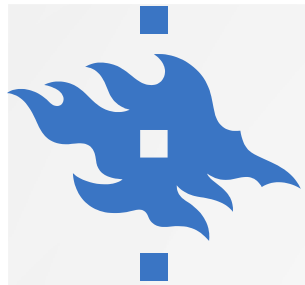


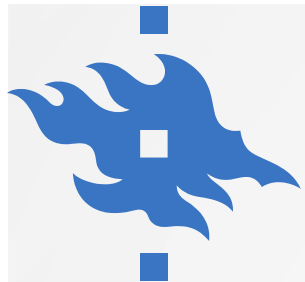
MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATION IN CODING OF PATH IN KOMI

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KOMI LANGUAGE

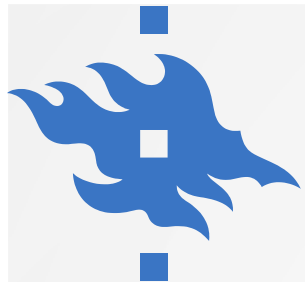
- Uralic language of the Permic branch
 - Closest related languages Komi Permyak and Udmurt
- Spoken in the Komi republic (Northeast of European Russia)
- ~160 000 speakers (2010)



KOMI LANGUAGE (CONT.)



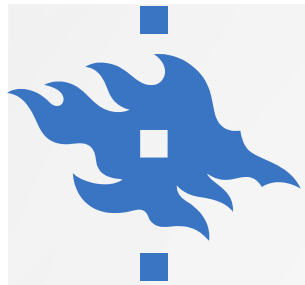
Komi republic (Map: Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0)



KOMI LANGUAGE (CONT.)



Komi Zyrian and Permyak dialects (Map: Niko Partanen)



PATH CODING IN KOMI

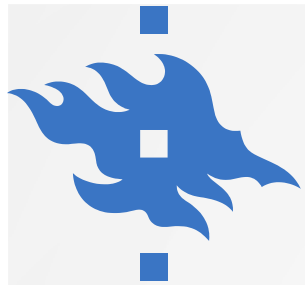
- In Komi Zyrian both nouns and certain relational nouns (postpositions and adverbs) can be inflected in spatial cases
- There are two cases that express path in the Komi standard language, traditionally called prolative (-*əd*) and transitive (-*ti*)

- (1) *kanaλ-jas-əd* *jəv* *mun-ə* *paεkid-dʒik*
channel-PL-PROL milk.NOM go-PRS.3SG big-CMP

kanaλ-jas-ə

channel-PL-ILL

'The milk goes through channels to bigger channels.'

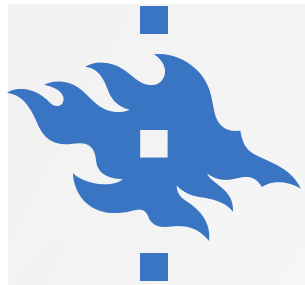


PATH CODING IN KOMI (CONT.)

- (2) *a* *kazak-jas* *turun* *pəvst-ti* *kiss-isni*
and Cossack-NOM.PL grass.NOM row-TRAN crawl-PST1.3PL

'And the Cossacks were crawling through the grass.'

- In most of the dialects and in the closely related languages both cases are present, but their productivity differs from the standard language



DIALECTAL VARIATION

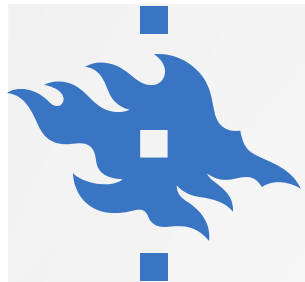
- Both cases are productive in nouns and relational nouns at least in the dialects of Upper Sysola, Middle Sysola, and Syktyvkar, and in the standard language based on the Syktyvkar dialect
- In the more peripheral dialects prolativ is used for nominal path-coding, whereas transitive is used with relational nouns

- (3) [- -] *on* *vermi* *tuj-jes-əd* *mun-ni vəl-ən*
 NEG.2SG can.CNG road-PL-PROL go-INF horse-INST

'[- -] you can't go with a horse along the road.' [Udora dialect]

- (4) [- -] *dʒodʒəg-jes* [- -] *kivt-əni* *va* **viv-ti-is**
 goose-NOM.PL slide-PRS.3PL water.NOM above-TRAN-FOC

'[- -] the geese [- -] slide along above the water.' [Udora dialect]



DIALECTAL VARIATION (CONT.)



