

Jussi Ylikoski (2006): Davvisámegiela *-nláhkai ~ -nládje* -suffiksála ii-finihtta vearbaráhkadusat. – *Sámi dieđalaš áigečála* 1/2006: 18–38.

Abstract

The North Saami non-finite in *-nláhkai ~ -nládje*

The article is a description of a previously underdescribed non-finite verb form in North Saami. From a diachronic point of view, the formation in *-nláhkai ~ -nládje* consists of a shortened variant of the verbal noun followed by the adverb or postposition *láhkai ~ ládje* ‘in the manner of’. However, with reference to the morphological, syntactic and semantic properties of *-nláhkai ~ -nládje* it is asserted that a new, independent non-finite has branched away from an otherwise noun-like use of the verbal noun.

Based on extensive data from the contemporary literary North Saami, it is maintained that the non-finite in *-nláhkai ~ -nládje* is used in three distinct functions: Most commonly, it is used in the function labeled “predicative” in the article, i.e. in clauses like *Filbma lea oastinláhkai DVD-skearrun* [film be.3SG buy.*nláhkai* DVD-disc.ESS] ‘the film can be bought (“is buyable”) in DVD’ or *Son bajidii niibbi čuggenládje* [s/he raise.PAST.3SG knife.ACC stab.*nládje*] ‘s/he raised the knife ready to stab’ where the non-finite appears to describe the action denoted by the verb as having a modal meaning of possibility, although other dynamic modal interpretations are also possible. Secondly, the non-finite may be used as an adverbial modifier of manner, e.g. *Govvadáidda oahpahuvvo stoahkanláhkai* [visual.arts teach.PASS.3SG play.*nláhkai*] ‘the visual arts are taught through playing’. Thirdly, one can occasionally come across sentences where the non-finite in *-nláhkai ~ -nládje* is used as a participle-like modifier of a noun, e.g. *jahkásaččat juohkinláhkai bálkkášupmi* [yearly give.away.*nláhkai* prize] ‘a prize that is awarded every year’.