

Finnic

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Foundations of Uralic etymology

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(Late) Proto-Finnic

a) consonants

stops	sibilants	affricates	nasals	liquids	spirants	semi-vowels
<i>k</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>l</i>		<i>j</i>
<i>t</i>			<i>n</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>p</i>			(<i>ŋ</i>)			

b) vowels

1st syllable

<i>i, ii</i>	<i>u, uu</i>	<i>ü, üü</i>
<i>e, ee</i>	<i>o, oo</i>	
<i>a, aa</i>	<i>ä, ää</i>	

2nd syllable

<i>i</i>	<i>u</i>	(<i>ü</i>)
<i>e</i>	<i>o</i>	
<i>a</i>	<i>ä</i>	

diphthongs

Exercise 1

Which of the following “Finnish words” could be inherited from Proto-Uralic and which couldn’t? (you can assume the words are in their most basic form)

puli *tartsa* *möka* *siila* *krotta* *kimo* *läiriö* *päilä* *vema*
pums *nehvettä* *käylä* *oppa* *juo* *nuopa* *looppi* *runski* *mähli*
kaalu *luuka*

Exercise 2

Which of the following words can be old, which cannot and why?

numi *höpö* *höpi* *numa* *nuuma* *nuumi* *killi* *piila* *sukko*
sukka *suukka* *suukki* *suu* *kurkka* *suppi*

Exercise 3

What can be said about the age of the following words on phonotactic grounds?

