The Finno-Ugric and Uralic languages in modern linguistics

Introduction to the course
Anne Tamm
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1. Uralic languages (Wikipedia, WALS, uralictypology.pbworks.com)

On the Uralic languages:
On Finnish:
On Estonian:
On Hungarian:
Other general and comprehensive sources:

- wals.info
- uralictypology.pbworks.com (many links in various languages)
- for an English overview of each language or group, see D. Abondolo’s volume,
  - Saamic, starts at p. 43
  - Fennic, 96
  - Estonian, 115
  - Finnish, 149
  - Mordva, 184
  - Mari, 219
  - Permian, 249
  - Udmurt, 276
  - Komi, 305
  - ObUgrian, 327
  - Khanty, 358
  - Mansi, 387
  - Hungarian, 428
  - Samoyedic, 457
  - Nganasan, 480
  - Nenets, 516
  - Selkup, 548
  - Kamassian, 580

- for an Italian introduction, see Wikipedia, or the following pages from G. Manzelli’s chapter on Uralic languages:
  - 492-498 Il gruppo lappone
  - 498-516 Il gruppo baltofinnico
  - 516-517 Le lingue ugrofinniche estinte
  - 517-518 Il gruppo volgaico
  - 518-521 Il gruppo mordvino
  - 521-524 Il gruppo mari/ceremisso
  - 524-531 Il gruppo permiano
  - 531-544 Il gruppo ugrico
  - 544-547 Il gruppo samoiedo settentrionale

1.1 General aims of this course material and sources

The course launches a comparison between some phenomena in Hungarian, Finnish, and Estonian syntax, lexicon, and semantics. The goal of this course material is to provide students of the Finno-Ugric studies an overview of current approaches to these languages. The further goal is to connect the results of the mainstream historical Finno-Ugric comparative research with other types of comparative research on linguistic structures, such as generative comparative syntax or typology. The series of lectures is arranged around the topics of aspect and objects, especially the accusative case in its relation to event structure and aspect in these Finno-Ugric (Uralic) languages.

For the background on the Uralic and Finno-Ugric languages, see the following sources: Daniel Abondolo 1998. The Uralic languages. London, Routledge; Danilo Gheno, Peter
1.2 Topics, new data descriptions and applications

The specificity of this course is that it discusses in depth perspectives that differ from the mainstream Finno-Ugric comparative approaches. The aim is to provide new descriptions of the data and new methodologies for the comparison of the respective languages. The focus will be on the modern comparative research of syntax and dialects, particularly as far as the role of the semantics-(morpho)syntax interfaces is concerned. Some examples of such work are studies on Romance or Germanic languages and dialects such as Manzini and Savoia (2005, *I dialetti italiani e romanci: morfosintassi generativa*), the SAND-project on Dutch dialects (*A Syntactic Atlas of the Dutch Dialects* [http://www.meertens.knaw.nl/projecten/sand/sandeng.html](http://www.meertens.knaw.nl/projecten/sand/sandeng.html)). The methodology of dialect studies is especially interesting from the perspectives of Finno-Ugric studies, which are less described and compared with the generative methods than the Romance and Germanic related languages. The study of Finno-Ugric related languages may profit from the experience of the ways of data descriptions, annotation and storage, as well as questionnaire composition and related research.

The choice of topics of case and aspect is influenced by the aspiration to deal with those data in Finno-Ugric languages that are presently in the centre of current linguistic discussion. In a wider perspective, this course studies the more general topics of syntax interfaces and theories of case in generative approaches, which are in search of a better understanding of Universal Grammar.

Another goal is to show how generative descriptions of Finno-Ugric language can be used for applications (see the document Hun_Synt.ppt on Hungarian speech synthesis, and consult [http://kiisu.eki.ee/](http://kiisu.eki.ee/) for demos about the Estonian Speech Synthesis).

1.3 Descriptive issues

The goal of the generative comparative works that are mentioned is to obtain more knowledge about natural language in general (Universal Grammar) via comparison. The material here is descriptive, and does not concentrate on the theory. However, the choice of the topics and data, the presentation of material is descriptive in a different way than the mainstream Finno-Ugric comparative work. For instance, this material provides grammatically unacceptable sentences (marked with an asterisk, “*”) alongside with the acceptable ones to indicate the clear limits of the syntactic variation or difference in the more or less related languages in question.

