Rutul (Ibragimov 1978: 98; Makhmudova 2001: 107-108):

q-a?as ‘pour behind’, *q-ijes* ‘throw behind’, *qu-udq’as* ‘cut, tear from behind’

qi-χis ‘bring back’, *qi-wis* ‘give back’

q-ešes ‘cry, weep again’, *q-aχas* ‘run again’, *ha-qa-gus* ‘find again’

Tsakhur (Ibragimov 1990: 124-125):

qa-les ‘come back’, *qe-q:as* ‘ask (to give) back’

qe-zas ‘plough again’, *qa-?as* ‘do again; repair’

❖ UDI

According to Alice Harris (2003a, 2003b), historical derivational analysis can reveal the prefix *qaj(j)-* ‘back, reverse action’, going back to the Proto-Lezgian **q-* ‘behind, back’. However, it occurs only in the element *qaj* as part of complex verbs:

qaj-bak- ‘return (INTR), come back’ [*bak-* is a light verb ‘be, become’]

qaj-d- ‘return (TR), give back’ [*d-* is a causative light verb]

qaj-p- ‘open’ [*p-* is a light verb ‘say’]

qaj-ec- ‘be opened, be untied’ [*ec-* is a decausative light verb]

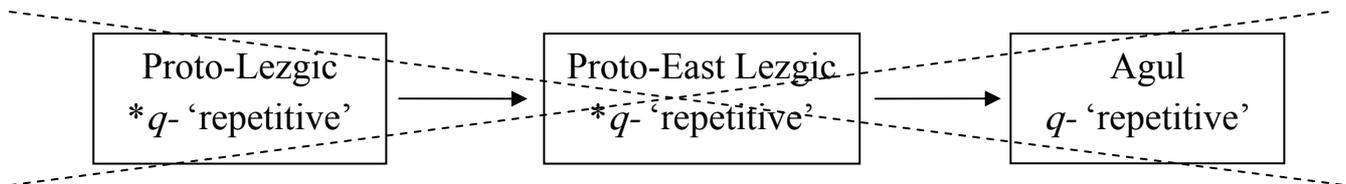
It is not clear whether there is really a verbal prefix here or rather a bound adverb/adjective/noun with no obvious etymology⁴. There is no cognate to *qaj-* ‘return’ in Old Udi (language of Caucasian Albanian palimpsests), where another element *k’or-* is used in complex ‘return’-verbs (Gippert et al. 2009).

⁴ The element *qaj-* ‘open’ (cf. *aχaj-* ‘open’ in Caucasian Albanian) in the second causative/decausative pair is probably etymologically unrelated to *qaj-* ‘return’ but is cognate to roots meaning ‘open’ in other Lezgian languages (cf. Lezgian adjective *aqa*, Agul verb *d-aq-* etc. in Nikolayev, Starostin 1994).

5. Possible origin of the Agul repetitive

❖ Proto-Lezgian Repetitive?

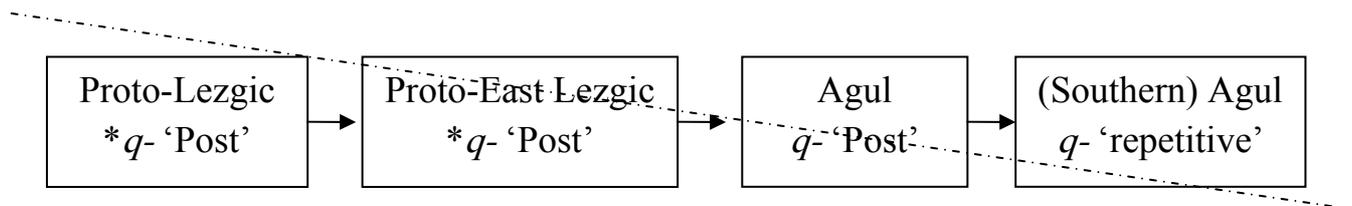
The possibility of tracing the origin of *q*-like repetitive (distinct from ‘Post’ marker) to the proto-Lezic stage is dubious: there seems to be no trace of such marker in some languages of the group, neither as a productive morpheme, nor even as part of lexicalized verbal stems with repetitive meaning.



