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*Narrative Verbal Forms in the NENA dialects*

In my paper I shall examine various types of verbal forms that are used in narratives in the North-Eastern Neo-Aramaic (NENA) dialects. They have in common the feature of dependence on the preceding discourse. These dependent narrative forms can be classified into ‘underspecified forms’ and ‘subordinate forms’. The underspecified forms include habitual forms and perfect forms, both of which lack the full specification of an event in their prototypical grammatical meaning. The specification of the event depends on the narrative context. The subordinate narrative forms have developed by a process of insubordination whereby their use has been extended from syntactically subordinate clauses to main clauses that are semantically dependent on the preceding discourse. One factor that may have motivated this insubordination process in the case of the narrative subjunctive *qatəl* form is the conservative continuity of the morphological shape of the narrative *qātēl* form, which was a feature of earlier Aramaic narrative style.