The material that is presented here is preliminary in its nature. This means that, on the one hand, many relevant existing generative works on Finno-Ugric languages about the case,
objects and aspect are introduced if they are promising in the sense that there is variation that provokes questions about the nature of the variation. The data presentation is biased for two reasons. Firstly, more data are presented on languages where more research is done, since the structured research into the data of one Finno-Ugric language provides a backbone to a unified study of the other two. Secondly, due to the native speaker’s advantages, more comparisons and more data are offered in Estonian. On the other hand, thus, an in-depth and balanced comparison is yet to be accomplished. This writing serves as a guide to comparing the data of the three languages according to a different method and framework.

2. The Finno-Ugric comparative linguistic approaches

Finno-Ugric comparative linguistic approaches may be divided into three: historical, typological, and generative. Not only do the basic principles of the theories in question differ—the nature of the descriptive, empirical material is shaped by the theories. The mainstream Finno-Ugric discipline is comparative and historical in its methods and theory and, consequently, in the description of the linguistic material. Only marginally, other approaches are taken for comparative studies of Finno-Ugric studies. The main common questions across the approaches are the following: what is the invariant and what is the variant, and what is the nature of (in)variance in the linguistic material of the languages in question. The answers to those questions determine the nature of the study, as well as the ways to find the answers.

2.1 Historical Finno-Ugric studies are comparative

The basis of the mainstream historical Finno-Ugric studies is comparative. The comparison of a set of languages and their dialects has been crucial in order to establish the fact and the exact nature of the relatedness of a group of languages. There are two basic hypotheses: the mainstream “language tree” hypothesis and the alternative “Sprachbund” or “New Paradigm” hypothesis. The research for the “language tree” hypothesis tries to reconstruct the common origins for the Finno-Ugric languages and develop methodologies and principles for establishing their exact historical relationship (see a picture of the “language tree” under http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/3093/finnugor.html). The research for the “New Paradigm” hypothesis searches evidence for the multiple origins of the Finno-Ugric languages and for many languages developing a lingua franca (a link to a list of works discussing these two directions in Finno-Ugric research can be found under http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/3093/voodoobibl.htm).

Reliance on the synchronic comparison of languages and dialects has a practical reason. In contrast to the well-documented Indo-European languages, for only very few Finno-Ugric languages there are written sources that date back to centuries. Therefore, the strong intuition that there must be (no) original common forms—words, expressions, morphemes, sounds, or syntactic patterns—cannot be established with full certainty. The research in the historical comparative approaches is carried out finding pieces of evidence for the hypotheses. The scientific success of these hypotheses is crucially dependent on the reliability of the methods that are applied to support them. In this case, the synchronic comparison of the present-day
languages is crucially needed in the diachronic quest for (or for the lack of) common original forms.

The major methodological difference between the two paradigms is the strict historical reconstruction methodology of the comparative historical “language tree” paradigm and the considerably less crystallized methodology of the “New Paradigm.” The “New Paradigm” uses the results of non-linguistic research, such as population genetics. The obvious problem here is that the spread of human genes and languages cannot possibly be identical. In order to find stricter methodologies to explain how unrelated languages ended up showing similarities, research is done on the basis of self-organization theory of perception and change as in cybernetics and gestalt psychology (for more information on the project, see http://www.tlu.ee/fil/ehala/projekt2.html Martin Ehala, Keelesugulus ja keelekontaktid: keelkondade kujunemise kriitiline analüüs [Language relatedness and language contacts: a critical analysis of the development of language families]).

In sum, the origin of the Finno-Ugric languages is invariant and languages have developed differences in the “language tree” approach. The nature of the variance in the linguistic material is due to the internal development of the language or contacts with other languages. In the “New Paradigm” approach, the origin of the Finno-Ugric languages is different, the languages were never identical and at present, they have diverged even more. Questions about the relation of the differences to language universals or Universal Grammar are not asked in this discipline.

2.2 Typological and generative approaches as an alternative

The method of comparison can contribute to the understanding of linguistic patterns and the possible limits of syntactic variation within related languages. This is a goal that is shared by typologists and generative linguists. Typology and generative linguistics are in search of Universal principles of language: language universals or Universal Grammar. The primary difference between these two disciplines emerges in the types of explanations. The data are explained in a functional way in typology and in a formal way in generative linguistics.

