

On the shift $*-t > -k$ in Lappish

Scholars today explain the presence of the plural morpheme $-k$ in most Lappish dialects or languages as the shift: Protouralic $*-t >$ Lappish $-k$ (or allophones), and they connect it to another apparently equal shift in the second person singular of the verb. But the problem perhaps has another solution. The $-k$ of the verbal second person may instead be due to a transposition of the original morpheme of the imperative $-k$ as an indicator of the second person singular of all other verbal tenses and moods. The $-k$ of the plural on the other hand, also because it is predominant in the Lappish variants, would be the direct continuer of the protolinguistic $*-k$, also maintained in Hungarian, while the $-t$ of the Norwegian Lappish could be due to a Finnish influence.

Keywords: Saami, morphemes, plural, $-k$, $*-t$.*

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