

B.9: Discourse particles in the Uralic languages

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Discourse particles are typically uninflected, phonologically short discourse-pragmatic elements indexing a variety of subjective or intersubjective meanings, e.g., the speaker's stance, evaluation of the addressee's knowledge status, claiming the audience's attention, or connecting current with prior talk (Fischer, 2006; Zimmermann, 2011; Forker, 2020). Due to their complex semantics and intricate syntactic properties, discourse particles have been drawing a lot of research attention cross-linguistically within a variety of approaches (Fischer, 2006; Bayer & Struckmeier, 2017; Modicom & Duplâtre, 2020; Artiagoitia et al., 2022; Gergel et al., 2022).

Since discourse particles can be seen as a part of a broader category of discourse markers (see Fischer (2006) for the discussion), we would like to narrow the scope of this workshop to elements that are prosodically integrated into the utterance and do not constitute an utterance on their own, e.g., the particle *uk* in (1) or the particles *no* and *gi* in (2).

(1) Udmurt (Udmurt duńće, 01.09.2009, as cited in Arkhangelskiy, 2023)

Škola-ĵn *gožja-šk-ĵnj=no* *čota-šk-ĵnj* *djšet-o=pe=uk!*
school-LOC write-DETR-INF=ADD count-DETR-INF teach-PRS.3PL=REP=ENIM

‘But don’t they say that the school is for learning how to write and count?’

(2) Ingrian (Markus, 2022)

no *i* *illaa-št* *šiž* *kanešna* *miu-lle*
PTCL and evening-ELAT then [RUS]of.course 1SG-ALL
anne-ttii=gi *hüväšt*
give-IPS.PST=PTCL well

‘Well and then in the evening I got it in full, of course.’

The same lexical entries may function as conjunctions, adverbs, focus particles, demonstratives, indefinite pronoun markers, or response interjections in a language. It is sometimes hard to draw the boundary between these categories and discourse particles (e.g., the temporal adverb *šiž* ‘then’ or the coordinating conjunction *i* ‘and’ in (2)).

The inventory of discourse particles across Finno-Ugric languages was provided by Majtinskaja (1982) under the label ‘reinforcing particles’ (Ru. *usilitel’nye časticy*). Discourse particles usually do not get very elaborate descriptions in grammars and dictionaries. While individual discourse particles in the Hungarian, Finnish, and Estonian languages and their dialects have been described, studies on discourse particles in other Uralic languages are relatively rare (Erina, 1997; Zakirova, 2019; Markus, 2022; Tomingas, 2022; Zubova et al.,

2022; Klumpp et al., 2023; see also Klumpp (2022) for an overview). Investigation into the semantic and syntactic features of discourse particles often relies on knowledge of other linguistic areas, such as sentence types, information structure, or prosody, to name just a few. It may also require knowledge of the pragmatic principles of conversation adopted in a particular linguistic community. In many Uralic languages, these areas are underdescribed.

This symposium aims to bring together researchers in Uralic languages working on the semantics, syntax, and pragmatics of discourse particles within different approaches. We are particularly interested in discussing the following issues:

- semantics of individual discourse particles and particle combinations
- discourse particles and discourse organization
- discourse particles in information structure and common ground management
- discourse particles across different sentence types (declaratives, interrogatives, imperatives, exclamatives, optatives, etc.)
- syntax of discourse particles (discourse particles in root vs embedded clauses, finite vs non-finite clauses; the syntactic position of discourse particles in light of the head-directionality of the languages in question)
- the interaction of discourse particles with time-aspect-mood-evidentiality categories
- syntactic and semantic adaptation of borrowed discourse particles
- dialectal variation in the use of discourse particles.

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