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THE DISTANCES OF THE UGRIC LANGUAGES BASED ON THE TYPOLOGICAL CONSONANTAL FEATURES

Every language has its own speech chain, which is unique. The speech chain creates a unique picture of a language and then the pattern of this or that language can be compared to the other one. In this work we try to establish the typological distances between Mansi (Vogul), Khanty (Ostjak) and Hungarian on the pattern of the frequency characteristics of the consonantal groups derived by the work of the active organ (place of articulation) and the manner of articulation. A new notion of the degree of marginality and centrality was introduced. The degree of marginality is the sum of the labial and velar consonants in percentage to all phonemes in speech: Mansi (Northern) - 24,19%, Mansi (Konda) - 20,75%, Khanty (Northern) - 21,21%, Khanty (Eastern) - 23,98%, Hungarian - 19,47%. From the point of view of this feature, Northern Mansi is close to the Eastern Khanty while Northern Khanty is close to Konda Mansi. Hungarian is close to Konda Mansi. The degree of centrality is the sum of the front and mediolingual consonants in speech to all consonants: Hungarian is close to Northern Khanty (c.f. 38,34% - 38,23%) while Northern Mansi is close to Eastern Khanty (c.f. 36,88% - 36,00%). In this case the phono-typological features of Konda Mansi are rather far away from them all. It is possible to represent these distances graphically taking three languages each time since the two-dimensional scale does not permit to show more than three languages at a time.

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FORMS EXPRESSING THE DEGREE OF WEAKENING AND INTENSIFYING THE QUALITIES OF ADJECTIVES IN PERM LANGUAGES

In Perm languages there are affixes, which express the degree of the quality of adjectives, without comparing it to that underlying stem. In some cases they express a diminishing degree of the quality, in others - the intensification of it. The forms expressing degrees of quality are as follows:

1. The diminishing degree of quality

a) in the Udmurt language it is expressed by the suffixes *-ales (-jales)*: *gordales* 'reddish'; *-mjt:čužmjt* 'yellowish'; *-pjr, -pjrjem*: *vožpjrjem* 'greenish'; *-žožja* (dial.): *kuridžožja* 'bitterish'; *-ik, -jk*: *ta bidžik no* 'not even of this size'; *-os*: *urodos* 'rather bad';

b) in the Komi-zyryan language the corresponding suffixes are *-ik, -nik*: *ičötik* 'rather small' formed from *ičöt* 'small'; *-nži, -inži*: *košinži* 'rather dry' formed from *kos* 'dry';

c) in the komi-permyakish language the same meanings are expressed by means of the suffixes *-ik, -nik*: *veknit'ik* 'narrowish' from *vekn'i* 'narrow', *burihik* 'goodish' from *bur* 'good'.

2. The intensive degree of quality

a) in the Udmurt language it is expressed

i) by the reduplication of the stem of adjectives, e.g.: *gord-gord* 'very, very red';

ii) by the reduplication of the prepositive part of an adjective, e.g.: *vol'-vol' vol'it'* 'very, very smooth';

iii) sometimes the prepositive part can be of a different stem, e.g.: *jug ted'i* 'very, very white', *čij'-čij' šgd'* 'very, very black'.

b) in the Komi languages the same meaning is expressed either by the reduplication of the stem or in a descriptive way *ižit-ižit* 'very, very big', *vjyti šoma* 'too much sour'.

This meaning of the degree of the quality of adjectives in Perm languages is expressed regularly by means of suffixes and preposi-

tives, this enables us to state that it is a special grammatical category, which is expressed by means of form-building suffixes, which have developed historically and they are of different origin.

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SOME NOTES ON THE VÕRO VARIETY

The border between 'language' and 'dialect' is often hazy. The term 'language', from a linguistic point of view, is a relatively non-technical term. Linguistic features obviously are involved in a definition of 'language', but political, geographical, historical, sociological and cultural factors are relevant (J. K. Chambers & Peter Trudgill 1980). 'Dialect' is commonly used to denote a substandard, low status, often rustic form of language, generally associated with the peasantry or other groups lacking in prestige. It is also a term which is often applied to forms of language, particularly those spoken in more isolated parts of the world, which have no written forms (J. K. Chambers & Peter Trudgill 1980). Commonly the Võro variety is considered to be 'dialect', a belief supported by non-linguistic points-of-view. Some linguists (like A. Raun & A. Saareste 1965) contend that if the area of the South Estonian (Võro) dialects were not included in the territory of Estonia and if the natives of South Estonia were not united with other Estonians through a common history and culture, there would be more justification to consider South Estonian as a separate Balto-Finnic language, than there is in the case of Karelian. According to Sammallahti (1977) and Viitso (1985) South Estonian separated from the Proto-Balto-Finnic group in the early stages of its dissolution. Décsy (1990) presents South Estonian as a separate language.

After having been considered as a low-status dialect for a long time, nowadays Võro variety is developing into a 'language' as evidenced by a new orthography (orthographies), translations and original

publications appearing in Võro and new-found possibilities for school-children to study their own language (currently this is only possible in three schools).

For the first time in history the intelligentsia who emerge from Võro backgrounds are not leaving behind their linguistic heritage, on the contrary they are self-consciously cultivating it. But for Võro to become a fully-fledged language it must have adherents not only among intellectuals; ordinary people must be able to say that Võro is their language. This process is only just beginning.

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THE ANCIENT BOUNDARY OF SAAMI AND FINNISH LANGUAGES MARKED BY TOPONYMS ON UPPER KEMIJOKI AT ROVANIEMI

For the original local inhabitants, speaking Far North Finnish, the toponyms of Kemijski Valley, e.g. at Rovaniemi administrative village of Rovaniemi rural commune, are either semantically motivated or "meaningless". The former type has an appellative or a proper name as the defining component, e.g. **Jyrhämäjärvi** 'jyrhämä (= deep bay of a river) + järvi (= lake)', **Oikaraisenvaara** 'Oikarainen (family name) + GENitive + vaara'. The latter type has nowadays its proper name function only.

It was just on this area where the first people were living about eight thousand years ago, speaking Northern Proto-European language, "Uralic", or Saami, as the speakers' genetic group is called by modern geneticists. How old are the oldest place-names? They have been changing under waves of Indo-European and later especially Finnish effects.

The oldest names come from Early Proto Finnish, e.g. *Kemijoki*, or are left here when the local Saami population was assimilated with Finns, during 19th century at the latest. Those names point to something big, e.g. mountains (*Ounasvaara*, *Jokkavaara*, *Kivalo*), lakes (*Olkajärvi*, *Sierijärvi*), rivers (*Ravvajoki* or officially *Raudanjoki*, *Kulus-*