Komi Zyrian and Permyak dialects, central dialects marked in red
(Map: Niko Partanen)

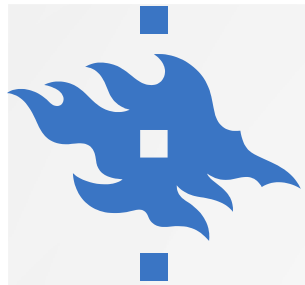


MORPHOSYNTACTIC VARIATION

- In the central dialects there are no morphosyntactic restrictions for the coding of path
- In peripheral dialects the variation is in most cases prolativ with nouns, transitive with postpositions
- However, there are some words that function both as nouns and postpositions (I. e. relational nouns), e. g. *veet* ‘place’, *ʃar* ‘back(side)’, *bok* ‘side’, which can take both cases

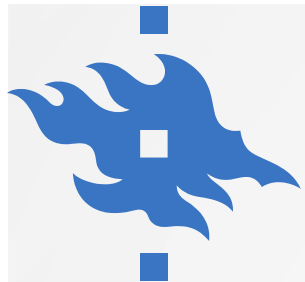
- (5) *termac-təg* *leb-ni stav* *tajə* *mitclun-is* ***veet-əd***
hurry-CAR fly-INF all DMST beauty-FOC place-PROL

’Without hurry they fly above all this beauty.’

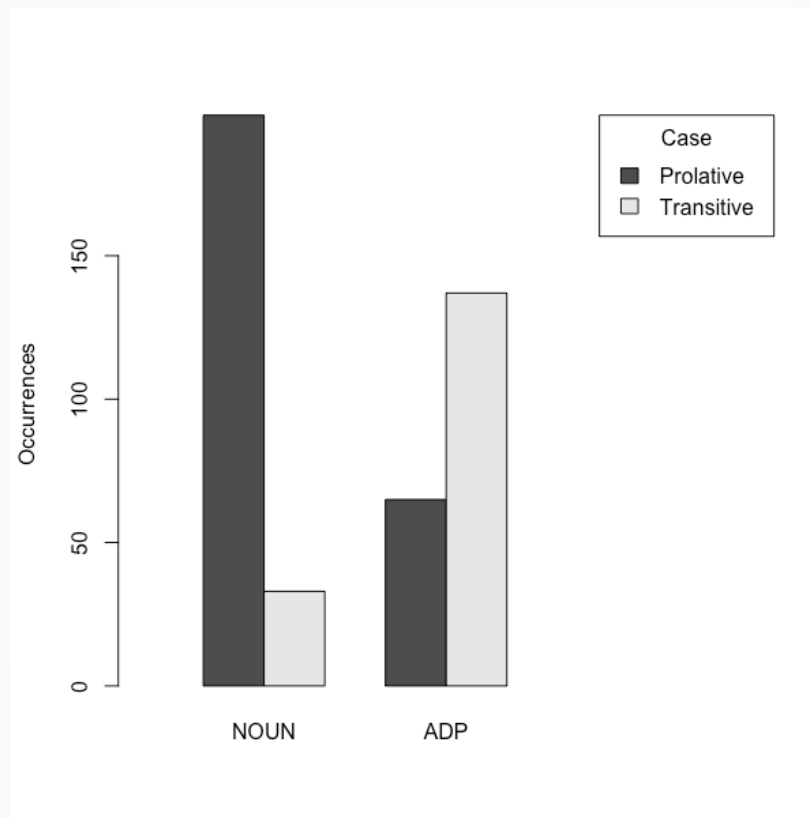


MORPHOSYNTACTIC VARIATION (CONT.)

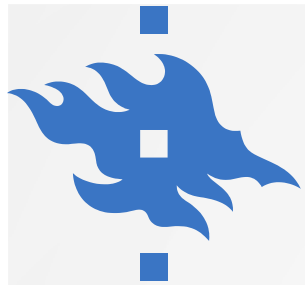
- (6) *təlis* *sɪ* *veɛt-ti* *nu-ə* *tʃɛn-sə* [- -]
wind.NOM DMST place-TRAN carry-PRS.3SG smoke-POSS.3SG.ACC
'The wind carries the smoke above it [- -]'



MORPHOSYNTACTIC VARIATION (CONT.)



Distribution of the path-coding cases between nouns and postpositions.



SEMANTIC VARIATION

- When the choice between the path-cases is not governed by morphosyntactic factors (e. g. in the standard language), the choice is made based on the following semantic parameters

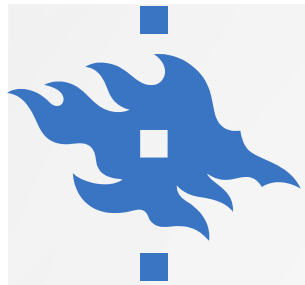
- The shape of the Landmark

- (7) *vod̄zd̄ʒ̄tknas* *parəvəj* *sudno-jas-ən* *vetl-isni* *səmin*
earlier steam vessel-PL-INST go-PST 1.3PL only

ju-jas-əd [- -]

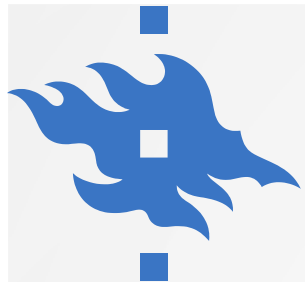
river-PL -PROL

'Earlier steam ships used to travel only along rivers [- -]'

