Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Orsolya Tánczos
RIL-HAS
orsolyatan@gmail.com
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Aims

• to propose a unified account of the Udmurt suffix -ez/jez
• to present a possible grammaticalization path from possessive uses to non-possessive uses of the suffix
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Roadmap

1. Introduction
2. The origin of the suffix
3. Functions of the suffix in today’s language
4. Analogues from other Uralic languages
5. Account
6. Grammaticalization path
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Roadmap

1. Introduction
2. The origin of the suffix
3. Functions of the suffix in today’s language
4. Analogues from other Uralic languages
5. Account
6. Grammaticalization path
Introduction

• Uralic language, Permic branch
• Minority language, Russian Federation, Udmurt Republic
• 552,299 total ethnic population, 339,800 native speakers (2010 census)
• Language contact, bilingualism
Introduction

The suffix -ez/jez has long been analysed as both:


- 3SG Possessive Marker (e.g. Nikolaeva 2003, Edygarova 2009, 2010, Assmann et al 2013)

→ Strong connection between the two main functions - Unified analysis is still missing
Towards a unified account of the suffix \(-ez/jez\) in Udmurt

Roadmap

1. Introduction
2. The origin of the suffix
3. Functions of the suffix in today’s language
4. Analogues from other Uralic languages
5. Account
6. Grammaticalization path
Origin of the suffix

- The -ez/jez (reconstructed form *-es/is), the 3rd person singular possessive suffix, is assumed to have developed out of a personal pronoun already in Proto-Uralic (e.g. Janhunen 1981).

- The definiteness marking function is assumed to have existed already in Proto-Uralic.

- As a marker of accusative case, it appeared during the Proto-Permic period because the original Uralic accusative suffix *-m disappeared (Csúcs 2005).

- Wichmann (1923-24) attributes this possessive-accusative shift to the determinative function of the possessive suffix.
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Roadmap

1. Introduction
2. The origin of the suffix
3. Functions of the suffix in today’s language
4. Analogues from other Uralic languages
5. Account
6. Grammaticalization path
Towards a unified account of the suffix \textit{-ez/jez} in Udmurt

**Uses of the suffix \textit{-ez/jez}**

- Possessive
- Non-possessive
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Marking Possessive relation

Singular 3rd Person Possessive suffix

(1) Sasha-len kniga-jez
    Sasha-gen book-3sg
    ‘book of Sasha’

Edygarova (2010): Possessive in Udmurt has two functions:
• Possessive use: marking possessive relation between the possessum and the possessor (1)
• Functional use: marking agreement between a constituent and its referent

In possessive function the appearance of the 3sgPX is obligatory
Non-possessive functions: Marking subjects

The suffix (optionally) occurs on the subject of an intransitive sentence

(2) a. guzhdor vylyn turyn-\textit{ez} cheber  
    meadow on grass-DEF beautiful  
    ‘On the meadow, the grass is beautiful.’ (Winkler 2001:32)

    b. kar-\textit{in} kalik (-\textit{ez}) tros  
    city-INE people(-3SG) many  
    ‘There are many people in the city.’ (Edygarova 2015:16)

The appearance of the suffix in type of (2a) is well-know from the literature as marking definiteness in the lack of definite article (e.g. Collinder 1960, Schlachter 1960, Kramsky 1972, Rédei 1988, Leinonen 1998, Künnap 2004, Winkler 2001, 2011)
Non-possessive functions: Marking objects

Udmurt is a DOM language. The object is always marked if definite and specific (i.e. topic) (3a) and never marked if non-specific (3b)

(3)a. Mon (so(ze)) *kniga/ kniga-jez utchaj otyn.
1SG that.ACC book.(ACC)/book-ACC search.PST.1SG there
‘I searched for the book there.’

b. Mon kniga/*kniga-jez utchas’ko gubios s’arys’.
1SG book.(ACC)/ book-ACC search.PST.1SG mushroom.PL about
‘I am searching for a book about mushrooms.’
Non-possessive functions: Marking the Causee argument

The suffix obligatory appears both with synthetic (4a) and analytic (4b) causative constructions marking the Causee argument of the predicate.