kuuma vaaksa sumu sauna mäki

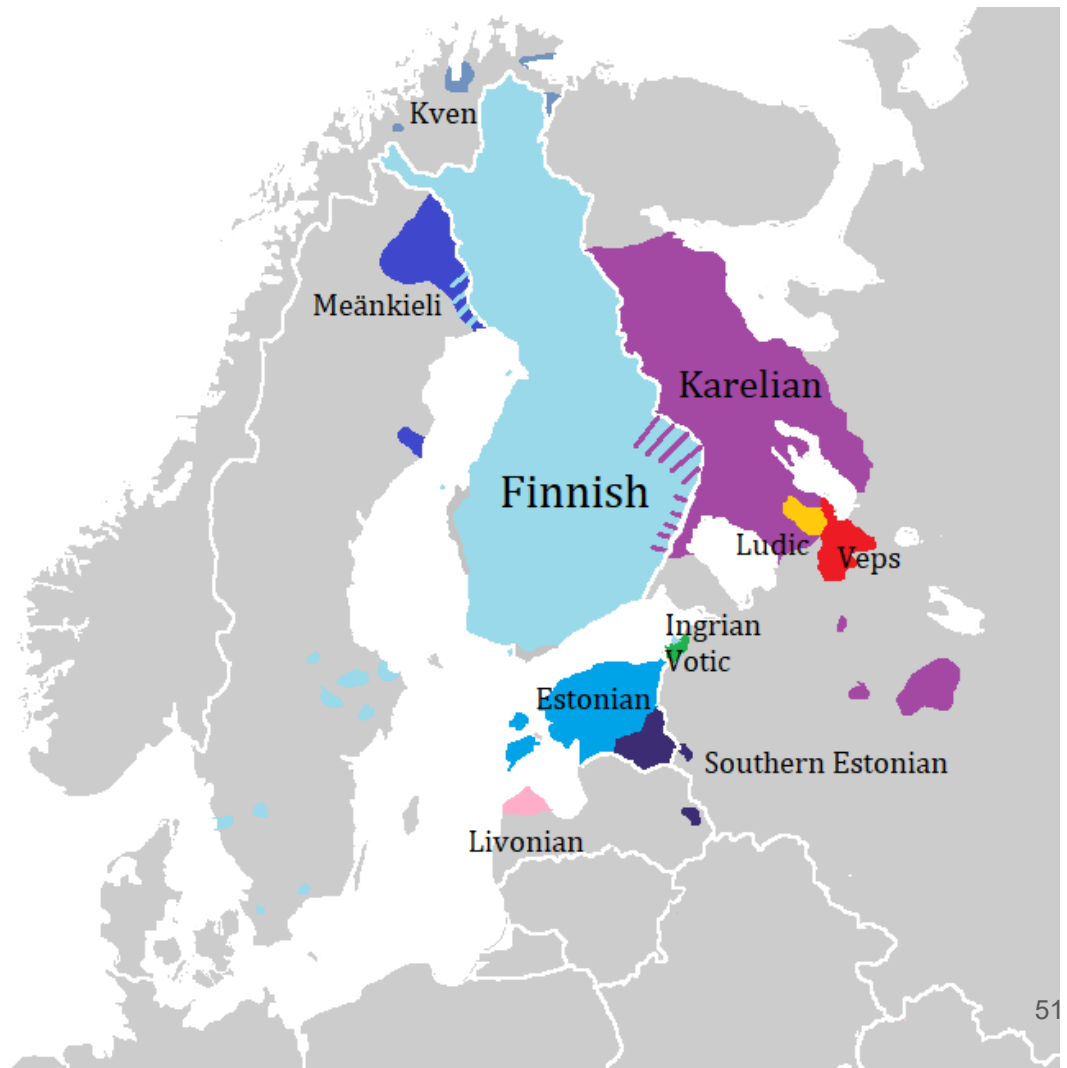
niemi lasso kilpi varsta kuula

taukki duffeli hiki läski tuska

keino kukka hattu suuri saari

Finnic languages

Wikipedia map



Areal linguistics of Finnic

7-11 living languages (status of Lude, Meänkieli, Kven disputed)

Extinct languages east of the modern language border (Eastern, probably also Southern type)

Main “big” languages of Finnish and Estonian consist of dialects with very different roots, actually representing different language forms (Western vs. Eastern Finnish, Northern vs. Southern Estonian)

Areal linguistics of Finnic

Terho Itkonen 1980s: three groups - Southern (Southern Estonian = Võru / Setu, Livonian), Northern (Finnish, Estonian), Eastern (Savo dialects, Karelian, Veps, etc.)

Sammallahti 1977, Kallio 2000s: main historical division between the Southern group (South Estonian, Livonian) vs. the rest, the differences between northern languages minor

Main differences:

*-kt- > -ht- (North) ~ *-kt- > -tt- (South) Fi. *lähde* ~ EstS *lätteq* 'spring, brook'

*č

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Finnic

- PU *x and *ŋ were eliminated between vowels producing long vowels: PU *mäxi ‘land, earth’ > PF *maa, PU *këŋjiri ‘curved object’ > PF *kaari, PU *piŋi ‘tooth’ > PF *pii, in labial contexts however PU *ŋ > PF *v: *suŋi ‘summer’ > PF *suvi, PU *wäŋjiw ‘son-in-law’ > PF *vävü
- this vocalization resulted in long vowels and monosyllabic words (that in Proto-Uralic were limited to pronouns)
- loss of palatal correlation i.e. *ń, *ś, *d’ were depalatalized into *n, *s and *d respectively: PU *ńäli- ‘to swallow’ > PF *neele- (> Fi niele-), PU *śarwi ‘horn’ > PF *sarvi, PU *d’ëmi ‘bird-cherry’ > PF *toomi (see also next)
- PU *d’ and *d coincided into PF *t

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Finnic II

- PU affricate *č underwent deocclusion to *t, PU **pečä* ‘pine’ > PF **petä-gä* > Fi *petäjä*, PU **künčä*- ‘to dig’ > PF **küntä*- > Fi *kyntää*
- however an affricate was preserved in South Estonian in cluster *čk: PU **pučki* ‘hollow tube’ > PF **pucki* > Fi *putki*, EstS *pütsk*, EPF **kačku* ‘smoke’ > PF **kacku* > Fi *katku*, EstS *katsk*
- **tj* > PF **ci* (> Fi *si*) : EPF **tika* ‘pig’ > PF **cika* > Fi *sika*, EstS *tsiga*
- note that the change affected also PF secondary **t* (PU < *č, PU **d*, **d'*): PU **künči* ‘fingernail’ > *künti* > PF **künci* > Fi *kynsi*, EstS *küüdś*, PU **śüd'i* ‘charcoal’ > *süti* > PF *süci* > Fi *sysi*, EstS *hüdsi*
- *š > **h*: **šinjiri* ‘mouse’ > Fi *hiiri*, **šalna* ‘frost’ > Fi *halla*, **mekši* ‘bee’ > Fi *mehiläinen* (in this instance the whole **kš* cluster > *h*)

