Applying spatial data in linguistics

Kristel Uiboaed, Siim Antso, Liina Lindström, Maarja-Liisa Pilvik, Mirjam Ruutma

University of Tartu

Overview

- Project
- Resources and data
- Workflow
- Conclusions

Project

- Applying spatial data in linguistic research (01.04.2015–31.03.2017)
- Objectives:
 - digitalizing (scanning and georeferencing) data in Andrus Saareste's dialect atlases and his unpublished manuscript maps
 - integrating map applications with data from the Corpus of Estonian Dialects (CED)
 - representing linguistic distances in CED by building interactive applications for multidimensional analyses
 - making the above-mentioned resources freely available

Andrus Saareste's maps

 Mainly based on the data A. Saareste and his colleagues collected in Estonia during 1915–1944 (and that he managed to take with him when he emigrated to Sweden), to a lesser extent also on the material he collected from over 200 Estonian refugees while staying in Uppsala in 1945–1954.

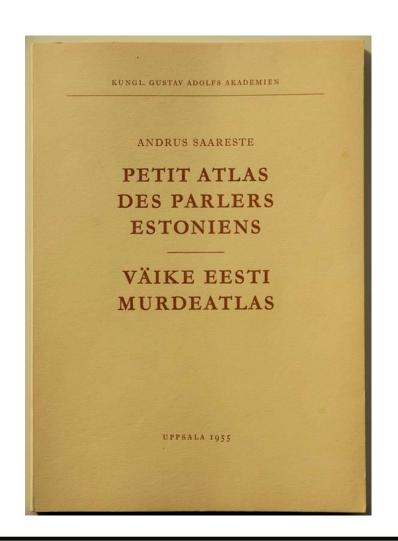
Andrus Saareste's maps

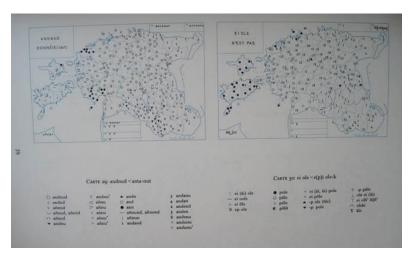
Atlases

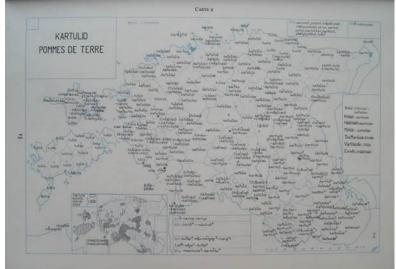
- Petit atlas des parlers estoniens. V\u00e4ike eesti murdeatlas (1955)
- Eesti murdeatlas. I vihik (Atlas des parlers estoniens) (1938)
- Eesti murdeatlas. II vihik (Atlas des parlers estoniens) (1941)
- Altogether 215 maps
- Based on Estonia's map during 1920–1940ies

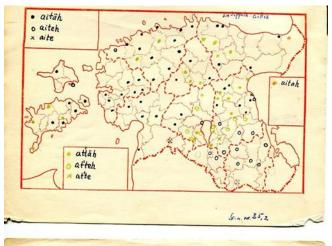
Manuscripts

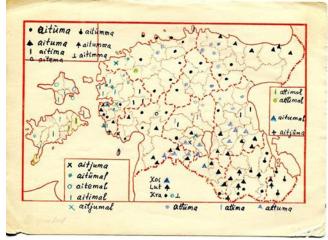
- Maps in Uppsala University archives
- 2500 maps scanned and to be digitalized