(4) a. Sasha  *pi-jez*  *kniga-jez*  *lydzhy-t-iz*.
Sasha.NOM  boy-ACC  book-ACC  read-CAUS-PST.3SG  
‘Sasha made the/a boy read the book.’

b. (...) *so peres‘kyshno so nyl-ez min‘ts‘o estyny kosem* (…)
that old woman that girl-ACC sauna to.heat ordered
‘The old woman ordered the girl to heat a sauna.’ (Wichmann 1901:text 7)
Non-possessive functions: Marking Contrast

In contrastive phrases (topics or foci) the adjective is always marked.

(5) (...) pokchi-\textit{ez} \textit{brat kuaner}, byzym-\textit{ez} \textit{brat uzyr}
younger-3SG brother poor older-3SG brother rich
‘(…), the younger brother was poor, the older brother was rich’
Non-possessive functions: Nominalizer

As a nominalizer the suffix can appear on any kind of category

(7) *ton ponna*-jez
    2sg because.of-NOMIN
    ‘who because of you’           (Winkler 2001:13)
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

**Roadmap**

1. Introduction
2. The origin of the suffix
3. Functions of the suffix
4. Analogues from other Uralic languages
5. Account
6. Grammaticalization path
Analogues from two other Uralic languages

Px in non-possessive functions in Uralic is well-know from the literature (e.g. Fraurud 2001, Nikolaeva 2003, Simonenko 2014)

Similar functions of the 3rd possessive in other Uralic languages:

• Northern Mansi (Janda 2015)
• Hungarian (É. Kiss 2016)
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Northern Mansi (Janda 2015)

- Semantic analysis based on Langacker’s (1993) reference-point model
- Original function of possessive suffixes: to denote a relation between two entities
- The main property of possessive suffixes is to establish reference (possessor is the reference point)
- Possessive relation is the default interpretation
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

**Northern Mansi** (Janda 2015)

Reference can be either anaphoric (8a) or deictic (8b)

(8) a.  

\[ \text{a:sj-anəl} \quad \text{la:w-i} \]

father-sg<3pl say-prs.3sg

‘Their father said.’

(Janda 2015:7c)

b.  

\[ \text{mir-um} \quad \text{pussən} \quad \text{amki} \quad \text{ka:t-um} \quad \text{wos} \quad \text{pat-i} \]

people-sg<1sg all 1sgemph hand-sg<1sg HORT start-prs.3sg

‘All my people shall be in my hands.’

(Janda 2015:6)

These properties have a strong connection to the information stucture.
Hungarian analogue: -ik and -ja (É. Kiss 2016)

-ik: 3PL possessive suffix

The suffix -ik appearing on pronouns, (9a) on ordinal numerals (9b) and, optionally, on comparative adjectives (9c):

(9)  a. minden-ik ‘every’
    b. második ‘2nd’
    c. szebb-ik ‘more beautiful’
Hungarian analogue: -ik and -ja (É. Kiss 2016)

-jA: 3SG possessive suffix

The suffix can mark familiarity.

(10) Hármas-á-val mentünk be.
three-Poss3SG-with went-1PL in
‘We went in in threes.’
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

**Roadmap**

1. Introduction
2. The origin of the suffix
3. Functions of the suffix
4. Analogues from other Uralic languages
5. Account
6. Grammaticalization path
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Semantic background

• Proposal: the main function of the suffix -ez/jez is to mark a relation between two entities.