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Finnic III

- word-initial semivowel *w disappeared preceding a labial vowel: PU **wolka* > PF **olka* > Fi *olka* (~ Hung *vall*), PU **wosa* ‘merchandise’ > PF **os-ta-* > Fi *ostaa* (~ Udm *vuz*) (a change shared by Saami and Mordvin)
- word-initial **ji* > *i*: PU **jiša-j* > Fi *iho* ‘skin’, PU **jilma* > Fi *ilma* ‘air, weather’, PU **jikä* ‘year’ > Fi *ikä* ‘age’
- consonant cluster assimilations: **ln* > *ll*: *halla* ‘frost’ (< EPF **šalna* < Baltic)
- *-*mt-* > *nt*: *kansi* ‘lid’ (< PU **kamti*)
- *-*ŋś-* > *is*: *seisoa* ‘to stand’ (< PU **saŋśa-*)

Three Proto-Finnic changes and their order

*-kt- > ht: PU *läkti- ‘to leave’ > Fi lähte-, *kakta > kahta (partitive) (note that in South Estonian not *kt > ht, but *kt > tt, cf. PF *läktek ‘spring (water source)’ > Fi lähde, EstS lätteq

- *ti > *ci > si: EPF *kakti > Fi kaksi (alternations like yksi: yhden ‘one’ (nominative: genitive), kaksi: kahden ‘two’ would seem to indicate that *ti > si is older than *kt > ht)

- *š > h: PU *lešti ‘leaf’ > Fi lehti (ergo *š > h is older than *ti > si)

Proto-Finnic: word-final position I

- word-final **-m* > *-n*: PU **śüdämi* ‘heart’ > Fi *sydän*: *sydäme-* (note that this change has been shared by Mordvin (~ *śed’en*)
- labial vowels emerged through combinations with semivowels **-Vw* and **Vj*: PU **käläw* ‘in-law’ > Fi *käly*, PU **nataw* ‘in-law’ > Fi *nato*, PU **tala-j* > Fi *talo* ‘house’, PU **repä-j* ‘fox’ > Fi *repo* (note the semivowel has been preserved in some Eastern Finnic forms, *reboi*, *taloï*)
- note that Finnic and Saami share this innovation: Fi *pato* ‘dam’ ~ SaN *buođđu*, Fi *käly* ~ SaN *gálojeatni*)

Proto-Finnic: word-final position II

- word-final **k, *š* > *h* > \emptyset : **veneš* ‘boat’ (~ SaN *fanas* : *fatnasa*) > **veneh* > *venhe* > *vene*, EPF **läkte-k* > PF **lähdek* > *lähde*
- many of the words ending in *h* are originally derivations: *lähteä* > *lähde*, *laittaa* > *laite*, *elää* > *ele*, others are loans *kone*
- in Finnish what is left of the word-final **k, *š* is gemination, in South Estonian they remain as a glottal stop

