

Petter Morottaja, University of Oulu

Productivity and trends of frequentative and continuative verb derivations in Aanaar Saami written literature

Aanaar Saami (or Inari Saami) as a part of continuation of Saami languages in the Nordic country and Kola peninsula belongs to the eastern branch of Saami languages, and its traditional regions are located in Northern Finland. The already scarce number of speakers has been slowly declining throughout the last century, but recent revitalization actions have overturned this trend, and have raised a new demand for knowledge about the traditional properties and development of the language.

The study on point considers the occurrence of Aanaar Saami frequentative and continuative verb derivations and the changes on the frequency of the occurrences in Aanaar Saami written sources ranging from late 19th century to present time. According to Olthuis (2024), the Aanaar Saami frequentative and continuative verb derivations consist of verbs formed with derivative ending *-diđ*, *-(â)ččid*, *-(e)ldid*, *-(â~u)hčâđ*, *-(â)llâđ*, and *-(â)ddâđ*. The main motive for the research is to determine a) the productiveness of aforementioned derivatives, and b) the trends of popularity of the frequentative and continuative verb derivations as a whole.

The usage of frequentative and continuative verb derivations could be viewed as lexicalized or productive, with the main distinction being that productive derivatives allow the derivation to be applied to novel root verbs, while lexicalized derivatives do not. Applying the definition of productivity in word-forming by Gaeta and Ricca (2015), the productive, as opposed to lexicalized, derivations should manifest itself in more abundant variety (transparent) root verbs.

If not lexicalized, frequentative and continuative verb derivations can be considered to be non-essential in transferring information: the verb *văzziđ* ‘to walk’ conveys essentially the same process as the continuative verb *vazâččid* ‘to walk for a longer time’. However, non-essential verb derivations can add to the richness of linguistic expression, and studying these fine details in meaning might be a way to conclude if some traits are typical specifically to Aanaar Saami or Saami languages in general.

I will determine the occurrence of frequentative and continuative verb derivations as well as their relative frequency in various points of time. The data consists of following time layers and sources, respectively: 1886, *Inarinlappalaista kansantietoutta* (Koskimies & Itkonen 1978); 1952, *Inarinsaamelaisia kielennäytteitä* (Itkonen 1992), as well as writings in Aanaar Saami in *Sápmelaš* magazine; 1968–1970, *Tovlááh mainâseh* (Morottaja 1997); 1988–2000, writings in *Anarâš* magazine; and 2000–2021, the Aanaar Saami “Newspaper texts” collection in Saami International Korpus (SiKOR). The productivity of the frequentative and continuative verb derivations will be assessed by examining the spectrum of root verbs of the derivations. As a result of longitudinal study, it can be determined if some of the typical, fine-detailed traits are fading, or possibly being revitalized.

The study will shed new light on the fine-detailed traits of Aanaar Saami verbal system, as well as the productivity of frequentative and continuative verb derivations. The results can be applied to a broader context of revitalization of Aanaar Saami in forms of learning material and language modelling.

REFERENCES

Gaeta, L & Ricca, D. (2015): Productivity. In Müller, P. O., Ohnheiser, I., Olsen, S., Rainer, F., Word-Formation: An International Handbook of the Languages of Europe. De Gruyter Mouton.

Koskimies A. V. & Itkonen T. I. (1978): *Inarinlappalaista kansantietoutta* (2. edition). Suomalais-ugrilaisen seuran toimituksia 167. Helsinki: Suomalais-ugrilainen seura.

Itkonen, E. (1992): *Inarinsaamelaisia kielennäytteitä*. Suomalais-ugrilaisen seuran toimituksia 213. Helsinki: Suomalais-ugrilainen seura.

Morottaja, M. (1997): *Tovlááh mainâseh*. Anarâškielâ servi ry.

Olthuis, M.-L. (2024): *Sänirähtimoppâ*. Unpublished manuscript.

SiKOR. UiT The Arctic University of Norway and the Norwegian Saami Parliament’s Saami text collection, Version 01.12.2021, URL: <http://gtweb.uit.no/korp/>