Saamic

Community of Practice in Uralic Studies (COPIUS)

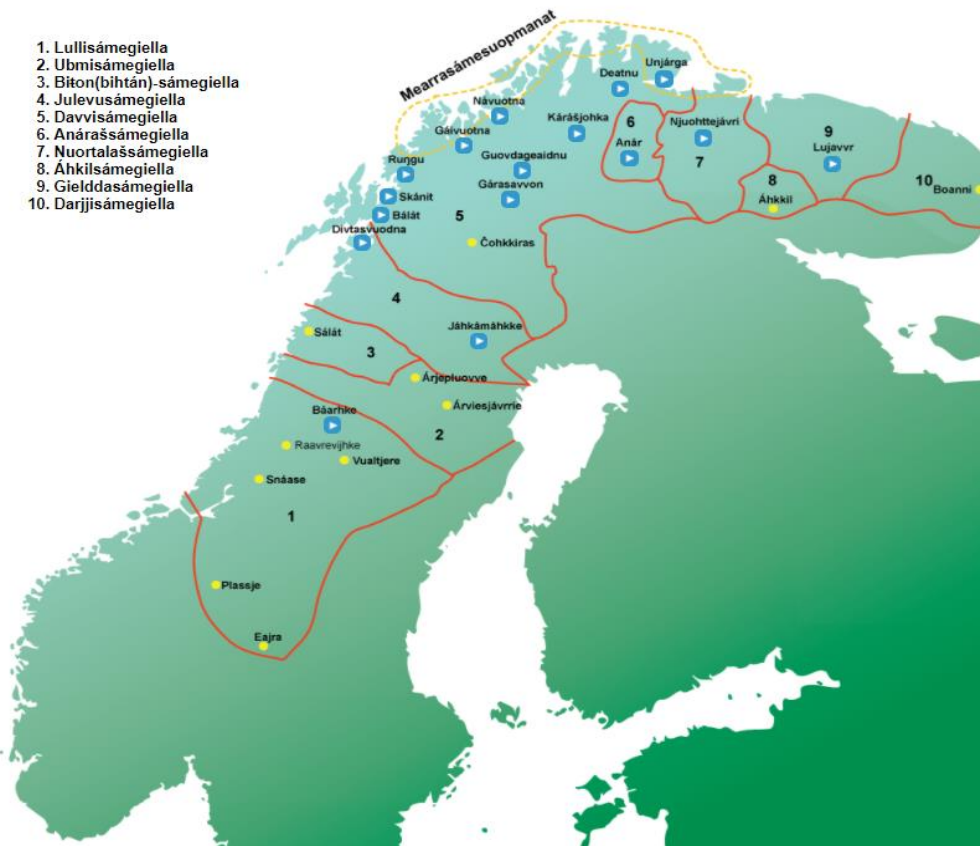Foundations of Uralic etymology

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Saami languages

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Suopmankárta

Suopmankárta lea digitála oahpponeavvu man bokte oahppit ja earát geat beroštit sámi suopmaniin sáhttet gullat iešguđet guovllu suopmaniid. Muhtin jietnafiillaid leat fitnen Sámi arkiivvas, ja muhtin jietnafiillaid leat ožžon priváhta olbmuid muitalit oanehis máidnasa dahje muitalusa. Jos don háliidat du guovllu suopman galggašii gullot dás, de áinnas sáddes midjiide jietnafiilla. Mii lasihat dan kártii.
Dieđuid jietnafiillaid birra gávnnat dás.

