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Well, why are they so many?

In search of explanations for the abundance
of discourse particles in Yugan Khanty

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Yugan
Khanty

‘well’

narratives
dialogues

DiP

e:

je:

kʌts

qatʲe

no, no:, nu

o:s

tʲaqe

βəs

*tʲi,
tʲu:*

*tʲε,
tʲet*

Outline of the talk

I. Introduction

Yugan Khanty

Particles

Corpus

II. Yugan Khanty discourse particles and their characteristics

Speaker background

Text genre

Form of the data

Sentence type

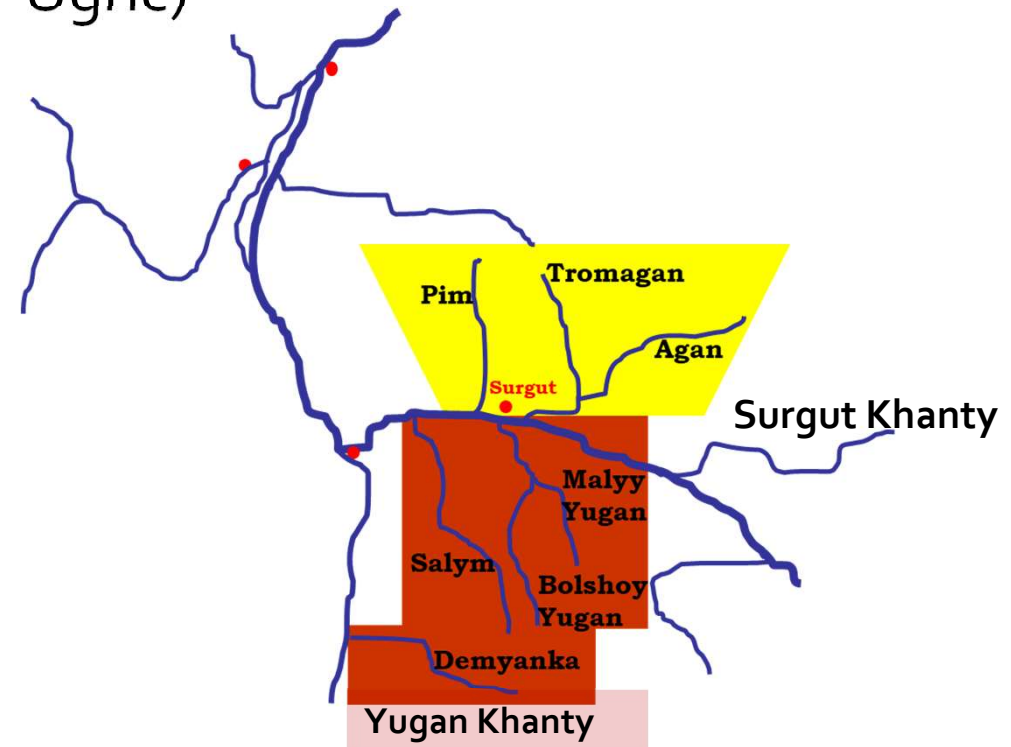
Syntactic position

Function of DiPs in narration

III. Any answers?

I.1.1 Yugan Khanty

- (Sub)Dialect of Surgut Khanty (Finno-Ugric)
- 900 speakers (Csepregi 2017: 17)
- Hunters, fishers and gatherers
- (Highly) endangered
- Language shift, religion shift



I.1.2 Yugan Khanty

- Agglutinative
- Nominative–accusative
- SOV
- Pro-drop
- No grammatical gender
- No articles
- Complete singular-dual-plural paradigm
- Two verbal voices (active, passive)
- Two verbal tenses (present, past)
- Two verbal conjugations (subjective, objective)
- Nine cases for nouns, eleven cases for personal pronouns

I.2.1 Yugan Khanty discourse particles

- No discourse particles (Schön–Gugán 2022)
- Honti 1982: 86–87
Particles: *ɤː*, *tʲi*
Interjections: *jɤː* ‘HU no’
- Csepregi 2017: 205–209, 209–210
Particles: *jɤː*, *kʉts*, *oːs*, *tʲaqɤ*, *tʲi*
Interjections: *qatʲɤ* ‘HY-ka’ , *tʲaqɤ* ‘HY, BOT’
- *OUIDB Yugan Khanty Corpus*
work with native speakers and their translations

