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## **Verbs in reflexive-anticausative constructions: Testing implicational hierarchies on South-Eastern Finnic languages**

The topic of this paper is reflexive constructions in South-Eastern area of Finnic languages, with the focus on the verbs that can appear in reflexive or anticausative alternation. Here I will test if these verbs in these languages correspond to two implicational hierarchies from language typological research. What is considered "reflexive" here is based on form and function: phrases including derived or conjugated reflexive verbs that include (agent-patient) coreference (see Haspelmath 2023). The studied languages are Ingrian, Votic, South Estonian and also Eastern dialects of Estonian. This paper is also a preliminary study in my upcoming doctoral thesis about reflexive constructions in South-Eastern Finnic languages.

The implicational hierarchies used here are based on the study of valency alternations in language typology (Wichmann 2015). The hierarchies show how likely certain verb meanings appear in certain valency alternations: for example the most likely verbs cross-linguistically to appear in reflexive alternation are 'wash', 'cover', 'shave', and 'show', and in anticausative alternation 'cut', 'break', 'tear', and 'pour'. This paper explores if these implicational hierarchies apply to South-Eastern Finnic, or what kinds of verbal meanings appear in reflexive constructions and do they follow the implicational hierarchy in their frequency.

Earlier research on reflexive constructions in Finnic languages has focused on morphological, semantic or diachronic aspects of reflexive forms, and has focused on more northern Finnic languages (e.g. Koivisto 1995). This paper takes a novel approach into reflexives through the typological hierarchies, which has not been done in earlier study of these languages.

The areal selection of the studied languages is based on their strong (historical) language contacts. Furthermore, South-Eastern Finnic includes both "Eastern Finnic" and "Western Finnic" ways of expressing reflexive voice: reflexive conjugation as an Eastern feature in Ingrian and Votic (e.g. Votic *pezen* 'I wash'; *pessiin* 'I wash (myself)') and verbal derivation as a Western feature in all of the studied languages (e.g. Võro South Estonian *käändmä* 'to turn' > *käändümä* 'to turn (itself)'). (see Laakso 2001.) In addition to these strategies, it is also possible in all these languages to express reflexivity with a construction that includes a reflexive pronoun (e.g. Eastern Estonian *tõivad`en'did* 'they brought themselves').

Even though the derived or conjugated verbs are often named as "reflexive verbs", the use of these verbs seems to be also very much anticausative, which is called "automative" among Finnish scholars, where the difference is with the animacy of the agent: a reflexive construction needs an animate agent, whereas anticausative has a non-animate agent. Within the typological implicational hierarchies, there are different hierarchies for reflexive alternation and for anticausative, which is a part of the so-called "subject demoting-deleting" alternation. Because of the reflexive-anticausative use of formally "reflexive" domain in South-Eastern Finnic, I will be using both of these hierarchies in my presentation and look into which one of the hierarchies the languages primarily obey.

The aim of this study is to show with the help of data analysis to what extent the implicational hierarchies apply to the South-Eastern Finnic languages. The data used is collected from different corpora (e.g. *TÜ Eesti murrete korpus*) and from various dictionaries.

#### References:

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