1. Lullisámegiella
2. Ubmisámegiella
3. Biton(bihtán)-sámegiella
4. Julevusámegiella
5. Davvisámegiella
6. Anárašsámegiella
7. Nuortalašsámegiella
8. Áhkilsámegiella
9. Gielddasámegiella
10. Darjjisámegiella

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Areal variation of the Saami languages in a historical context

Nine living languages: Southern, Ume, Pite, Lule, Northern, Inari, Skolt, Kildin, Ter Saami

One recently extinct language Akkala Saami (last speaker died in 2003)

Other languages known from the 19th century: Kemi, Kuolajärvi, Kittilä, languages of sockenlappar (parish Saami) in Central Sweden

Division to languages based mainly on morphophonological criteria

If division was made mainly on lexical criteria, the Sea Sami dialects (classified as dialects of Northern Saami) would stand apart

Areal variation of the Saami languages in a historical context

Mostly agglutinative (south) vs. fusional (center, east) morphology

Southern Saami (+ Ume Saami) as the historical old periphery

- the most Finno-Ugrian morphology, with different suffical case endings for genitive and accusative (*-n, -m*), locative & elative (*-sne ~ -ste*)
- no consonant gradation (but, as in other Saami languages, notable vowel alternations) *NB Ume Saami has gradation of geminates

Eastern periphery (Kildin, Ter) with archaisms

- no denasalisation (*-mp-, -nt-, -ŋk-,* etc. ~ *-bb-, -dd-, -gg-*)

Oarje: -ik/it/in: muitit, huikit,
- láhppon kontrákšuvdna nž dáfus
- násalaid dissimileren; bm/dn/kŋ
- pártitiiva láhppon

Sámesuopmaniid váldorádjá (jmf Sammalahti)

Nuorta:- šk/št/šn: muštit, huškit,
- produktiivalaš nž
- násalaid geminánttat; mm/nn/ŋŋ/ńń
- produktiivlaš pártitiiva

Alit rájá nuortabealde:
- lokatiiva
- biehttalanvearba dušše preseanssas
- akkusatiiva ja genitiiva dábálaččat gahččet oktii

Apokope-guovlu; deattuhis stávval jávká; jokk (johka), kidd (gitta), luoss/luozz (luossa)
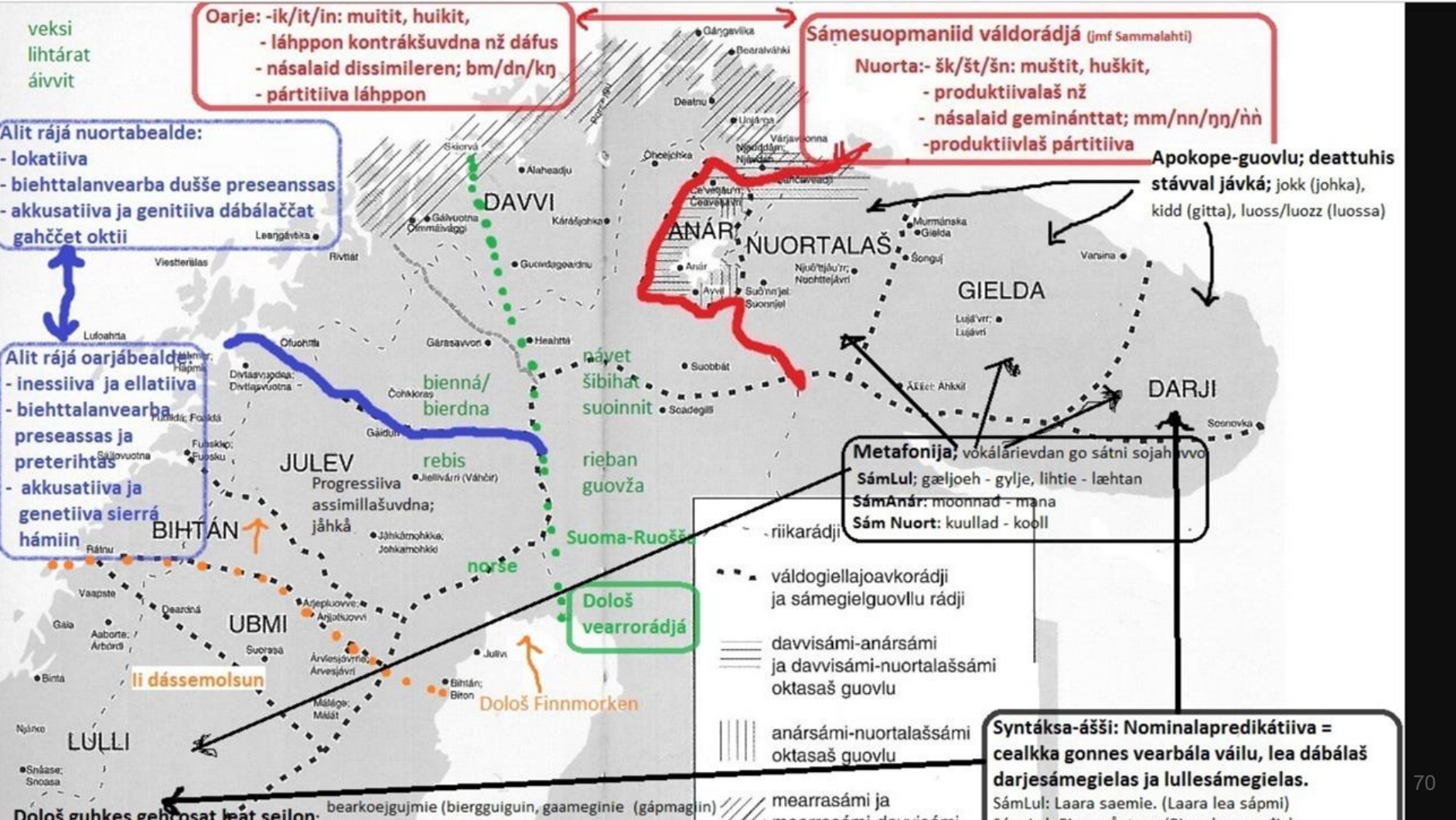
Alit rájá oarjábealde:
- inessiiva ja ellatiiva
- biehttalanvearba preseassas ja preterihtas
- akkusatiiva ja genetiiva sierrá hámiin