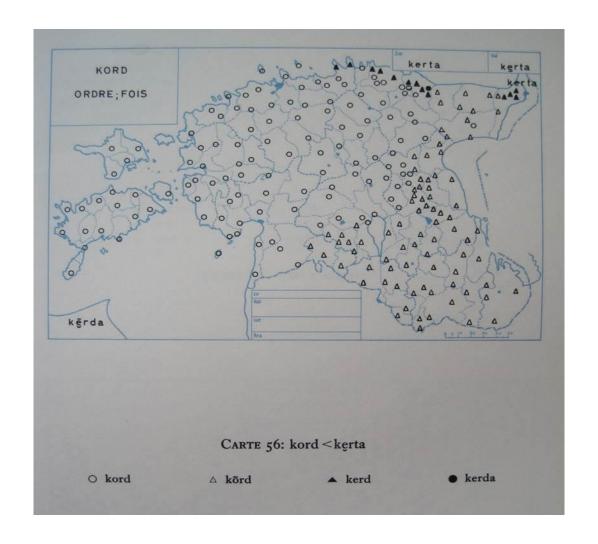


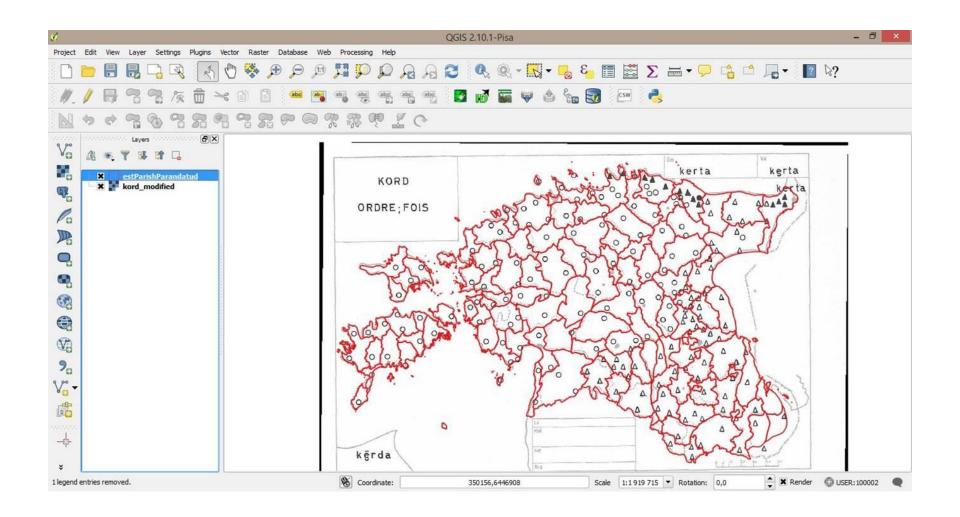
Workflow: resources

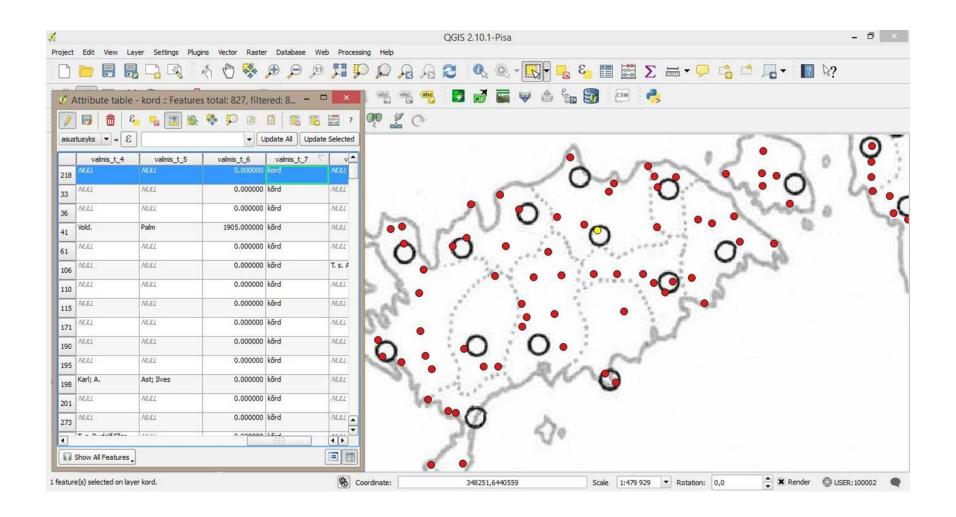
- GIS for map digitalization
- R for analysis and visualization
- Free map resources (Maa-amet Geoportal, Google maps)

