

**On the tense from an ethnosyntactic point of view –
the perfective aorist and the past tense**

The aim of this study is to discover the ethnosyntactic features behind the evolution of Samoyed tense system, first of all, the relation of the so-called aorist and the general past tense. The paper has two main parts, in the first, it In the first part, the author presents a new interpretation of the general past tense in Enets, based on a study by Plungian – Urmanchieva (2015). The second part investigates the tense strategies in Nganasan narratives. There is no description about the time perception of the northern Samoyed peoples (with the exception of the anthropological and ethnological literature, which deal with mostly the names of seasons and month). Based on Enets and Nganasan, it seems that the traditional deictic past and present explanation of the aoristos is not exhaustive, but at the same time it is very difficult to get close to an accurate description. The key to the explanation may be the experience of the present, its salience, and the priority of the present events that mirror in the tense strategies of Enets and Nganasan texts.

Keywords: ethnosyntax, Nganasan, Enets, tense, narratives.

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