Taxis Constructions in Standard Komi Zyrian Language

Komi Zyrian language belongs to Permic branch of Uralic family. It has about 200,000 native speakers living mostly in Komi Republic (Russia). Russian language influences hugely on Komi Zyrian grammar.

Taxis in Standard Komi Zyrian could be expressed in different ways, e.g. by constructions with temporal conjunctions, postpositions, converbs, etc.

Conjunction constructions as means of taxis aren’t really widespread in Komi Zyrian – it is rare for every day speech, dialects, and folklore narratives. Russian impact on standard language is quite obvious – many Komi Zyrian conjunctions were borrowed from Russian.

(1) me kydzi ju-ny pǝt-a sidzi i pyr
   I when drink-INF replete-ADV then and at.once
   żǝ jenež-a-s kačǝdč-a
   indeed heaven-ILL-POSS.3 walk.up-NPST
   ‘When I’m drunk I walk up to the heaven’

Constructions with postpositions could also express taxis meaning:

(2) a trud urok dyrji sidz sib-ǝd-č-i-s nyvka
   and labour lesson in.time such prepossessing-CAUS-REFL-PRT-3 girl
   dor-a-s myj jur-jas-ys matys-m-i-s-ny
   corner-ILL-POSS.3 that head-PL-POSS.3 close-VBLZ-PRT-3-PL
   ‘During the labour lesson he has conciliated the girl so much that their heads were very close’

The language has quite elaborate system of converbs which includes such groups as -ig, -ǝmǝn, -tǝg, -tǝdȥ, -mǝn, -mys’t, -ana converbs, and also a huge amount of their combinations with case markers and/or possessive suffixes. Some converbs express fixed
taxis meaning, e.g. converb –ǝmǝn mostly simultaneity (see example (3)), -tǝdz is for anteriority and -mys't is for posteriority.

(3) šu-ǝ Nina vyl-ǝ vidz-ǝd-ǝmǝn

say-PRS.3 Nina surface-ILL look-CAUS-CV.ADV

‘Saying [this] he looked at Nina’

Komi Zyrian converbs have different typological properties, and some of them seem to be influenced by Russian language. For example, I suppose that converb agreement with the subject and referential status of a converb (e.g. whether it is of same-subject, different-subject, or varying-subject type) may actually be in a correlation with those of Russian converbs. Both Russian and Komi Zyrian converbs are able to express taxis (or ~ relative tense) category (see examples (4) and (5) for simultaneity in Komi Zyrian and Russian languages, respectively).

(4) vetl-ǝg-ǝn ju dorty syja adz-i-s dona iz
walk-CV.SIM-INS river near this find-PRT-3SG beautiful stone

‘He found a precious stone while walking near river’

(5) proxod-ja bliz rek-i on našel dragotsenn-yi kamen’
walk-CV.SIM near river-GEN.SG he find.PST.M precious-M.ACC.SG stone

‘He found a precious stone while walking near river’

This research aims to study Komi Zyrian taxis construction. I mostly studied modern Standard Komi Zyrian texts belletristic and church literature, official documents, etc.