Proto-Finnic vowel changes I

- long vowels emerged in PF through the loss of *x, *ŋ and *w in positions between vowels, word-internal *-j- resulted in a diphthong (in Finnish and Karelian long mid vowels *ee and *oo became diphthongs *ie* and *uo*)
- PU **mēxi* 'land, earth' > Fi *maa*, PU **mūŋä-* > PF **möö-* > Fi *myö-* 'along' PU **luwi* 'bone' > Fi *luu*, PU **täji* 'louse' > Fi *täi* (in some originally 3-syllabic words these changes resulted in 2-syllabic words: PU **kīŋiri* 'curved object' > Fi *kaari*)
- diphthongs also arose when syllable-final *ŋ, *w and *j were vocalized: PU **joŋsi* 'bow' > Fi *jousi*, PU **lewli* 'spirit' > PF **leülü* > Fi *löyly* 'sauna steam', PU **kojra* 'dog' > Fi *koira*, PU **nājdi* 'girl' > PF **nājti* > Fi *neiti*
- vowel *ö* appeared, probably first in diphthongs **keühä* 'poor' > Fi *köyhä*, but soon it spread to new positions, especially in expressive vocabulary
- in South Finnic vowel *ë* (<*ö*>) initially in combinations *e-a* and *o-e*: Fi *seura* 'company' ~ Est *sõber* 'friend', Fi *peura* 'deer' ~ Est *põder* 'elk', Fi *tosi* 'truth, true' ~ Est *tõde*, Fi *ovi* 'door' ~ Est *õu*
- there is some debate whether the South Finnic mid vowel *ë* is actually original and *ë* was fronted in North Finnic
- combinations of an obstruent and a liquid also gave diphthongs in Finnish: Fi *nauris* 'turnip' ~ Karelian *nakris/nagriž*, Fi *neula* 'needle' ~ Ka *niekla*, Fi *kaula* ~ Ka *kagla*, Fi *peura* ~ Ka *petra*, Fi *seura*, Ka *siebra*

Proto-Finnic vowel changes II

- PU **ä-ä* changed to PF **a-i*, the so-called **tälwä* ‘winter’ > *talvi* change: PU **säppä* ‘bile’ > Fi *sappi*, exceptions are typically such where derivative suffixes have blocked the change: PU **sälä-* ‘to get (in a boat), mount’ > Fi *sälyttää* ‘to load, put a burden on’
- PU **ë* > PF **a*: PU **ñëli* ‘arrow’ > **ñali* > PF **nooli*, PU **sëni* ‘sinew’ > **sani* > PF **sooni*
- disharmonic (not following front-back vowel harmony) combinations expanded from *i-a* (also in Saami, Mordvin, Mari) to other combinations as well *e-a*: *kerä* ~ *kerä*
- first-syllable *aa* and *ää* are younger than other long vowels and are never older than Proto-Finnic, words like *saari*, *sääri*, *väärä*, *määrä*, *sääri* are either originally 3-syllabic and arose through the loss of a word-internal consonant like **ŋ* or are loanwords like Fi *määrä* < ORu *мѣра*, Fi *läävä* < ORu *хлѣв*. Some of the words like *saari* are of unknown origin
- long vowels in old words never occur before second syllable open vowel, that’s why words like *tuuli* ‘wind’, *huuli* ‘lip’ are older than *kuula* ‘hard ball’, *syylä* ‘wart’, the latter are either loans like *kuula* < Swedish *kugel* or arose through vocalization *syylä* < **süklä*, *teeri* ‘grouse’ < **tetri*

Research history of Finnic long vowels

- traditional view (maintained for example by Erkki Itkonen in the 60's) was that Finnic long vowels, *ee, *oo(> Fi *ie, uo*), *uu, *ii, represent an archaism and were present already in Proto-Finno-Ugric but have since disappeared in other branches
- Juha Janhunen proposed in the 80's that long vowels in Finnic originated from the vocalization of a short vowel and *x and that they largely corresponded to Proto-Samoyed vowel sequences: PU **tuxli* 'wind' > PSam **tuəj* ~ PF *tuuli*, PU **käxli* 'language, tongue' > PSam **käəj* ~ PF **keeli*
- Ante Aikio in 2012 showed that Samoyed vowel sequences largely do not correspond to Finnic long vowels and rehabilitated the idea already put forward by Meri Lehtinen that long mid vowels *ee and *oo arose through secondary lengthening, the background of long *uu and *ii seems to be more complicated (but at least partly they represent earlier V+semivowel)
- according to this lengthening sound change put forward by Aikio (sometimes dubbed Lehtinen's law) PU *a > PF *oo and PU *ä > PF *ee in Pre-Finnic *i*-stems before single voiced non-dorsal consonants (typically *m, *n, *l, *r): PU **śali* 'gut' > PF **sooli*, PU **käli* 'language, tongue' > PF **keeli*
- note that this change also occurs in PU *ä-ä words: PU **pälä* 'half' > **pali* > PF **pooli* and words reflecting PU *ë: PU **sëni* 'sinew' > **sani* > PF **sooni*, indicating that **tälwä* > *talvi* change and *ë > a preceded Lehtinen's law in Pre-Finnic

