

The distribution of infinitive suffix variants in North Mansi

The article examines the distribution of infinitive suffix variants in North Mansi and the factors driving this morphophonological variation. The research is based on a dataset of 1,790 infinitive forms and follows a data-driven, classificatory morphophonological approach. North Mansi infinitives exhibit three suffix variants: /-ŋkwe/, /-aŋkwe/, and /-uŋkwe/. The consonant-initial /-ŋkwe/ variant occurs with irregular verbs. However, the alternation between /-aŋkwe/ and /-uŋkwe/ has not been thoroughly described before. The data reveal that this variation is a complex phenomenon influenced by two primary factors: the number of syllables in the base stem and the final derivational suffix in a derived stem.

Keywords: *Mansi (Vogul) language, morphophonology, infinitives, verb derivations*

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