

Personal suffixes in Urbanus Rhegius's *Sieluin vahvistus*

Urbanus Rhegius's work titled *Sieluin vahvistus* [Strengthening the soul] is one of the oldest hand-written texts of Finnish literacy. The corpus is found in the Westh Codex (written in the 1540's) along with several various religious texts. The present paper examines personal suffixes in the text. Given that Finnish phonetic notation was not yet consistent at the time of the translation, the suffixes show a variability due to the different ways of spelling and palatovelar alignment. In the Sg3 form, there are the usual forms of the period, but the proportion of occurrences differs from other works of the period. The verb of existence is similar to the present Finnish language, while the other corpora written in the same period used commonly the *-pi* suffix. The phenomenon of vowel deletion (*loppuheitto*) is characteristic of the Western dialect, which is also analysed in the paper.

Keywords: Finnish language, language history, Westh Codex, conjugation

MERI JUHOS