DAVVI

ANÁR   NUORTALAŠ

GIELDA

DARJI

bienná/ bierdna

náyet šibihat suoinnit

rebis

rieban guovža

JULEV
Progressiiva assimillašuvdna; jåhkå

BIHTÁN

norse

Suoma-Ruošša

Dološ vearrorádjá

Metafonija; vokálárievdan go sátni sojahuvvo
SámLul; gæljoeh - gylje, lihtie - læhtan
SámAnár: moonnad - mana
Sám Nuort: kuullad - kooll

riikarádji

váldogiellajoavkorádji ja sámegielguovllu rádji

davvisámi-anársámi ja davvisámi-nuortalašsámi oktasaš guovlu

UBMI

li dássemolsun

Dološ Finnmorken

anársámi-nuortalašsámi oktasaš guovlu

Syntáksa-ášši: Nominalapredikátiiva = cealkka gonnes vearbála váilu, lea dábálaš darjesámegielas ja lullesámegielas.
SámLul: Laara saemie. (Laara lea sápmi)
Sám Lul: Piere gåetsne (Piere lea goađis)

LULLI

Dološ guhkes gehčosat leat seilon;

bearkoejgujmie (biergguiguin, gaameginie (gápmagiin)

mearrasámi ja mearrasámi-davvisámi

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Proto-Saami phoneme inventory

a) consonants

stops	sibilants	affricates	nasals	liquids	spirants	semivowels
k	*s*	*č*	*m*	*l*	*δ*	*j*
t	*(š)*	*ć*	*n*	*r*		
	v					
p			*nj*			
			ŋ		*(h)*	

b) vowels

first syllable		second syllable
i, ie	*u, uo*	*ē*
ea	*oa*	*ō*
a	*á*	*ë̄*

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Saami: sibilants and affricates