I.2.2 Origin of Yugan Khanty discourse particles

Proto-Ob-Ugric: *oːs*

Pronoun: *tʲɛ* *tʲɛt* *tʲi* *tʲuː*

Russian: *eː* *kʉtʃ* *no* *noː* *nu*

Tatar: *jɐː*

Unclear: *tʲaɣɐ* *qatʲɐ* *βəs*

I.3 Corpus: 59528 tokens

	1) <i>OUDB Yugan Khanty Corpus</i>	2) <i>Tales of the Yugan Khanty</i>	3) <i>Personal Archive Schön Yugan Khanty</i>
Tokens	24922	14369	20237
Narratives	56	27	–
Dialogues	–	–	19
Edited	–	+	–
Collected	2010–2016	1990 2010–2016	2012–2016
Speakers	16	13	7

II. Distribution of DiPs

Tokens	
DiPs	915 2%

		TOTAL	
1.	<i>e:</i>	17	'and' 'but' DiP
2.	<i>je:</i>	194	DiP
3.	<i>kʉts</i>	4	'when' 'were'
4.	<i>qatʰe</i>	58	'in vain' 'hardly' 'even (if)' DiP
5.	<i>no</i>	55	
6.	<i>no:</i>	132	'AFF'
7.	<i>nu</i>	51	

3 or 1?

		TOTAL	
8.	<i>o:s</i>	18	'and' 'again' 'more' 'or' 'suddenly' DiP
9.	<i>tʰaqe</i>	115	DiP
10.	<i>tʰe</i>	1	'so'
11.	<i>tʰet</i>	4	'right now' DiP ???
12.	<i>ti</i>	60	DEM.DET>DEM.MAN> PTCL
13.	<i>tu:</i>	82	
14.	<i>βəs</i>	124	'or' 'or?' DiP

dark blue = high number; light blue = low number; yellow = unexpected

II.1 Speaker background

	monol.	biling.
tokens	26%	74%
DiPs	37%	63%

	monolingual	bilingual
<i>eː</i>	3	14
<i>jeː</i>	58	136
<i>kʌts</i>	0	4
<i>qatʰe</i>	19	39
<i>no</i>	11	44
<i>noː</i>	35	97
<i>nu</i>	12	39

	monolingual	bilingual
<i>oːs</i>	5	13
<i>tʰaqe</i>	55	60
<i>tʰe</i>	1	0
<i>tʰet</i>	4	0
<i>tʰi</i>	29	31
<i>tʰuː</i>	46	36
<i>βəs</i>	57	67

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II.1 Speaker background

	monol.	biling.
tokens	26%	74%
DiPs	37%	63%

(1) 'AA: And this Yagun-Iki, do you know any legends or stories about Yagun-Iki?'

'EA: Yagun-Iki he has [them] of course. He did some funny nonsense.'

Роҳни шӯғи лӯв

sly wily 3SG

тбу

PTCL

'He is sly after all!'

(DIAL AVJ monolingual speaker 316/4)

(2) [The fox claims he wants to sit at the back of the boat, because in the front he would feel dizzy from the waves, but it is in the back part where food is stored. So the storyteller asserts the following:]

Тбу Боҳи нә

DEM.DET.DIST fox EMPH

вәс

PTCL

вәқи – роҳән

fox fraud

'That fox is a fox after all – he is a fraud.'

(NARR LNK bilingual speaker 119/11)

II.2 Text genre

	narrat.	free dial.
tokens	67%	33%
DiPs	64%	36%

	narratives			free
	tale	legend	pers.acc	dialogues
<i>e:</i>	15	0	0	2
<i>je:</i>	158	16	0	20
<i>kʉʉʃ</i>	4	0	0	0
<i>qatʲe</i>	43	9	1	5
<i>no</i>	29	2	0	24
<i>no:</i>	10	3	0	119
<i>nu</i>	25	1	0	25

	narratives			free
	tale	legend	pers.acc	dialogues
<i>o:s</i>	11	3	0	4
<i>tʲaqe</i>	73	13	0	29
<i>tʲe</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>tʲet</i>	0	0	0	4
<i>tʲi</i>	34	11	0	15
<i>tʲu:</i>	48	13	0	21
<i>βəs</i>	59	8	0	57