• The use of the suffix is based on the cognitive notion of ‘associability’ which entails functions such as marking definiteness, referentiality and identifiability (Fraurud 2001).
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Semantic background

Simonenko (2014):

• possessive suffixes encode different reference-related categories
• the role of possessive suffixes in possessive use is to pick an individual out of a set of individuals with the relevant property belonging to some person
• Possessive and non-possessive uses can have exactly the same semantics
• The salience ranking relevant for the semantics of possessive suffixes is partially derived from the hierarchy of “possessors”
• 3SG is used in both possessive and non-possessive contexts
Syntactic analysis: Back to Hungarian

In OH texts, -ik-marked elements only appear as heads of possessive constructions with a lexical or pro possessor (11)

(11) Valanac ot hat ko̞ vedreci [DP pro_i mēdēn-ici] foglaluā kēt kəblot.
were there six stone buckets every-Poss3PL taking two vats
‘There were six buckets of stone and all of them were two vats.’

In Middle Hungarian, -ik is reinterpreted as a familiarity marker; and the -ik-marked element becomes a determiner/modifier. However, its possessor is still implicitly present, excluding a generic reading:

(12) a. Minden-ik ember magas.       b. Minden-*ik ember halandó.
every man [of them] tall         every man mortal
Syntactic analysis: Implicit possessor in Udmurt

Implicit possessor appears in -ez/jez constuctions (e.g. 13)

(13)  \textit{kar-in} \textit{kalik} (-\textit{ez}) \textit{tros}  \\
     city-INE \ people(-3SG) \ many  \\
     ‘There are many people in the city.’ (Edygarova 2015:16)

The possessor can be explicit:

(14)  \textit{kar- len} \textit{kalyk} -\textit{ez} \textit{tros}.  \\
     city- GEN \ people-3SG \ many  \\
     ‘The city has many people.’

The function of this suffix is to mark the associability (familiarity) in this context.
Implicit possessor in contrastives

Associability (Familiarity) marking is present in contrastive contexts.
Implicit possessors represent opposing subsets of a familiar referent

(15)(...) pokchi-ez brat kuaner, byzym-ez brat uzyr
young-3SG brother poor older-3SG brother rich
‘(…), the younger brother was poor, the older brother was rich’
Implicit possessor: anti-agreement

The partitive and counting meanings of *tros* ’many’ are also distinguished by -ez/jez:

(16) a. *tros-ez*  *mynozy,*  *kinlen  van' in'i  vizajej  jake  kin  otyn,*  
many-3SG  go.FUT.3PL  who.GEN  be  already  visa.3SG  or  who  there  
*Jevropayn  ule.*  
Europe.in  live  
‘Many [of them] will go, who has already visa or who live there, in Europe.’

   (Internet: Facebook)

   b.  *Tros  adjamy  lyktiz  koncerte.*  
many  people  came  concert.to  
‘Many people came to the concert.’
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

Roadmap

1. Introduction
2. The origin of the suffix
3. Functions of the suffix
4. Analogues from other Uralic languages
5. Account
6. Grammaticalization path
Towards a unified account of the suffix *-ez/jez* in Udmurt

**Grammaticalization path**

Grammaticalization of the possessive suffixes from possessive use to non-possessive use in Uralic (e.g. Gerland 2011, Relational Suffix)

vs.

The ‘non-possessive functions’ of the Udmurt *-ez/jez* represent different stages of a similar grammaticalization path.

*-ez/jez* is a 3SG possessive agreement which can also be used in the presence of an implicit possessor present in the situation or the context – the associability marking
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

**Grammaticalization path**

Possessive agreement with explicit possessor ➔
possessive agreement with implicit possessor ➔
marking associability (anti-agreement) ➔
marking familiarity-topic ➔ topic-marker ➔
accusative case
Grammaticalization path: relics

As a relic of its original possessive agreement role, -ez/jez can only merge with the category NP, hence its lexical stem is assigned an NP layer, and is interpreted as a nominal:

\[(8) \text{ton ponna-jez} \]
\[
\text{you because.of-NOMIN}
\]
\[
\text{‘who/which is because of you’}
\]

Similarly to Hungarian suffix -ik (É. Kiss 2016)
Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

References


Katalin, É. Kiss 2016. Possessive agreement grammaticalization into topic marker. Ms. RIL-HAS


Towards a unified account of the suffix -ez/jez in Udmurt

References

Acknowledgements

The research is supported by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office under grant No. OTKA 112057 and No. OTKA 118079