2.2.1 Typological approaches

Typological comparative work aims at classifying languages according to the relation between function and form (see for this approach Greenberg, Joseph H. 1966. Universals of language Cambridge, Mass., The MIT Press, or Greenberg, Joseph H. 1979. Introduzione alla linguistica.). Typology studies the ways of expressing certain functional content cross-linguistically. The search for language universals is frequently a process of generalizing over the data of a large number of languages (a recent work containing also Finnic typological articles is Dahl, Östen and Maria Koptjevskaia-Tamm eds. 2001. The circum-Baltic languages : typology and contacts). In the general nature of their search for the language universals, typologists, who work with a large set of functional notions and investigate their expression across languages, differ from generative linguists, who have a hypothesis about a few general principles (which are invariant) and parameters (which are variant) in language. Some Uralic typologists: Edith Moravcsik, Seppo Kittilä, Matti Miestamo, Helle Metslang, Mati Erelt (native speakers), Petar Kehayov, Fedor Rozhanskiy, Irina Nikolaeva.
2.2.2 Principles and Parameters and the mainstream approaches

The mainstream generative comparative syntax belongs to the Principles and Parameters version of generative theory (See for accessible introductions to the framework: Haegeman, Liliane 1994. *Introduction to government and binding theory*, Blackwell textbooks in linguistics; see for an introduction to the generative thinking Radford, Andrew 1983. *La sintassi trasformazionale: introduzione alla teoria standard estesa di Chomsky*. A very short overview of the evolution of the ideas about the grammar model in generative thinking, from Standard theory through Government and Binding to the Minimalist Theory, can be found in: Jackendoff, Ray, s.d. Reintegrating Generative Grammar (accessed Jan. 27, 2006). [http://www.chc.ucl.ac.uk/conference/jackendoff_handout.pdf](http://www.chc.ucl.ac.uk/conference/jackendoff_handout.pdf). Comparative syntax studies the general principles and parameters, the values of which are the object of the comparative study (there may be 50-100 parameters, see Roberts and Holmberg, 2005 for an example of recent academic discourse in this matter: [http://people.pwf.cam.ac.uk/mtb23/NSP/Roberts_Holmberg_squib1_Final.pdf](http://people.pwf.cam.ac.uk/mtb23/NSP/Roberts_Holmberg_squib1_Final.pdf), for a general introduction to the comparative approach Roberts, Ian 1997. *Comparative syntax*, or Roberts, Ian and Anna Roussou 2003. *Syntactic change: a minimalist approach to grammaticalization*, Cambridge studies in linguistics; 100, see Martin Ehala 1998 *How a Man Changed a Parameter Value* [http://www.tlu.ee/fil/ehala/pdf/a-5.pdf](http://www.tlu.ee/fil/ehala/pdf/a-5.pdf) as an example on a parameter change in Estonian, and a very compact introduction to language change in this framework). For Finno-Ugric comparisons, it is an intriguing issue how much the language-internal changes can exactly be attributed to sociolinguistic factors and to what extent they are a result of general cognitive and biological factors. The variation in the data of the languages in their relationships between aspect and the accusative case may give interesting additions to the interface studies (see Arad, Maya 1999. *VP-structure and the syntax-lexicon interface*. Cambridge, (Mass.), distributed by MIT Working papers in linguistics). In any case, the success of the study of Universal Grammar is crucially dependent on the empirical material: it should have a wide basis, studying as many typologically different languages as possible. Some Uralic generative linguists: Katalin É. Kiss, Michael Bródy, István Kenesei, Balázs Surányi.

2.2.3 Lexical Functional Grammar

An alternative to the mainstream Chomskian framework, the Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG), is relatively better equipped with accounts on typologically distant languages. However, explicitly comparative work in this generative framework is less spelled out than the comparative syntax in the mainstream framework. Lexical Functional Grammar is a generative grammar and a discipline in search of Universal Grammar, it regards functions as primitives but gives formal explanations.

As the mainstream grammar, LFG shares the hypothesis of the generative approaches that there are certain cognitively, biologically determined factors that determine the nature of Universal Grammar See a sample chapter *On the Architecture of Universal Grammar* from Bresnan, Joan 2001. *Lexical-Functional Syntax* for more on these issues: [http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/BPL_Images/Content_store/Sample_chapter/0631209735/001.pdf](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/BPL_Images/Content_store/Sample_chapter/0631209735/001.pdf). In the LFG view, languages are similar at the level of the functional structure, but different at the argument and constituent structures and also at the interfaces between the levels of syntactic description. Comparative research targets these differences. The topics of aspect and case enjoy much current interest in LFG. Research in aspect, a cross-linguistically fuzzy linguistic category, has brought to light some problems in understanding
its representation at the functional structure. The nature of morphological case in Australian and South-East Asian languages has led to the development of new methods in LFG and its theory of case – the Finno-Ugric languages underline the necessity of further research in this area. The relation between the accusative case (on adjuncts and objects) and aspect, as in the Finnic languages and Hungarian, poses intriguing questions about the nature of interfaces (for a general and accessible introduction and an application of the theory, see Miriam Butt et al. 1999. *A grammar writer’s cookbook*. CSLI lecture notes; 95.) Some Uralic LFG linguists: András Komlósy.

