

# **Samojedikielten rakenne ja kehitys**

**The structure and development of the Samoyed languages**

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luennot: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKBVSMoVp-YAFHcTP2DucsQ/videos>

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## **1. Samojedikielten historiallinen ja typologinen profiili**

## **General developments from Proto-Uralic to Proto-Samoyed**

### **1) the vowel system rather conservative**

(but with several phonemic splits producing \* $\hat{a}$  \* $\hat{e}$  \* $\hat{o}$  \* $\hat{u}$  / \* $\hat{e}$  / \* $\hat{o}$ )

### **2) the consonant system slightly less so**

(including innovations shared with the Ugric branches)

### **3) morphologically relatively archaic**

(with a lot of language-specific morphophonology)

### **4) syntactically very similar if not entirely identical to Proto-Uralic**

### **5) lexically innovative**

(but not quite to the extent previously assumed)

## **Typical features of the Samoyed languages**

- 1) three grammatical and four local cases**
- 2) three numbers** (dual only in grammatical cases)
- 3) several series of possessive suffixes** (depending on number and case)
- 4) in northern Samoyed a special **destinative** declension** (‘for’, etc.)
- 5) nominal conjugation also known as **predicative** forms**
- 6) rigid subcategorization of verbs into **conjugational** classes**  
(intransitive, transitive, reflexive, transitive-reflexive)
- 7) different series of personal suffixes** depending on
  - (i) subjective vs objective conjugation**  
(focused vs non-focused object, i.e., new vs old information)
  - (ii) the number of object** in the objective conjugation
  - (iii) the **reflexive** (or middle) conjugation** (e.g., ‘get dressed’)

**8) personal suffixes not attached directly to the verbal stem**

(with a system of distinct substems in the indicative mood and without any form involving the bare verbal stem)

**9) relatively complex temporal and modal systems**

(with **aurist** as the unmarked tense)

**10) negation expressed by fully inflected negative verbs**

(followed by the main verb in the **connegative**; lost in Selkup)

**11) three **aspectual** classes of verbs:**

**(i) imperfective (or continuous) verbs**

(aurist forms refer to the present)

**(ii) perfective (or momentaneous) verbs**

(aurist forms refer to the immediate past)

**(iii) negative verbs**

(time reference depends on the aspectual class of the main verb)

- 12) (strictly) verb-final basic word order** (with only recent exceptions)
- 13) all the typical features of a consistent SOV language**, including
- (i) modifiers preceding heads; in NP [Dem Gen Num Adj Rel N]**
  - (ii) no finite subordinate clauses**  
(i.e., no relative pronouns and [almost] no conjunctions, but only non-finite constructions plus parataxis and connective adverbs)
  - (iii) question words *in situ*** (i.e., not moved to initial position)
  - (iv) only postpositions** (which invariably govern the genitive case)
  - (v) attributive modifiers (typically) show no agreement**
  - (vi) no copula in (basic) predicative clauses**
- 14) possessive forms employed in the habitive construction**
- 15) definiteness expressed by various means** such as possessive forms
- 16) object in imperative clauses in the nominative** (not accusative)