❖ Repetitive and the ‘Post’ localization

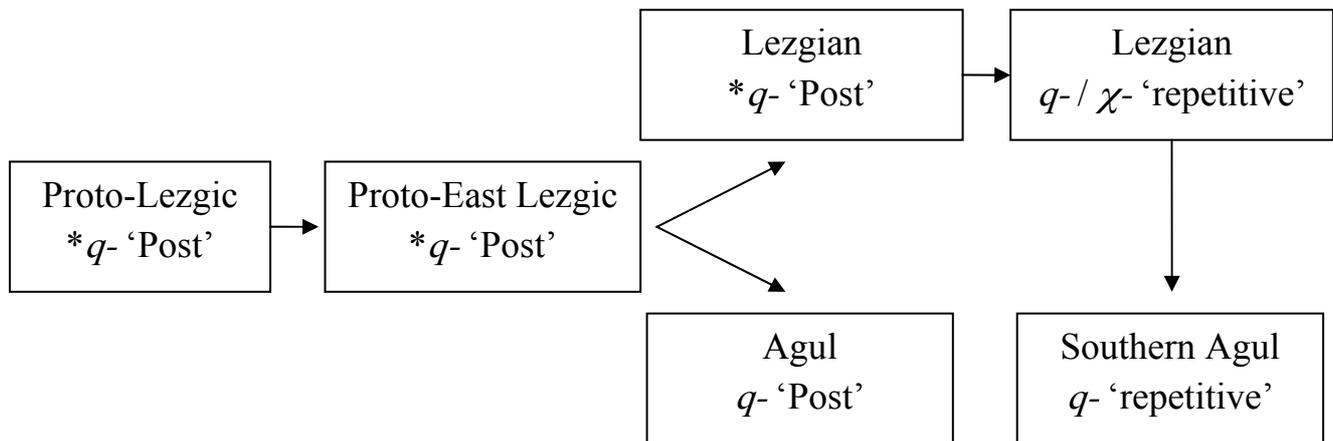
Though in (Southern) Agul the two prefixes – Repetitive and ‘Post’ — are formally and paradigmatically distinct, the diachronic connection between these two markers is highly probable. The connection between the meanings ‘back’ and ‘again’ is attested cross-linguistically, cf. a widely spread grammaticalization path from ‘return, go back’ to ‘do again’ (Heine, Kuteva 2002: 259-260) or the polysemy of Latin, Romance and English prefix *re-*.

In principle, irrespective of parallel developments in Lezgian and Rutul/Tsakhur, the Agul Repetitive might have an independent origin, following the ‘back’ > ‘again’ grammaticalization path. However, it is strange that only Southern dialects display such development.



❖ Contact-induced nature of the Agul Repetitive

- South Agul dialects having the Repetitive prefix are in a tight contact with neighboring Lezgian-speaking villages; most speakers of these dialects have a good command of Lezgian (a dominant language of the Kurah district of Daghestan)
- It is most plausible to assume that in South Agul dialects the repetitive was borrowed from Lezgian.
- Two cognate morphemes *q-* ‘post’ and *q-* ‘repetitive’ in Agul are thus “etymological doublets”.



- Parallel cases of semantic development from ‘behind’ to ‘back’ and ‘again’ in West Lezgian languages (Rutul and Tsakhur) are probably independent and represent typological similarity rather than a family-internal contact influence.

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Abbreviations

APUD – ‘near’ localization; COND – conditional; CONV – converb; COP – copula; DAT – dative; DEMM/DEML/DEMT/DEMG – demonstratives (M, L, T, G-series); ELAT – elative; ERG – ergative; EXCL – exclusive; IDEOPH – ideophone; IMP – imperative; IN – ‘inside’ localization; INCL – inclusive; INF – infinitive; IPF – imperfective; JUSS – jussive; LAT – lative; MSD – masdar; NEG – negation; ORD – ordinal; PART – participle; PF – perfective; PFT – perfective past; PL – plural; POST – ‘behind’ localization; PROH – prohibitive; PRS – present; PTCL – particle; Q – question; RE – repetitive; RES – resultative; S – substantivizer; SG – singular; SUB/CONT – ‘under’/‘in contact’ localization; SUPER – ‘on top’ localization; TEMP – temporal converb; TMR – temporal form (noun); & – additive particle. Aspectual stems of verbs and oblique stems of nouns are separated by dots. Unmarked values (Absolutive, Singular) are not glossed. Bound stems are in square brackets < >. Locative prefixes are in curly braces { } and are not glossed in highly idiomatized lexemes.

Appendix

Repetitive derivatives of the most frequent motion verbs
(suppletive stems, one imperfective stem vs. two perfective):

	PRESENT (IPF)	PERFECTIVE PAST (PF)	
		ventive verbs	itive verbs
‘go/come’	<i>ʕaa</i>	<i>adine</i>	<i>uʕune</i>
RE + ‘go/come’	<i>qu-ʕaa</i>	<i>q-ajne, q-ajine</i> (< * <i>q-adine</i>)	<i>q-uʕune</i>
‘bring/carry away’	<i>χaa</i>	<i>fajne, fajine, fajdine</i> (< <i>faj adine</i>)	<i>fajʕune</i> (< <i>faj uʕune</i>)
RE + ‘bring/carry away’	<i>qu-χaa</i>	<i>faqajne, fajqajne, fajqajine</i> (< <i>faj qajine</i>)	<i>faqʕune</i> (< <i>faj q-uʕune</i>)

The pair ‘bring/carry away’ is derived from the pair ‘go/come’ and represents morphologized combinations with the converb *faj* of the stative verb *faa* describing temporary possession (‘have with oneself, have at hand’) and ‘Apud’ location (‘be close, near’).