- *ś > SaaN č

PU *śilmä 'eye' > Proto-Saami *ćëlmē > SaaN čalbmi (~ Fi silmä)
PU *śelkä 'back' > PS *ćielkē > SaaN čielgi (~ su selkä)
PU *śormi 'finger' > PS *ćuormë > SaaN čuorbma (~ Fi sormi ~ Md śur)
PU *śata '100' > PS *ćuotē > SaaN čuohti (~ Fi sata ~ Md śado)

It has also been proposed that this change took place in the common predecessor of both the Proto-Saami as well as the Proto-Finnic; in the latter, a separate change *č > s would have taken place

- *š > s

*širvi 'elk' > PS *sërvë > SaaN sarva (~ Fi hirvi)
*šalna 'frost' > PS *suolnē > SaaN suoldni (~ Fi halla)
*šüvä 'good' > PS *sëvē- > SaaN savvi-t 'heal (a woud)' (~ Fi hyvä)
*šajna 'hay' > PS *suoinē > SaaN suoidni (~ Fi heinä, Southern Estonian hain)

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Saami: sibilants and affricates

s and *č* were both preserved:

PU *sëni* 'vein' > PS *suonë* > SaaN *suotna* (~ Fi *suoni*)
PU *čuŋki-* 'push' > PS *coŋkë-* > SaaN *coggat* (~ Fi *tunke-*)

NB! In Proto-Saami a secondary *š* emerged. It mainly occurs in onomatopoietic - descriptive vocabulary (In Finnic *š* > *h*): *šuvvat* 'to rush'

In some cases, *š* is used as a substitute of Fi. *h* in borrowings, rendering layers of borrowings:
PF *paha* 'bad' > SaaN *buošši* 'bad-tempered'   old borrowing
Fi *paha* 'bad' > SaaN *bahá* 'bad'   new borrowing

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Saami: strengthening of the middle consonantism

nimi > namma (Nom.) *: nama* (Gen-Acc.) (~ Fi *nimi*)   'name'

sëni > suotna (Nom.) *: suona* (Gen-Acc.) (~ Fi *suoni*)   'vein'

melä > mealli (Nom.) *: meali* (Gen-Acc.)   (~ Fi *mela*)   'oar'

jäŋe > jiekŋa (Nom) *: jieŋa* (Gen-Acc.)   (~ Fi. *jää*)   'ice'

suxi- > suhkka- (Inf.) *: suhka-* (1PSg)   (~ Fi *sou-ta-*)   'row'

Consonantal gradation in Finnic and Saami

The Finnic and Saami languages both represent the **consonant gradation.** This means the strengthening / weakening of the consonantism between the 1st and the 2nd syllable, as well as in the suffixal position. Within Finnic, the gradation is not present in Veps and Livonian. Within Saami, it is not present in Southern Saami.

Different theories exist regarding the origin of the gradation. For instance:

Setälä 1920s: Proto-Uralic gradation
Lauri Posti 1950s: Innovation under Germanic interference

Korhonen 1981: Common Saami-Finnic innovation

Sammallahti 1998: Separate innovation in Finnic and Saami

Helimski 1990s: probably some PU background (with reference to similar innovation in Samoyed)

Likely, CG is not a joint innovation of Finnic and Saami. In Saami, the gradation is typically of strengthening character (in front of the original 2. syllable suffix), whereas in the Finnic, the gradation is of weakening character. The weak grade occurs in front of the closed syllable (that ends in a consonant), and the strong grade in front of the open syllable (that ends in a vowel).