2.2.4 Neurotypology
Neurolinguistics studies those properties of language in brain. Neurotypology studies the linguistic diversity as it is represented or processed in brains. This discipline uses neurocognitive techniques, such as event-related brain potentials and functional magnetic resonance imaging to establish the similarities and differences between languages. See more links, bibliography and research at <http://www.cbs.mpg.de/groups/misc/neurotypo>

2.2.5. Summary
In sum, this course presents the preliminaries of generative comparative syntax and its interfaces with lexicon and semantics in the three related languages of Finnish, Estonian, and Hungarian. The study of differences between related languages can be extended, on the one hand, to the study of universal properties of human language and, on the other hand, to a wide variety of applications (speech synthesis, electronic database building, language teaching, etc). This has as its primary consequence that the predominantly descriptive linguistic nature of the material is not just descriptive in the traditional sense of Finno-Ugric studies. Instead, the phenomena are collected and presented in a way that helps the generative theory forming and application.

4 A guide to the course material in slides.
4.1 Firenze2005.ppt
The title of this Powerpoint document is *Észt-finn-magyar összehasonlító mondattani és jelentéstani tanulmányok* (Estonian-Finnish-Hungarian comparative studies in syntax and semantics.). This document contains the introduction to the course and an overview of the problems of Estonian aspect, verbs and case. The more descriptive part and the parts that are dealing with the goals of the course are in Hungarian. The examples are glossed and translated to English, and the more theory-specific parts (meant for more advanced students and serving here as an example) and the LFG fragments are in English. The basic source is Tamm 2004 and references that are listed there.

4.2 AspectAcc.ppt
The title of this piece of course material is *Aspect and sentence structure*, and it is a continuation of the previous document, with more examples about verb classes and a comparison between Finnish and Hungarian. The topics discussed here are the case of objects and adverbials, the resultative phrases and

4.3 Sentence structure ppt

This document contains a comparison between Estonian and Hungarian and shows that there is order in the seeming chaos in the syntax of both languages. Both are discourse configurational languages, the Hungarian account is based on É. Kiss (2002) and (1998), supplemented by a different analysis of the Hungarian particles by Brody (1995).
5. The area of Finno-Ugric speaking countries and peoples
6. Linguistics in the Uralic-speaking languages

6.1. Hungary

- The Institute for Linguistics, Academy for Sciences (generative grammar, formal semantics and pragmatics, neurolinguistics, computational linguistics, sociolinguistics, lexicography, Uralic languages and diachronic linguistics)
- ELTE Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem (morphology, various languages, Uralic languages. Finnish, Estonian, small languages)
- Szeged (sociolinguistics, Uralic languages. Finnish, Estonian, small languages)
- Debrecen (Uralic languages. Finnish, Estonian, small languages)
- Pécs (under general linguistics, some Uralistics)
- Pázmány Péter Katolikus Egyetem (some Uralic languages)
- Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem (Hungarian for teachers of Hungarian)
6.2. Finland
(Uralic languages and diachronic linguistics, typology, cognitive linguistics, neurolinguistics, corpus linguistics)

The Finnish universities are (sorted by the year of establishment):

- **University of Helsinki** (1827) (cognitive linguistics, construction grammar, typology, conversation analysis)
- **Åbo Akademi University** in Turku (1918), **University of Turku** (1920) (phonetics, old literary language, syntax)
- **University of Tampere** (1925) (verb classes, typology)
- **University of Jyväskylä** (1866, promoted to university status in 1934) (learning 2nd language, teaching 2nd language, neurocognitive, computational perspective)
- **University of Oulu** (1958) (statistical methods, corpus linguistics, Finnish dialects, Estonian-Finnish contrastive studies)
- **University of Vaasa** in Vaasa (1968) (bilingualism, Swedish-Finnish)
- **University of Lapland** in Rovaniemi (1979)
- **Aalto University** (1849/2010)
- **University of Eastern Finland** in Joensuu and Kuopio (2010) (general linguistics, phonetics, neurolinguistics)
6.3. Estonia

- University of Tartu (Uralic languages, Hungarian, Finnish, cognitive linguistics, diachronic linguistics, typology, sociolinguistics, corpus linguistics)
- University of Tallinn (sociolinguistics, language acquisition)

6.4. Russia
(typology, field linguistics, linguistics of the particular languages)

- Moscow
- St. Petersburg
- Novosibirsk
- Yugra, Khanti-Mansiisk
- Izhevsk
- Yoshkar-Ola
- Kudymkar, Perm
- Petroskoi
- Syktyvkar
- …

