

On the Ugric representation of an ancient Uralic case suffix

The current paper examines two ancient ablative suffixes historically. According to the literature on the topic, there is no trace of the Uralic ablative suffix **ta/*tä* (> Finnish partitive suffix *ta/tä* \approx *a/ä*) in Ugric languages. However, in some of the Ugric adverbs and postpositions we can find certain endings containing a *t* sound that must have derived from the above mentioned Uralic ablative suffix, based on sound and function. In Khanty, the Uralic **ta/*tä* occurs only pleonastically, as paired with the Ugric ablative suffix **l*, e.g. in the adverb V Vj *nəməl't*, Trj *noməʎta* 'down) from above' and in the postposition Kaz *ewəʎt* etc. 'from, out of'. In Mansi, this element can be found in adverbs both individually or together with the nominal ablative suffix, e.g. TJ *tii•-l*, *tii•-l-nǟl* '(away) from here'. In Hungarian, the Ugric **l* is preserved in adverbs and postpositions, e.g. *alul* 'at the bottom', *alól* 'from under', and in a dialectal ablative suffix used in place names, e.g. *Pécsül* 'from Pécs'. Therefore, we can conclude that the Uralic ablative suffix **ta/*tä* exists in a hidden form in today's Ugric languages.

Keywords: ablative, Proto-Uralic, Proto-Ugric, Ugric languages, morphology

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