Morphological aspects of Uralic and Turkic languages

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This talk introduces the workshop and targets the morphology related topics of Uralic and Turkic languages. Our invited talks draw upon a wider variety of languages and Turkish in particular, whereas the language-based specific talks focus on Estonian, Hungarian, Northern Mansi, Hill Mari, Moksha, Saami, Udmurt (Uralic); Chuvash, Dolgan, Khakas, Noghay, Turkish, Uyghur (Turkic).

Uralic and Turkic languages have a long history of contacts with each other as well as other languages in the region, such as Russian. They often share an agglutinating morphological type and vowel harmony, which has resulted in interesting patterns of phenomena in the contact areas.

The Uralic and Turkic languages exhibit verbal and nominal paradigms of varying complexity that present a challenge for theoretical approaches. These languages also display an array of in-between (non-finite) categories that are not common in the better studied languages. Most of these languages are also exceptionally rich in case suffixes, which frequently combine with forms that stand for predicates. These combinations lead us to rethink the distinction between inflection and derivation, ways or grammaticalization, the nature of categories, and learnability.

Inflectional morphology has been the core area of research of Finno-Ugric languages as second languages, and the one with the greatest potential for contributions to second language acquisition research. The universal difficulty of morphology in acquisition compared to syntax becomes a central issue in richly inflected languages, additional challenges for second-language learners of Uralic languages are psycho-typology based on the typological distance from L1, teaching-induced issues in the instructional setting and language-specific categorization problems. We believe that advances in the theory and description of Uralic and Turkic morphosyntax will benefit the applied linguistics of these languages and contribute to language pedagogy, including materials development, language planning and maintenance.

This workshop combines papers from several theoretical frameworks and methods of study, as we bring together scholars who are interested in sharing data and problems to arrive at a broader coverage and explanation of the morphological phenomena of these languages.