6.5. Sweden
(sociolinguistics, pragmatics, generative linguistics)

- Umeå
- Uppsala (Estonian)

6.6. Norway
(computational linguistics, generative linguistics)

- Tromsø
6.7. **The rest of the world**
Finno-Ugric studies in Italy and other places (London, Bloomington, Hamburg, Munich; Sydney, Canada, descriptive linguistics, cultural trends)
7. The program of Primavera Ugrofinnica

Monday, April 12, 13-14, aula 6, wireless  Anne Tamm
The Finno-Ugric languages in modern linguistics

Monday, April 12, 15-18, aula 6, wireless  Prof. Helle Metslang
ERASMUS University of Tartu helle.metslang at ut.ee
Estonian and Standard Average European

Tuesday, 13th, 9-11, aula 2, or 10a, Prof. Helle Metslang
ERASMUS, University of Tartu, helle.metslang at ut.ee
Finnish and Estonian, Complexity and Estonian language (Pitfalls of Estonian)

Friday, April 16th, 11-13, aula 2 or 10a dr. Fedor Rozhanskiy
Institute of linguistics of Russian Academy of Sciences, handarey at yahoo.com
Finnic languages and cultures in Ingria

Monday, May 3rd, 11-14, Tuesday, May 4th, 9-11, Prof. Karl Pajusalu
ERASMUS, University of Tartu
Estonian language within a wider perspective of Uralic languages and its closest relatives, Estonian dialects. The Estonian and Finno-Ugric Word Prosody.
Welcome to the Uralic Typology Pages!

**NEWS** for students: **LEARN ESTONIAN FOR FREE IN ESTONIA THIS SUMMER**
limited number of places  **INFORMATION** -  **INFORMATION about other grants**
- information about  **EstoniaQuiz, the possibility of free travel to Estonia in summer**

Please contact anne.tamm at unifi.it for adding new information.

This is the **workspace for Uralic Typology**. The interactive page contains the **news** about upcoming events, a **forum and a collection of links and data sources** on Uralic languages. The purpose of these pages is the following:

- to advance the **scientific study** of the Uralic languages (official languages as well as variants) and define their structures within the context of cross-linguistic diversity;
- to **further mutual awareness**, dialogue, and co-operation between the international community of linguists specialized on the particular Uralic languages and those interested in the Uralic data **across theoretical frameworks and subdisciplines**;
- to provide an **interactive workspace** for **academic and educational events** concerning the Uralic languages;
- to provide an interactive workspace for working towards a **database structure (more in Russian)** that is useful for linguists across linguistic frameworks, in the spirit of linguistic typology;
- and by doing so, to **identify the areas of critically missing research** and to **increase the quality of education** and the advancement of new curricula of the Uralic linguistics.

Click here for the **map of Uralic languages**, see the links in **Ethnologue, Wikipedia** on the language family. Wikipedia links to the Uralic languages: **Samoyedic**, Enets, Nenets, Nganasan, Selkup, Finno-Ugric: Hungarian, Khanty, Mansi, Komi, Komi-Pernyak, Udmurt, Mari, Erzya, Moksha, Sami (Southern Sami, Ume Sami, Lule Sami, Pite Sami, Northern Sami, Inari Sami, Akkala Sami, Kildin Sami, Skolt Sami, Ter Sami), Estonian, South Estonian (Võro; incl. Seto), Finnish (incl. Meänkieli, Kven Finnish, Ingrian Finnish), Ingrian (Izhorian), Karelian (Karelian proper, Lude, Olonets Karelian), Livonian, Veps, Votic. See also **Glottopedia**. See also our page on **Selkup**. Links to the **Sign Languages** spoken on the territories where Uralic languages are spoken **Russia** - **Hungary** - **Finland** - **Estonia** - **Norway** - **Sweden** - **Romania** - **Slovakia** - **Ukraine** - **Serbia** - **Croatia** - **Austria**

**Upcoming events**

- **Primavera Ugrofinnica, Firenze, Italy, April-May, 2010**
• **Uralic Case**, May 15th-16th, Budapest, Hungary
• **11th International Congress of Finno-Ugric Studies in Piliscsaba 2010**, the typology symposium, click here for the call, August 9-14, 2010, Piliscsaba, Hungary
• **Negation in Uralic Languages**, August 2010, Hungary
• **Finno-Ugric Syntax and Universal Grammar**, August 2010, Hungary
• click here for links to past events

Fresh publications

• **Special Issue on Estonian Language**, Language Typology and Universals 62, 1-2, ed. by Helle Metslang.