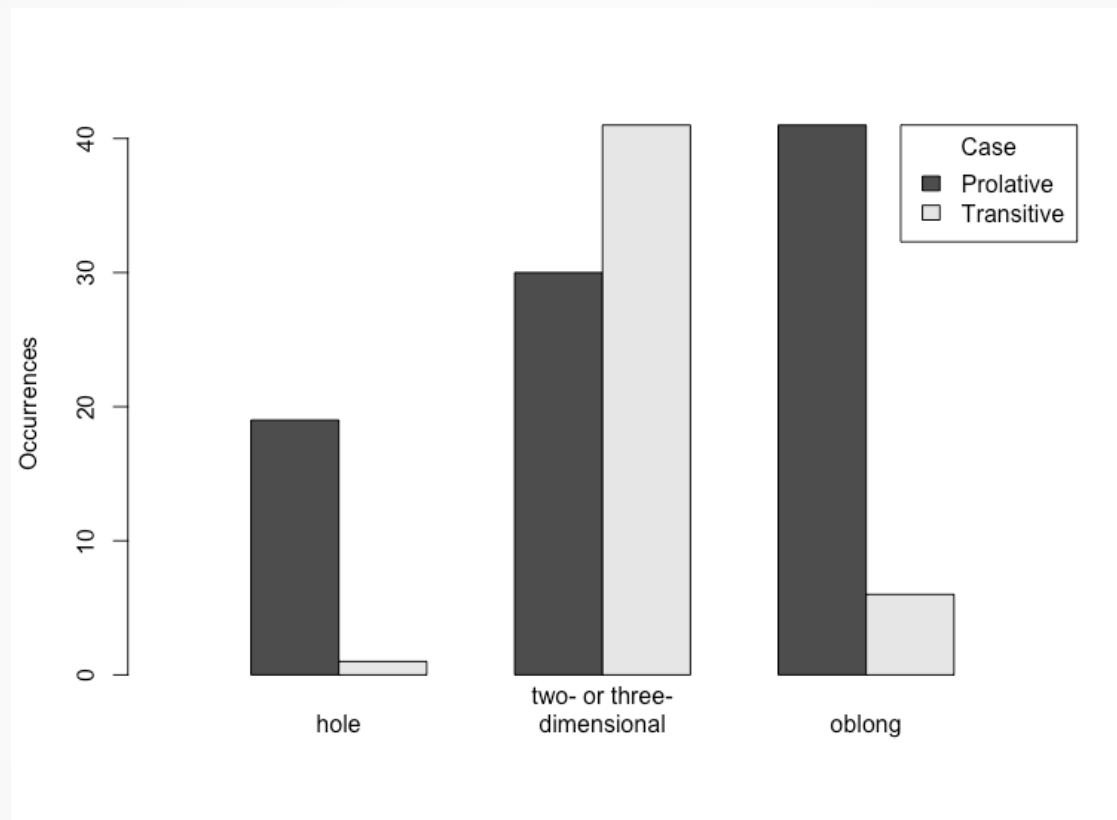


SEMANTIC VARIATION (CONT.)

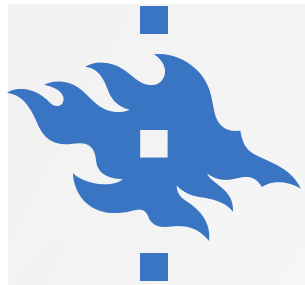
- The control imposed by the Landmark on the Trajector
- (8) *koak* *kif* *roz-jas-ad* *pet-a* *gaz* [- -]
egg.NOM shell.NOM hole-PL-PROL exit-PRS.3SG gas.NOM
'The gas exits the egg through the shell holes [- -]'
- (9) *jas-id* *lebatε-jas* *moz* *sinad-ti* *lebal-ani* [- -]
people-FOC bird-NOM.PL like air-TRAN fly-PRS.3SG
'People fly like birds through the air [- -]'
- These parameters are not absolute, but rather visible tendencies that can interact with each other and other factors



SEMANTIC VARIATION (CONT.)

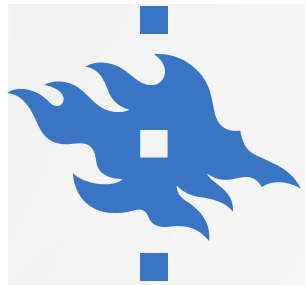


Distribution of the path-coding cases between the shape of the Landmark (hole & oblong impose control to the Trajector).



CONCLUSIONS

- The coding of path in Komi Zyrian show variation on many different levels of language organisation
- The variation on different levels intertwine and affect each other in different ways
 - More thorough research is needed to clarify these delicate interactions
 - More dialect data is needed in order to be confident about the exact geographical distributions
 - Both prolative and transitive are rare cases (2000 / 1 000 000 noun tokens; 1500 PROL, 500 TRAN)
 - Interaction between literary standard and vernacular dialects largely uninvestigated



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