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Abstract for Symposium B.1: Prehistoric lexical layers in Saami and Finnic

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### **Observations on the stem vowel correspondences and source forms of Germanic loanwords in Saami**

The highly numerous Germanic and younger Norse loanwords in the Saami languages have been the subject of research from early on (e.g. Qvigstad 1893), and criteria for different age layers of the borrowings have been gradually refined (Sköld 1961; Aikio 2006; Kallio 2009). At least since the mid-1900's, however, the testimony of the non-initial-syllable vowels has not been much discussed, and the subject seems to have been covered with a commonly adopted agnosticism. In our talk, we make a survey of the currently available corpus of loanwords and attempt to show that there is a clear systematicity between the Saami and Germanic stem vocalisms, and that the stem vowels can also be used as a criterium in distinguishing between temporal layers, particularly between Proto-Norse and Old Norse (or later) borrowings. Furthermore, we discuss the likely source forms of the older loanwords especially in the light of the stem ending of the Saami word (-*V* or -*Vs*) and argue that the semantical and syntactic characteristics of the word have to a large extent decided whether the nominative or an oblique case form has been used as the source for the borrowing. Finally, we make a brief comparison with the patterns observable among the older Germanic loanwords in Finnic.

#### **References**

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