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Notes on Attributive and Non-Attributive Numerals

In some cases, Mari (Cheremis), Hungarian, Mansi (Vogul), Khanty (Ostyak), Nenets (Yurak), and Selkup distinguish between attributive and non-attributive numerals; for example, Hungarian *két* 'two' (as in *két ember* 'two people') versus *kettő* 'two'. Kamas may once have exhibited a similar distinction. This paper provides a historical analysis, language by language, of the diverse structures and constituent elements of attributive numerals. In certain languages, derivational-like elements, possessive suffixes, and formerly independent words that have subsequently developed into derivational affixes are employed for this purpose. In both the Ugric and Samoyedic branches, the attributive form of 'two' is derived by means of a dual marker. This is likely to represent an inheritance from Proto-Uralic, since the Ugric and Samoyedic forms of 'two' are constructed in the same way. Attributive numerals denoting higher values are generally formed differently across the individual languages, and in some languages even the numeral 'one' has a distinct non-attributive form. In certain cases, the relevant numeral is expressed by a different lexeme altogether, e.g. Hungarian *monnó* 'both; all' and Finnish *molempi* 'both'.

Keywords: numerals, attributive, non-attributive, dual number.

LÁSZLÓ HONTI