

**The syntax and semantics of the dialectal form  
of the Finnish *MA* infinitive abessive *mAti***

The article discusses a particular dialectal form of the Finnish *MA* infinitive abessive, namely, the so-called *mAti* structure (for example, *osta-ma-ti* buy-INF-ABE 'without buying'). The data consists of 92 dialectal clauses compiled from the Digital Morphology Archives. The analysis illustrates that in most of the cases (67 %), the *mAti* structure appears in a verb chain with the verbs *olla* ('to be'), *jääda* ('to stay') or *jättää* ('to leave'), whereas in 33 % of the sentences, it is an adverbial modifier. In addition, the analysis illustrates that in the *mAti* construction, an intransitive *MA* infinitive can act as transitive as its correlate is conceived as a semantic patient. The observations given in the article are likely to be applied also more broadly to other variants of the *MA* infinitive abessive in Finnish dialects.

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