

An early written record in Saami: Stephen Borrough's glossary

This article discusses the 1557 expedition of English ship captain Stephen Borrough and the Saami glossary he compiled during the journey. Borrough's list has been less studied as a source of Saami linguistic history. Only one English-language essay has been written about it (Abercromby 1895) and nobody has examined the material from a Finno-Ugric linguistic aspect yet, therefore the present study aims to do so.

Stephen Borrough's glossary is made up of mainly Eastern Saami data. Eastern Saami languages comprise Inari, Skolt, Kildin and the already extinct Ter and Akkala languages. This essay contains a short introduction to the classification of Eastern Saami dialects. The differences between the dialects are also discussed from the aspect of both grammar and vocabulary.

The second section describes English commercial and exploratory shipping in the 16th century, Stephen Borrough's life and travels included. Both of his expeditions aimed to find the Northeast Passage. On his first journey, the Tsar Ivan IV (the Terrible) welcomed his team warmly and provided England with very favourable terms for trade with Russia. Subsequently, in 1555, the Russian or Muscovy Company was founded. During his second expedition, Borrough came across with two different groups of people: the Samoyedic and the Saami people. Saami language caught his attention and this is why he compiled a glossary of their words.

The third part of the essay discusses Stephen Borrough's glossary of 95 items. The mediatory language was Russian at the time of recording, because some of the Saamis spoke Russian and Borrough also had Russian speaking helpers in his team. The list was first published by the English writer, Richard Hakluyt (1553–1616) in his work titled *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation The principall Navigations* in 1589. Later, in 1895, John Abercromby (1841–1924) also published the material with some commentary.

Data is given according to the order Borrough applied in the original work. The main entries are given as by Borrough, then the original English meaning is given followed by the Hungarian translation, the relevant references in Hakluyt's and Abercromby's works also provided. All of this is followed by data about the occurrences of the given word/expression in Eastern Saami dictionaries: Genetz 1891, T. I. Itkonen 1958, Kurucs 1985,

Mosnikoff – Sammallahti 1988, Lehtiranta 1989 and Hvorostuhina – Sammallahti 1991. The entries are concluded with information about the origin of the words.

The final section of the paper is a short analysis of the listed vocabulary. Regularities and inconsistencies of spelling are discussed and some prudent conclusions are drawn concerning the dialectal affiliation of the informants. Finally, the material is classified according to etymological and semantic aspects.

Keywords: captain Stephen Borrough, 1557, glossary, 95 words, Eastern Saami

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