Grammar Watch: to be developed into a database arranged by Subdiscipline, Keywords, Language, and Author

• **Dissertations**
• **National and University Libraries**
• **Grammar Watch List** containing Uralic sources at Association for Linguistic Typology
• **The Uralic Languages** an overview by Marianne Bákró-Nagy (27 pages) - **Uralisztika**
• **Bibliography** under construction

Upcoming courses, links to courses and materials

• Some events will be available live online. The link to the virtual classroom can be found here. In order to access the room, enter your name on the website and hit an "enter" instead of a password.
• **NordLing PhD course: Databases and typology**, Tartu, September 13-18, 2009.
• Johanna Laakso's source list on her course Quellenkunde
• The course materials of the video course Typology and Databases (focus on Estonian and Finnish) by Metslang/Tamm, Tartu-Szeged-Budapest-Vienna-Florence cooperation in 2009, are here 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Click for more...

Useful courses in the region

• **Conditionals (incl. Kratzer, Stalnaker)**, Central European University, Budapest, July 20-31, 2009
Uralic databases

- The Prototype Data Structure for the Uralic Typology Database by Prof. Havas [more in Russian]
- *Typology of Negation in Ob-Ugric and Samoyedic Languages* at the University of Vienna

Uralic projects

- *Typology of Negation in Ob-Ugric and Samoyedic Languages* (University of Vienna)
- Morphosyntactic structure and development of Estonian
- Cross-categorial case (Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
- The coding of R (Recipient/Goal) arguments: Cross-linguistic, Uralic, diachronic and experimental perspectives (University of Helsinki)
- [more projects...](#)

Uralic corpora and sources of texts

- The corpora of texts of Estonian ([of the University of Tartu](https://www.tartu.ee/), of the Institute of the Estonian Language)
- The corpora of texts of Hungarian (Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, [Hungarian National Corpus](https://www.elte.hu/hungarian-national-corpus), [Historical Corpus](https://historicalcorpus.elte.hu/))
- The materials of KOTUS, the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland
- The Bibles
- Orwell 1984 aligned sentences Estonian Hungarian
- [more links...](#)

Uralic online dictionaries

- [Keelevara](https://keelevara.ut.ee/) (Estonian)
- [Morphologic](https://morphologic.de/sg/) (Hungarian)
- the Mari dictionary
- Võro – eesti
- Budinos
- Karelian
- North-Mansi - Hungarian
- [more dictionaries...](#)
- [on Uralic dictionaries and lexical resources](#)
- if you need to write a dictionary with a Uralic language as one of the languages, here is the link to further information about how to obtain a Uralic-X base for the dictionary (for instance, the materials and contacts of the projects Estonian-X at the Institute of Estonian Language, Tallinn).
Uralic documentation, blogs and sites

- Uralic Typology Database Project [more in Russian]
- Uralic glossing + Leipzig glossing rules
- Endangered languages in Siberia
- LangueDOC (Nganasan and Enets)
- Rénhirek Hungarian blogspot
- Rokonszeny and Finnugor.lap.hu in Hungarian, commented links on Uralic cultures, incl. linguistic sources
- Information Center of Finnougric Peoples
- Kolyma Yukaghir (Nikolaeva)
- Finno-Ugric TV (Russian Federation)
- more sites....

Other typological databases containing Uralic languages

- World Atlas of Language Structures
- Typological Database System
- Autotyp
- SSWL, an open-ended database of the syntactic structures of the world's languages
- Ethnologue
- The Universals Archive
- more databases...

Journals and series of publications on Uralic languages

- Linguistica Uralica
- the publications of the Finno-Ugrian Society
- Journal de la Société Finno-Ougrienne (Suomalais-Ugrilaisen Seuran Aikakauskirja, JSFOu/SUSA)
- Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen: Zeitschrift für finnisch-ugrische Sprach- und Volkskunde (FUF)
- more journals...

Typological and Uralic societies, associations, and lists

- LINGTYP list: archives and subscription
- Association for Linguistic Typology
- the Finno-Ugrian Society
- Ur-Typol
- URALIST: archives and subscription
- U-SOS: archives and subscription
- Saami Documentation and Revitalization Network
- ugrimugri
Typological journals

- Linguistic Typology
- STUF, Language Typology and Universals
- Studies in Language

Where to study the Uralic languages?

- Universities where you can study Estonian outside Estonia
- more links to universities...

Grants to research the Uralic languages

- Estonian Research Information System
- Eesti Instituut grant Estophilus
- Native Uralic researchers can apply for conferences in Estonia
- more links to grants...