dark blue = high number; light blue = low number; yellow = unexpected

II.3 Form of the data

narratives			
	narr	co.di	hors.t
DiPs	36%	54%	10%

	narratives		free dialogues	
	narr	co.di	hors.t	real dialogues
<i>e:</i>	2	11	2	2
<i>je:</i>	32	135	7	20
<i>kʊtʃ</i>	1	3	0	0
<i>qatʲe</i>	12	38	3	5
<i>no</i>	18	6	7	24
<i>no:</i>	0	1	12	119
<i>nu</i>	20	4	2	25

	narratives		free dialogues	
	narr	co.di	hors.t	real dialogues
<i>o:s</i>	5	8	1	4
<i>tʲaqe</i>	10	73	3	29
<i>tʲe</i>	0	1	0	0
<i>tʲet</i>	0	0	0	4
<i>tʲi</i>	36	5	4	15
<i>tʲu:</i>	48	10	3	21
<i>βəs</i>	30	25	12	57

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II.3 Form of the data

narratives			
	narr	co.di	hors.t
DiPs	36%	54%	10%

(3) *Әй мәта датнә Цэвәрхән-Вөқихән вәддәхән.*

‘Once upon a time there lived Mother Rabbit and Mother Fox.’

Тьу вәдтыннә, тьу Вөқи йәҳилдәл:

‘While they live this way, Mother Fox says:’

« <i>Йа,</i>	<i>Цэвр-әли,</i>	<i>қәтәхлә-таҳә</i>	<i>мән-л-әмән!»</i>
PTCL	rabbit-DIM.MEL	ride_on_sledge-INF	go-PRS-1DU

‘‘Come on, dear Mother Rabbit, lets go riding on a sledge!’’

(NARR constructed dialogue NEK 320/1.2)

II.3 Form of the data

narratives			
	narr	co.di	hors.t
DiPs	36%	54%	10%

(4) AA: *mʌβuti tʰu:t tʃu:jəmtəɣ*

'AA: What does this *chijemtekh* mean?'

IZ: *tʃu:jəmtəɣ mɐ: toɣon jɐ:st-əm*

1SG so say.PST-1SG

'IZ: Chijemtekh? Did I say so?'

AA: *no:*

PTCL

'AA: Yes.'

(NARR hors tale 17/84.1)

II.4 Sentence type

	decl	interr	imp	excl
DiPs	70%	9%	8%	13%

	decl	interr	imp	excl
<i>e:</i>	13	3	0	1
<i>je:</i>	108	19	34	33
<i>kʉtsʃ</i>	2	1	0	1
<i>qatʃe</i>	20	16	16	6
<i>no</i>	44	7	3	1
<i>no:</i>	116	2	0	14
<i>nu</i>	42	6	1	2

	decl	interr	imp	excl
<i>o:s</i>	11	5	1	1
<i>tʃaqe</i>	63	6	12	34
<i>tʃe</i>	0	0	1	0
<i>tʃet</i>	4	0	0	0
<i>tʃi</i>	42	2	1	15
<i>tʃu:</i>	69	7	0	6
<i>βəs</i>	103	10	8	3

dark blue = high number; light blue = low number; yellow = unexpected

11.4 Sentence type

	decl	interr	imp	excl
DiPs	70%	9%	8%	13%

- (5) [The poor and dirty old couple stays overnight at the rich man's house. In the middle of the night, the husband complains to his wife that he is thirsty. She scolds him:]

t'aqe

PTCL

lanqt

silently

ol-e

lie-IMP.2SG

“You just be quiet!”

(NARR TMJ 88/30.1)

- (6) [Two fires are exchanging information about their situation. One is complaining that she is treated badly and reveals that she plans to burn down the house of her housewife. The other fire tells her that she keeps a valuable object of her family in the house:]

nɛŋ

2SG

t'aqe

PTCL

mət

some

u:r

offence

e:t

PROH

βar-e

do-IMP.SG<2SG

“You just don't do anything bad to it! [= don't burn the wooden tool for fur manufacturing!]”

