

The system of possessive suffixes in the Finnish psalm translations of the 16th-17th centuries

The present article describes the possessive suffix system of the Finnish language in the 16th-17th centuries. This period is of particular curiosity, since the modern Finnish paradigm, which emerged from the mixing of the presumed elemental system of the proto-finnic period, is not yet fully developed. As a result, in some cases (e.g. Px1Pl, Px2Pl) there are significant variations depending on the period under analysis. Until the complete Finnish translation of the Bible was published in 1642, several different authors produced translation fragments. Some of these works were direct corrections of each other, others were entirely separate translations. This unique situation offers a valuable opportunity to analyse the structure of the Finnish language in the 16th and 17th centuries. The corpus of the present study consists of the psalm translations of Mikael Agricola, Jaakko Finno, Hemminki Maskulainen and the Bible translation committee led by Eskil Petraeus.

Keywords: language history, possessive suffixes, Bible translation, Mikael Agricola, Jaakko Finno, Hemminki Maskulainen, Eskil Petraeus

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