Pages specialized on the Uralic languages (under construction)


9. The guide to the reading list.
The goal of this course material is to offer the students of the Finno-Ugric studies an overview of current comparative syntactic approaches to Hungarian, Finnish, and Estonian and to suggest new methods for in-depth studies of data. The reading material concentrates on the topics of aspect and objects, especially the accusative case in its relation to aspect in Hungarian, Finnish, and Estonian.

Roberts, Roberts and Roussou introduce the topic of comparative syntax; Bresnan and Butt et al give an overview of the goals in linguistics that this course wishes to strive for: a better understanding of Universal Grammar and an introduction to constructing parallel formal grammars of related languages. É. Kiss, Vilkuna and Ehala give a basic idea of the syntax in these languages. The following sources study aspect in general, and aspect, verbs, accusative
case, aspectual particles and resultatives in Hungarian (É. Kiss, Kiefer, Piñón), Finnish (Fong, Heinämäki, Kiparsky, Nelson, Vainikka), and Estonian (Metslang, Sulkala, Tamm).

Red items give an introduction to the articles. These sources are all present in the library or on the indicated websites.

Black items are required reading for every student.

Green items are optional and required only for those students who take a reading course.

**Italian students**

This source gives an overview of aspect in general; to be consulted for terminology and basic concepts; not for close reading.


This source is an example of in-depth data study of related dialects in the generative framework. This source has to be consulted for an example of the methods; not for close reading:

Manzini, Maria Rita, Leonardo Maria Savoia 2005 *L’ ausiliare, 2. parte la negazione e l’avverbio strutture aspettuali e modali il sintagma nominale bibliografia*. Alessandria, Edizioni dell’Orso, c2005. (Collocazione: F.B. 5 1 C/ 3) (335-542)

This source gives an introduction to the basic Hungarian syntax.


This is the basic source on Finnish aspect.


This is an introduction to Finnish syntax, where Finnish syntax is described as discourse
configurational.

After Heinämäki (1984), this is an extensive study on Finnish aspect and case-marking.

This is a short guide to Estonian aspectual verb classes and verbal particles. Problems of object case-marking are also discussed.

This article is an example of how comparative fieldwork of Finno-Ugric languages could be conducted in generative linguistics. This source opens another relevant topic: understanding the relation between the accusative case and aspect in the related Finnish and Saami languages.

This article gives an account of syntactic language change in Estonian.

This is an example of a typological comparison of a linguistic category in Estonian and Finnish. It is simultaneously a compact introduction to the ways of expressing aspect in these two languages.

This source contains an overview of the work done in the research of Estonian aspect, a critical survey of the work done, and an example of the problems of dealing with aspect and case in the LFG framework.
This is the most recent syntactic account of the problems of Finnish case alternation, written by a native speaker.

This source analyses Finnish resultative phrases, combining syntax and semantics.

The introductions to these two sources introduce the goals and problems of comparing languages and understanding language change.
Roberts, Ian 1997. *Comparative syntax,* (Introduction) *(LING 1 6 260) (1-8 introduction), (55-113 case), (9-54)*

Roberts, Ian and Anna Roussou 2003. *Syntactic change: a minimalist approach to grammaticalization,* *Cambridge studies in linguistics; 100,* (Introduction) *(COLL STR301/ 100) (1-34, 194-236)*

The following two sources give an overview of the goals in linguistics that this course wishes to strive for: a better understanding of Universal Grammar and an introduction to constructing parallel formal grammars of related languages.
Bresnan, Joan 2001. *Lexical-Functional Syntax* for more on these issues: [http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/BPL_Images/Content_store/Sample_chapter/0631209735/001.pdf](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/BPL_Images/Content_store/Sample_chapter/0631209735/001.pdf) (15)

Miriam Butt et al.1999. *A grammar writer's cookbook.* *CSLI lecture notes; 95.)*1-14 (15)
Hungarian students


This source gives an introduction to the basic Hungarian syntax. 17-65. (50)

É. Kiss K. 1998 “Mondattan”, É. Kiss-Kiefer-Siptár: *Új magyar nyelvtan*, Osiris

(This source gives an alternative and an updated introduction to the basic Hungarian syntax.


This text gives an overview of the Hungarian aspectual verb classes and is relevant in understanding the role of Hungarian verbal particles in sentential aspect.


This is the basic source on Finnish aspect.


This is an introduction to Finnish syntax, where Finnish syntax is described as discourse configurational.


This is a general book on Finnish:


This source gives an overview of the aspectual phenomena in general and in Hungarian. Verb classes, aspectual verbal particles, phenomena such as progressive and word order are discussed together with the topics of an interaction between noun phrases and verbs and aspect are discussed.


After Heinämäki (1984), this is an extensive study on Finnish aspect and case-marking.