(NARR TMJ 85/1.16)

II.5 Syntactic position

	initial	intn	final	st.al
DiPs	50%	34%	9%	7%

	initial	internal	final	stand alone
<i>e:</i>	16	1	0	0
<i>je:</i>	131	59	4	0
<i>kʊtʃ</i>	2	2	0	0
<i>qatʃe</i>	26	23	7	2
<i>no</i>	37	16	2	0
<i>no:</i>	52	5	17	58
<i>nu</i>	43	8	0	0

	initial	internal	final	stand alone
<i>o:s</i>	13	3	1	1
<i>tʃaqe</i>	33	71	11	0
<i>tʃe</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>tʃet</i>	1	3	0	0
<i>tʃi</i>	16	30	9	5
<i>tʃu:</i>	40	36	6	0
<i>βəs</i>	44	52	28	0

dark blue = high number; light blue = low number; yellow = unexpected

II.5 Syntactic position

	initial	intn	final	st.al
DiPs	50%	34%	9%	7%

- (7) [The little bird tries to convince the Menk not to eat him. He offers the giant to give him his sister if he spears him. The Menk asks how to follow him, as he is like a human with legs and has no wings, like the bird. The bird answers to follow his trace:]

əj pojtəŋəm u:təttə tu:təm məy... məy o:yti: jərkeptəmin

'I will bring downward one wing to the land... I will draw a line down on the surface of the land'''

no

PTCL

toyunə

so

qu:ntə

when

mən-əyən

go[PST]-3DU

βəs

PTCL

'Well, this way they left indeed.'

(NARR LNK bilingual speaker 8/17.1)

	narr	co.di	hors.t	free.di
DiPs	23%	35%	6%	36%

II.6 Functions of DiPs in narration

	'well'	modal	'vot'	deictic pres.
<i>e:</i>	+	—	—	—
<i>je:</i>	+	+	—	—
<i>kʉtsʃ</i>	+	—	—	—
<i>qatʲe</i>	+	+	—	—
<i>no</i>	+	—	—	—
<i>no:</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>nu</i>	+	+	—	—

	'well'	modal	'vot'	deictic pres.
<i>o:ʃ</i>	+	—	+	—
<i>tʲaqe</i>	+	+	—	—
<i>tʲe</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>tʲet</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>tʲi</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>tʲu:</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>βəs</i>	+	+	—	—

	narr	co.di	hors.t	free.di
DiPs	23%	35%	6%	36%

II.6 Functions of DiPs in narration

- (8) ['The wife picked up her husband's eyes [=glasses] and took them home. She brought them home and put them in her sewing box. The husband rode downhill, he rode the sledge.']

i:ttən-γə

jiγ-m-ə

night-TRNS

become-PTCP.PST-3SG

'After night broke on, here it was!'

tʃi:
PTCL

['He begun to search for his eyes.']

(NARR SPK 56/12.2)

	narr	co.di	hors.t	free.di
DiPs	23%	35%	6%	36%

II.6 Functions of DiPs in narration

- (9) ['Sister Rabbit tells Brother Rabbit that she has seen their mother killed by Mother Fox and assumes they will be the next victims.']

Ма вуйэм: кӱрэд төт әт, нөм кӱтнә төт кәд».

'I saw it: her leg has peeked out, it was visible under the grass'''

<i>Йа</i>	<i>тӕт</i>	<i>панә</i>	<i>иттән</i>	<i>нәтәхдәх</i>
PTCL	so	then	in_the_evening	darken.PST.3SG

'Well then night broke on [lit. it darkened in the evening].'

Панә Чэвәр әви төм қота мән.

'And Sister Rabbit went to the neighbouring house.'

(NARR ENK 28/11.1)

III.1 Any answers: Well, why are they so many?

- Correlations:
 - Monolingual speakers seem to prefer: *tʲa qʲe*, *tʲi*, *tʲuː*, *βəs*
 - Difference between narration – constructed dialogues – real dialogues
 - Imperative sentences only occur in free/real or constructed dialogues
 - Only four DiPs are attested in a stand alone position
 - qatʲe* (1xexhortative, 1x???), *oːs* (1xAFF)
 - noː* ‘AFF’
 - tʲi* as deictic presentative
 - Modal function vs. no modal function:
 - jʲeː*, *qatʲe*, *nu*, *tʲa qʲe*, *tʲi*, *tʲuː*, *βəs* vs. *no*, *noː*, *oːs*

III.2 Any answers: Well, why are they so many?

- *no:* – ‘affirmation, confirmation’ in dialogues only
- *tʃi, tʃu:* – demonstrative origin > wider range of syntactic positions and functions
- Under investigation

Пасипа вӑлдытӑх!

