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Sándor Csúcs
Nóra Falk
Viktória Püspök
Viktória Tóth
Gábor Zaicz

Borító: Kemény Márton
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Kelemen, Mária – Wessel, Katri

Munich

LEARNERS' STRATEGIES FOR COPING WITH LEXICAL DEFICIENCIES

(Poster)

This project focuses on the question how learners of Finnish and/or Hungarian as a foreign language cope with lexical deficiencies in both oral communication and written texts. Based on written assignments, observation as well as recordings of oral performance and interviews we are going to look at the strategies learners employ to overcome difficulties to find or to use the adequate expression in a certain context. Furthermore we want to find out how the strategies beginners employ might differ from the ones advanced learners prefer and if there is something like a language-related strategy, which is used in one language, but not in the other. This kind of strategy might be related the learners' levels of proficiency. Additionally we are taking into account, what learners consider lexical deficiencies at different levels of proficiency. Based on our findings we are hoping to establish more efficient ways both of teaching words and thus help avoiding lexical shortcomings as well as familiarizing learners with refined strategies to cope with lexically trying situations and thus building up their self-confidence and encouraging them to communicate orally or in written form even if the feel that they lack words to express their case properly.

Keljmakov, Valentin

Izhevsk

SYNONYMIC AUXILIARY WORDS WITHIN FRAME CONSTRUCTIONS IN UDMURT (IN THE CONTEXT OF LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN THE VOLGA AND THE KAMA REGION)

Pleonastic emphasis of grammatical and/or lexical meanings of words in Udmurt is achieved by both auxiliary elements given in succession (*не-но-кин* 'nobody') and frame constructions *одйг тон гинэ* 'only you' (compare: *одйг тон* 'only you' or *тон гинэ* 'only you').

Among the auxiliary words used within frame constructions there are conjunctions (*если ... ке* 'if', *коли ... ке* 'if', *раз ... бере* 'if'), particles (*коть ... ке но* 'though', *одйг ... гинэ* 'only', *только ... гинэ* 'only') and postpositions (*ог... мында* 'about'). These pairs of auxiliary words with similar semantics are used as a frame to strengthen the meaning (function) which they give to a separate word (*коть ёжыт ке но* 'a little at least'), a construction (*ог жьыны иськем ёрос* 'about a kilometre') or a clause (*пока йырыд быгылес на дыръя* 'while your head is still on your shoulders').

Framing is possible only in the case of two synonymic auxiliary words, one of them preceding a notional word or a group of words, and the other one following them (*только туннэ гинэ*). Being an agglutinative language, Udmurt is characterized by postpositive use of auxiliary words; that is why prepositive elements of framing constructions are represented by words borrowed from the inflexional Russian and Persian languages, the latter of which influences Udmurt via Tatar.

Frame constructions containing words of Russian origin are more typical of the colloquial style of Udmurt, while Persian-Tatar elements are found in early clerical texts translated into Udmurt from Tatar.

The use of synonymic auxiliary words within frame constructions is also typical of other languages spoken in the Volga and the Kama region, including Tatar: *әгәр ... -са* 'if', *зәрүә ... -са* 'although', etc.

Khanina, Olesya – Shluinsky, Andrey

Leipzig – Moscow

NOMINAL AND VERBAL INFLECTIONAL CLASSES IN THE MODERN STATE OF ENETS⁵

In this paper we discuss the current state of modern Enets nominal and verbal morphology, mainly based on Forest Enets, but also comparing our data with Tundra Enets. Traditionally, following Castrén (1854) and, more recently, Tereščenko (1966), both Enets nominal and verbal stems were divided into three classes: stems on vowel, stems on unvoiced (unnasalized) glottal stop and stems on voiced (nasalized) glottal stop. Modern data shows that the classification of the stems both for nouns and verbs is not limited by only three inflectional classes: there are also consonant-final stems, and different vowel-final stems behave differently. On the other hand contemporary Enets speakers have some variation in building some forms that cannot be predicted from the traditional inflectional classes. In the talk we compare Enets inflectional system of the main parts of speech that we have collected from the contemporary Enets speakers with the predictions that can be made from the literature. As a more analytical issue related to the Enets inflectional system we also discuss the traditional parallelism of nominal in verbal stems and the possibility to analyze Enets data in another way.

Khanina, Olesya – Shluinsky, Andrey

Leipzig – Moscow

PROBLEMATIC ISSUES OF ENETS PHONOLOGY⁶

In this paper we discuss the problematic issues of Enets phonological system. For some topics we compare data of both Enets dialects, Forest Enets and Tundra Enets, and for other ones we just discuss Forest Enets data.

There are three problematic issues that are directly related with the Enets phonemic inventory: close /o/ phoneme and variation between rounded back vowels, and variation between [e] and [i].

Modern Forest Enets data on on close /o/ and other round back vowels shows that there are three classes of words with back vowels: /u/-words pronounced only with [u] open /ɔ/-words pronounced only with [ɔ], and the so-called 'close /o/-words' pronounced with free variants [o], [u] or [ɔ]. The status of the close /o/ in the earlier stages of Forest Enets remains unclear from the literature, as well as synchronic analysis of 'close /o/-words'. Field data on modern Tundra Enets shows that the words earlier reported with close /o/ are now pronounced with [u], though for some of them [o]-pronunciations are

⁵ The research was held as a part of the project «Documentation of Enets: digitization and analysis of legacy field materials and fieldwork with last speakers» supported by Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, SOAS, University of London.

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