

Mariann Bernhardt (University of Helsinki): The Mordvinic ablative case: Synchronic and diachronic perspectives

Abstract:

In this talk, I consider the development path of the Mordvinic (Erzya and Moksha) ablative case and its functions in the contemporary literary languages. The Mordvinic ablative is the straight descendant of the Proto-Uralic ablative case *-tA (Aikio 2022), which has functionally shifted towards more grammatical meanings in the modern languages (see e.g., Grünthal 2023; Hamari & Ajanki 2022 etc.). The Mordvinic ablative case has been of interest in many previous works that aimed to explain the development path of the partitive case in the Finnic languages (see e.g., Kiparsky 1998; Larjavaara 1991; Larsson 1983), while less attention has been paid on the functions of this case ending based on empirical material (see however Alhoniemi 1991; Rueter 2022; Rueter & Kabaeva 2023). The aim of this talk is, thus, to investigate the various functions of the ablative case in more detail and to explore the possible functional similarities and differences with separative and partitive markers in related languages. The talk will present the preliminary findings of my ongoing research on the functions of the descendants of the Proto-Uralic ablative case in Mordvinic and to a lesser degree Saamic.

Sources:

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