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The case system of personal pronouns in Vogul

A The cases of the noun

The aim of this paper is to present a suggestion for explaining the so called intensional definitions of cases of personal pronouns in Vogul. The traditional approach is connected to the European grammatical heritage bases on the categories of Latin grammar. It is a simple list of the case suffixes of the personal pronouns. I will call this method the extensional definition (see Fincziczky 1930; Černecov & Černecova 1936; Liimola 1943). This approach, however, cannot explain the interrelations among the cases of the noun. What I am proposing here is another method that I call the intensional definitition of cases based on the theory of markedness. It is not a simple listing of cases but a systematic analysis of the cases from the point of view of the given categories of markedness.

A1 Form
The extensional approach is illustrated in the Figure 1 below.

Nom	-0
Acc	-mə
Loc	-t
Lat	-nə
Abl	-nəl
Com	-əl
Transl	-əj

Figure 1: Noun declension in Yukonda Vogul (Kálmán 1976: 29).

As you can see from this figure there are seven cases in Vogul from which the first one is the nominative case and the last one is the translative case. One thing that we can do with this table is to analyse the case endings with the help of comparative historical linguistics, an example for which is Liimola (1963).

A2 Meaning

In most of the grammars of Vogul, however, the systematic investigation of the meanings of the cases is missing. What they mention is only the example of use of the cases in the clause, as illustrated in Rombandejeva (1973: 43–57), Kálmán (1976: 30–31), and Rombandejeva (1995, 78–83). These are remarkable comments about the meanings of the cases in themselves, however, the other type of investigation, namely the intensional definition, can analyse their abstract meanings together with the category of markedness. In an earlier paper (see B. Székely 2001) I proposed a systematic correspondance of the cases using three categories of markedness: direction, quantification and marginality. In the Figure 2 below one can see the the unmarked (u) and the marked (m) versions of these categories constitute a closed system in Vogul ranging from the fully unmarked category of the nominative case to the fully marked category of the translative case.

	direction	quantification	marginality
Nom	u	u	u
Acc	u	m	u
Loc	u	m	u
Lat	m	u	u
Abl	m	u	m
Com	u	m	m
Transl	m	m	m

Figure 2: Markedness in the case system of Vogul.

A21 Accusative

From the figure 2 it can be seen that the accusative and the locative cases are unmarked for direction which means that these two cases are not directed as opposed to the traditional treatment of the direct object in Latin-based European grammars. I would like to propose an interpretation of the object in Uralian languages that is connected to its relational character. The subject and object of the clause stand in a static and central relation such that the subject has the feature of totality meanwhile the object has the feature of partiality. The major line of my way of thinking in this paper is as follows: the core meaning feature of the case system of Vogul is its relational character (for details, see B. Székely 2001).

A22 Translative

The most marked category in the case system of Vogul is the translative case. It appears only in predicative position as a part of the complex nominal predicate.

B Cases of personal pronouns

The declension of the personal pronouns in Vogul differs from that of nouns in a way that the former has a special feature to express the relational categories investigated above, such as subject-object and subject-locative relations. In what follows I want to analyse the case forms of the personal pronouns firstly, then to add some comments concerning their special features.

B1 Form
The case paradigm of the personal pronoun 'you' in a dialect of Vogul is in figure 3:

<div align="center">

Nom   näγ 'you'
Acc   nā̈γən 'you'
Dat   näγnön 'to you'
Abl   näγnō̈nəl 'from you'
Com   näγəntəl 'with you'

</div>

Figure 3: Personal pronoun declension in Yukonda Vogul (Kálmán 1976: 33).

Here are some remarks concerning the forms of the personal pronouns. Let me investigate three examples, based on the claims of paragraph 62.2 of a practical grammar book of Vogul: „Ličnije mestoimenija ne imejut form mestnogo i prevratitelnogo padežej." [„There are no locative and translative cases of personal pronouns."] (Balandin & Vakhruseva 1957: 97).

B11 No locative case.
In the figure 3 we can see the lack of the locative case. This is most surprising as there is no locative case of the personal pronoun at all.

B12 Formally no accusative case.
Formally in the paradigm of personal pronouns there is no accusative case. It is to be mentioned here that there is an accusative case in some dialects of Vogul. However, we can find the same suffix on personal pronouns which we find on the nouns in the noun paradigm in those dialects which have formal accusative: täwä-mə 'him'.

B13 No translative case
There is no translative case at all in the paradigm of personal pronouns. The explanation may be connected with its inherent meaning: The person referred to by the personal pronoun is identical with itself, therefore no double

identification is needed.

B2 Morphological structure

There are interesting correlations among the morphological forms of the suffixed forms of personal pronouns which seem to be characterized by the notion of iconicity. If we have a look at the figure 4 below, we can see that there are three morphological forms in the paradigm of the personal pronouns. The first one is an unmarked form, the second one is a marked form contrasting with the first form, and the third one is an emphatically marked form based on the second one.

unmarked	marked	emph. marked
PersP+1SgNomLoc		
	PersP+1SgAcc-Px1Sg	
		PersP+1Sg-Px1Sg-Dat
		PersP+1Sg-Px1Sg-Abl
		PersP+1Sg-Px1Sg-Com

Figure 4: Iconicity in the morphological structure

B3 Meaning

The meaning of the personal pronouns in the nominative case is 'I here, you here', etc. They incorporate the locative meaning inherently. The basic meaning of the accusative case of personal pronouns is a relation which is a special kind of agreement. It seems to us that it is a possessive like structure without having any possessed element. It reflects the original meaning of 'possessivity' which is a relation in space. One can suppose that it is a stronger form of the basic locative meaning of the personal pronouns.

C1 Inherent context

In the light of the proposed analysis of the basic meanings of personal pronouns such as the ones above we can distinguish two kinds of context. The first one is the so-called inherent context, in which the basic meanings of the personal pronouns correspond with their locality character so that they locate the persons in the context of speaking inherently.

C2 Coherent context

The second kind of context is a coherent one which is the basic or generic meaning of context: two visible, segmentable forms are related with each other mainly in the sysntactic structure. I think that 'agreement' is the most preferred

coherent context in the languages of the world. This is the case in North-West Siberian languages as well (see B. Székely 2003).

D Conclusion

In this paper I have proposed an analysis to explicate the basic meanings of personal pronouns in Vogul. The relation of two forms or two meanings is a special kind of context. Three kinds of relations have been distinguished: the first one is a meaning relation in space which is taken to be the basic meaning of the nominative case of personal pronouns, the second one is a relation with itself to be expressed by the possessive-like forms of the personal pronouns, i. e. an agreement in meaning (conventia ad sensum), and the third one is the context relation. The emphatically marked forms prove to be associated with all the other cases such as lative, ablative and comitative which take their stem froms for further suffixation from the accusative. As we can see from the analysis presented here it is important to describe languages not only by simple listings of categories but also by explaining their inner relational correspondances.

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