Exercise

What do these PU words become in modern Finnish?

<i>*ńurmi</i>	<i>*pilwi</i>	<i>*piŋi</i>	<i>*sewi-</i>
<i>*säŋi</i>	<i>*šođka</i>	<i>*pata</i>	<i>*täktä</i>
<i>*tälwä</i>	<i>*waji</i>	<i>*wuđ'i</i>	<i>*wäki</i>
<i>*šaŋka</i>	<i>*läkti</i>	<i>*kačka-</i>	<i>*wotta-</i>
<i>*towli</i>	<i>*mëksa</i>	<i>*kali-</i>	<i>*nüdi</i>

Exercise 1: Finnic

The following words have disappeared from Finnish, help etymologist to reconstruct them to modern Finnish

**ńomala* 'hare' **kompa* 'wave' **ukti* 'path, road'

**śăčă* 'water' **tăwîw* 'lungs' **woča* 'fence'

**ńëkćimi* 'tongue, gills'

Exercise 1: Finnic

* <i>aŋti</i> ‘spear’	* <i>apta-</i> ‘to bark’	* <i>čaŋa-</i> ‘to shit, strike’	* <i>čeči</i> ‘wild duck’
* <i>čäŋi</i> ‘smoke’	* <i>eŋa</i> ‘tame’	* <i>keča-</i> ‘to understand, know’	
* <i>kenči-</i> ‘to look for’	* <i>konti-</i> ‘to hunt, murder’		* <i>koppi</i> ‘mold’
* <i>koska</i> ‘older female relative’		* <i>küji-</i> ‘to follow, track’	
* <i>kupsa-</i> ‘to extinguish’	* <i>kämä</i> ‘shoe, boot’	* <i>leksi-</i> ‘to carve’	* <i>moŋki</i> ‘body’
* <i>muča</i> ‘sickness’	* <i>mälki</i> ‘breast’	* <i>ŋerka</i> ‘cartilage’	* <i>ŋä/elmä</i> ‘mouth’ * <i>od’a</i> ‘raw, meat’
* <i>pakta-</i> ‘to pursue’	* <i>panča-</i> ‘to open’	* <i>peljä</i> ‘ear’	* <i>peŋka</i> ‘psychedelic mushroom’
* <i>počaw</i> ‘reindeer’	* <i>šara</i> ‘dry’	* <i>seŋti-</i> ‘to clear, cut open’	
* <i>šona</i> ‘sled’	* <i>särä</i> ‘fiber, tendon’	* <i>tejmi</i> ‘soft’	* <i>wajŋi(-)</i> ‘spirit, to breath
* <i>wanča-</i> ‘to cross, move cautiously’		* <i>woča-</i> ‘to wait’	* <i>worka-</i> ‘to sew’

Read the dialogue in “Proto-Uralic”; how would you translate it?

Lukima (luki-w) ükti: Tumti-kta-ma

- Muna kënta-uralan šarnaja wolim. Tuna ken wolit?
- Muna sämän kälen šarnaja wolim. Tä kođwana enä kënta-uralata em šarna. Muna tuniktam kënta-uralam.
- Tuna enä kënta-uralam šarnat. Alkamakotana/alka-w-kota-j-na tulijit-menijit?
- Alkamakotana esim wolik. Suņina alkamakotak menim.
- Para. Men šarnamin enämpä müņämpä.
- Näkimäk.