This is a short guide to Estonian aspectual verb classes and verbal particles. Problems of object case-marking are also discussed.


This article is an example of how comparative fieldwork of Finno-Ugric languages could be conducted in generative linguistics. This source opens another relevant topic: understanding the relation between the accusative case and aspect in the related Finnish and Saami languages.


This article gives an account of syntactic language change in Estonian.


The article studies an interesting type of multiplicative accusative case-marked phrases and aspect in Hungarian. The search through the data can be considered as an example for searching a match between syntax and semantics.


This is an example of a typological comparison of a linguistic category in Estonian and Finnish. It is simultaneously a compact introduction to the ways of expressing aspect in these two languages.

This source contains an overview of the work done in the research of Estonian aspect, a critical survey of the work done, and an example of the problems of dealing with aspect and case in the LFG framework.


or

This source contains an example how to search through the data of a language in order to draw more accurate distinctions between the types of aspectual particles and reach a more adequate account. Also, this source touches upon Estonian verb classes.


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This is the most recent syntactic account of the problems of Finnish case alternation, written by a native speaker.


This source analyses Finnish resultative phrases, combining syntax and semantics.


The introductions to these two sources introduce the goals and problems of comparing languages and understanding language change.


Roberts, Ian and Anna Roussou 2003. *Syntactic change: a minimalist approach to grammaticalization*, *Cambridge studies in linguistics; 100*, (Introduction) *COLL STR301/100* (1-34, 194-236)

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Bresnan, Joan 2001. *Lexical-Functional Syntax* for more on these issues: [http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/BPL_Images/Content_store/Sample_chapter/0631209735/001.pdf](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/BPL_Images/Content_store/Sample_chapter/0631209735/001.pdf) (15)
Finnish students

Haspelmath, Martin & Matthew S. Dryer, David Gil, David & Bernard Comrie (eds.) The
World Atlas of Language Structures Online. Munich: Max Planck Digital Library,
http://wals.info/

Abondolo, Daniel (ed.) The Uralic Languages. Routledge Language Family Descriptions

This source gives an introduction to the basic Hungarian syntax.


This is the basic source on Finnish aspect.
(eds.) Aspect Bound: A voyage into the realm of Germanic, Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian

This is an introduction to Finnish syntax, where Finnish syntax is described as discourse
configurational.
Vilkuna Maria.1995. ‘Discourse configurationality in Finnish.’ In: Katalin É. Kiss (ed.)

After Heinämäki (1984), this is an extensive study on Finnish aspect and case-marking.

This is a short guide to Estonian aspectual verb classes and verbal particles. Problems of
object case-marking are also discussed.
Metslang, Helle. 2001. ‘On the Developments of the Estonian Aspect: the Verbal Particle
ära.’ In: Östen Dahl and Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm (eds.) The Circum-Baltic Languages:
Their Typology and Contacts. Studies in Language Companion Series 55. Benjamins,
Amsterdam: 443-479 (35).

This article is an example of how comparative fieldwork of Finno-Ugric languages could be
conducted in generative linguistics. This source opens another relevant topic: understanding
the relation between the accusative case and aspect in the related Finnish and Saami
languages.
Nelson, Diane. 2003. ‘Case and adverbials in Inari Saami and Finnish.’ In: Anne Dahl and
Peter Svenonius (eds.) Proceedings of the 19th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics.
Nordlyd 31. 4: 708-722 (15).

This article gives an account of syntactic language change in Estonian.

Martin Ehala 1998 How a Man Changed a Parameter Value http://www.tlu.ee/fil/ehala/pdf/a-
5.pdf (15).
This is an example of a typological comparison of a linguistic category in Estonian and Finnish. It is simultaneously a compact introduction to the ways of expressing aspect in these two languages.


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Roberts, Ian and Anna Roussou 2003. Syntactic change : a minimalist approach to grammaticalization, Cambridge studies in linguistics; 100, (Introduction) (COLL STR301/100) (1-34, 194-236)

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Bresnan, Joan 2001. *Lexical-Functional Syntax* for more on these issues:
http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/BPL_Images/Content_store/Sample_chapter/0631209735/001.pdf (15)


**Literature list to the lectures by the guest lecturers (Metslang)**

Erelt, Mati & Helle Metslang 2006, Estonian clause patterns — from Finno-Ugric to SAE. – Linguistica Uralica 2006, nr. 4, 254–266


Grünthal, Riho 2000, Typological characteristics of the Finnic languages: a reappraisal. – Laakso, Johanna (ed.), Facing Finnic. Some challenges to historical and contact linguistics. (Castrenianumin toimitteita 59.) Helsinki, 31-63

