

Evidentiality in the language of the Udmurt students (results of a linguistic fieldwork)

In the Udmurt language (Permic, Finno-Ugric, Uralic) evidentiality is marked in three different ways in the indicative mood. Evidentiality can be expressed with two past tenses, a synthetic and an analytic past tense in positive and in negative sentences. The third one is a lexical marker, the particle *pe*, which means ‘It seems like, I heard that...’.

The present paper aims at discussing the result of a linguistic fieldwork took place in Udmurtia. Methodologically the research consists of two parts. The first part is a picture-based task in the course of that the speaker has to describe the pictures and their possible history as well, in which the scene and people are unknown for the speaker but concentrated on representing the categories of evidentiality. The second task focuses on the speakers personal experiences and memories within the confines of a conversation. The main question of the research is: is there any difference in the usage of evidentiality whether the speakers talk about things, that are already known or familiar to them (speaking task), and about things, that include new informations (picture-based task).

Keywords: evidentiality, Udmurt, describe the pictures

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