From Proto-Finnic to (Proto-)Saami: denasalization

In all of the Saami languages west of Skolt Saami (i.e. Skolt, Inari, Northern, Lule, Pite, Ume and Southern Saami) the combinations of nasal and homorganic stop or affricate turned into medial stops

kunta > PS *kontē* > *goddi* (~ Fi *kunta*)   'group of men (for hunting)'
sompa > PS *soampē* > *soabbi* (~ Fi *sompa*)   'rim of a ski pole'
oŋki > PS *vuoŋkë* > *vuogga* (~ Fi *onki*)   'fishing rod'
kunśi > PS *końćë* > *gožža* (~ Fi *kusi*)   'urea'

In the easternmost Saami (Kildin, Ter) this change did not occur, turning it to one of the oldest phonematic changes diverging the Saami languages

From Proto-Finnic to Proto-Saami: other consonantal changes

- *wo* > *o* in the beginning of the word (jointly with Finnic)

wolka > PS *oalkē* > SaaN *oalgi* 'shoulder' ~ Fi *olka* (~ Hung *vall*)

- PS *uo* (< PU *a*, *ë*, *o-i*) > *vuo* in the beginning of the word

ëla > PS *vuolē* > SaaN *vuolli* 'low' (~ Fi *ala*)
amta- > PS *vuomtē-* 'give' > SaaN *vuovdit* 'sell' (~ Fi *anta-* 'give')
oŋki 'fishing rod' > PS *vuoŋkë* SaaN *vuogga*

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Saami: vowels, *a-a* > *uo*

kala > PS *kuolē* > SaaN *guolli* ~ Fi *kala* ~ MdE *kal* ~ Hung *hal* 'fish'

pala > PS *puolē-* > SaaN *buolli-t* ~ Fi *pala-* ~ MdE *palo-* 'burn'

kanta > PS *kuontē-* > SaaN *guoddi-t* ~ Fi *kanta-* ~ MdE *kando-* 'bring'

taka-na > PS *tuokē-n* > SaaN *duohkin* ~ Fi *takana* 'behind'

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Saami: vowels, *a > uo

The change *a > (v)uo* also makes it possible to discern the borrowings from Finnish from the inherited lexicon: SaaN *áddit* 'give' is a Finnish borrowing from *anta-* 'give' (< *amta*), *ándagassii* 'forgive' < anteeksi, is an even never borrowing (received after denasalisation)

Similar phenomenon is also to be seen in Germanic borrowings, and the vowel reflexes give datings for the borrowings

SaaN *vuordit* 'wait' < Germ. *wardō* > Swedish *vård* 'care'   old borrowing

SaaN *várddahit* 'to guard' < Germ. *wardō*   newer borrowing

SaaN *luoikat* 'loan, rent' < germ. *laikō* > Norwegian *leie*   old borrowing

SaaN *láikit* 'loan' < germ. *laikō*   newer borrowing

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Saami: *i, *ü > a

*nimi > SaaN *namma* ~ Fi *nimi*   'name'

*pilwi > SaaN *balva* ~ Fi *pilvi*   'cloud'

*(j)ilma > SaaN *albmi* ~ Fi *ilma*   'air, sky'

*kiri- > SaaN *garra* ~ Fi *kire-ä*   'tight'

*süli > SaaN *salla* ~ Fi *syli*   'lap, fathom'

*wüδimi > SaaN *ađa* ~ Fi *ydin*   'nucleus, inner part'

Again, the word pairs that do not follow this pattern, are borrowings: Fi *ilma* 'air' corresponds to *albmi* 'sky', but SaaN *ilbmi* 'air' is a borrowing from Finnish

From Proto-Uralic to Proto-Saami: vowels *o and *e

1st syllable *o, *e history is related to the 2nd syllable vowel

- *o > oa, *e > ea if 2nd syllable had an open vowel (*a,*ä)

*elä- 'live' > PS ealē- > SaaN ealli-t (~ Fi elä-)

*pesä 'nest' > PS peasē > SaaN beassi

- *o > uo if 2nd syllable had a close vowel

*kośki 'rapids' > PS *kuoškë > SaaN guoika (~ Fi koski)

*soski- 'to chew' > PS *suoskë- > SaaN suoska-t