

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 pət-a sidzi i pyr*
I **when** drink-INF replete-ADV then and at.once
žə jenež-a-s kačədč-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-əd-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, -əməŋ, -təg, -tədz, -məŋ, -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 *-əmən* mostly simultaneity (see example (3)), *-tədz* is for anteriority and *-mys't* is for posteriority.

(3) *šu-ə* *Nina* *vyl-ə* *vidz-əd-əmən*
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-ig-ən* *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.

Glosses: 3 – 3rd person, ACC – accusative case, ADV – adverbial, CAUS – causative, CV.ADV – adverbial converb of simultaneity, CV.SIM – converb of simultaneity, ILL – illative case, INF – infinitive, M – masculinum, NPST – non-past tense, PL – pluralis, POSS – possessive suffix, PST – past tense, PRT – preterit, REFL – reflexive, SG – singularis, VBLZ – verbalizer.