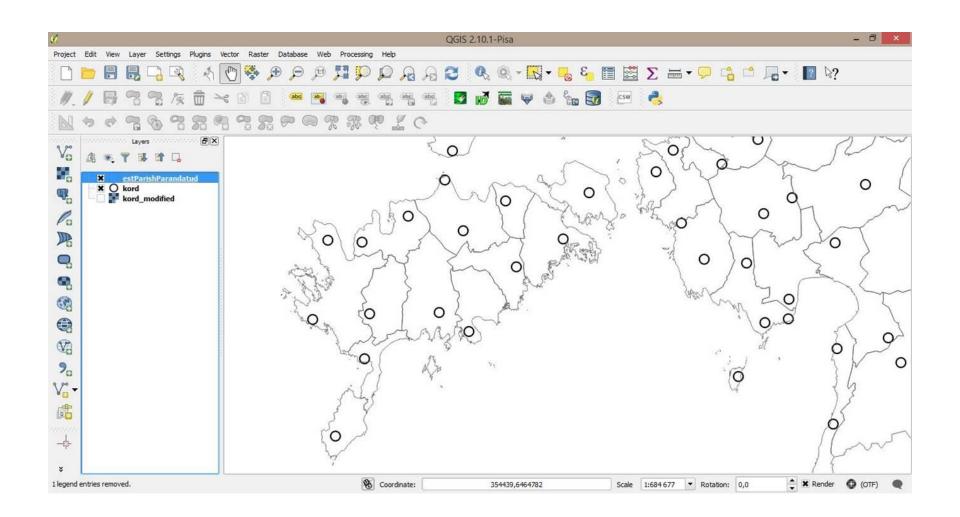
Data insertion

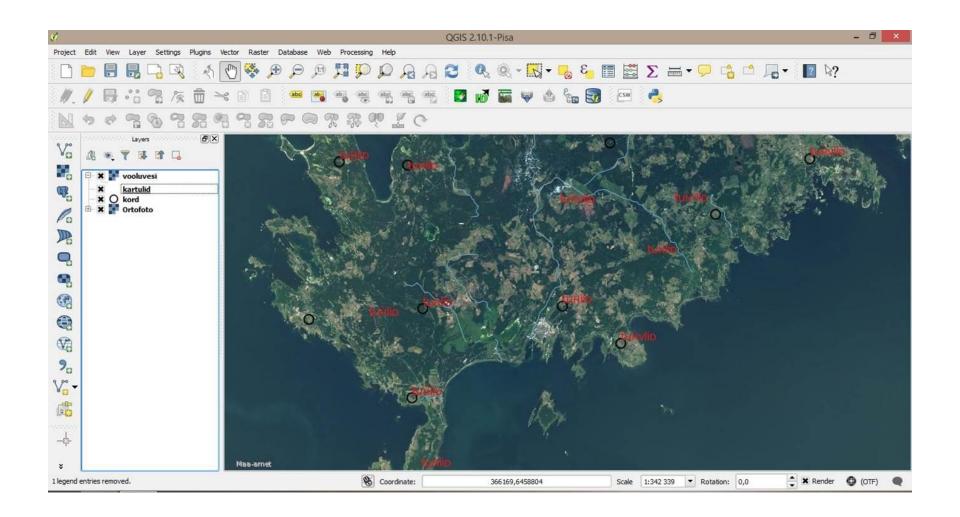
- Geographical data collection for old data, aligning and verifying.
- Construct a shapefile map with the data collection points using the Maa-amet settlements base map (contemporary administrative division).
- Several villages in older data no longer exist → nearest settlement to mark that data collection point.
- Scan the maps from the Petit Atlas des parlers estoniens and georeference them.
- Insert the data on the map into the shapefile's attribute table.
- Design the final map (choose matching symbology, correct the position of the labels).







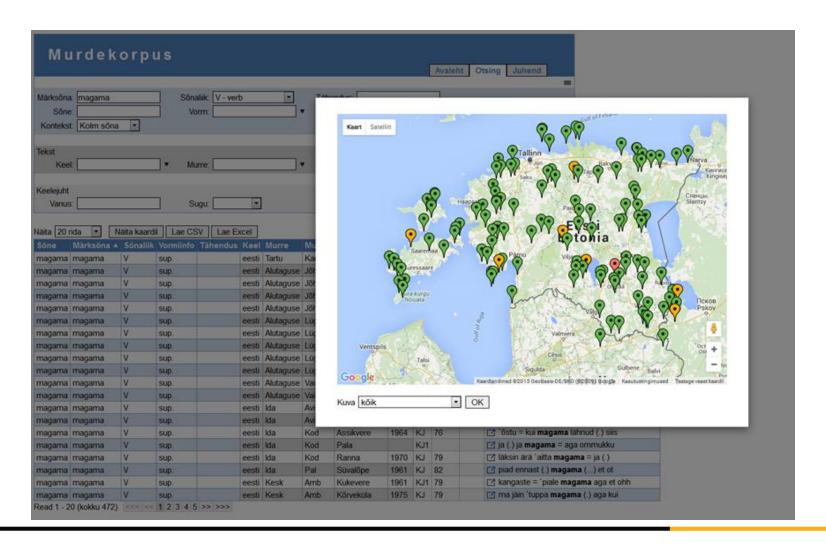




Corpus of Estonian Dialects

- www.murre.ut.ee/mkweb
- CED consists of dialect recordings (mainly from 1960-1970s), phonetically transcribed texts, dialect texts in simplified transcription, morphologically annotated texts, syntactically parsed texts, and a database with metadata about all the recordings and texts
- Older, non-mobile, less educated speakers
- 10 traditional dialect areas
- Morphologically annotated texts in XML format, which enables automated data extraction

CED user interface

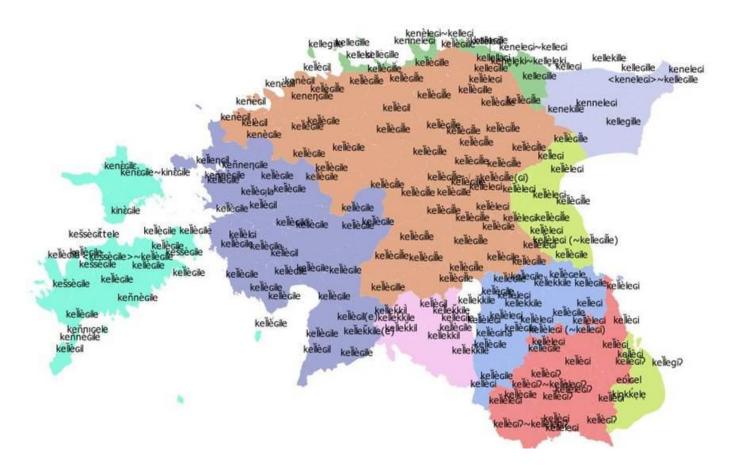


CED map data





Combining data sources



Applications and conclusions

- CED data: frequencies and typicalities
- Atlas data: categorical
- Digitalized geographical information enables to compare this data
- Aggregating the data
- Linguistic distances based on both data sources
- Comparison of old data and new research findings
- Measuring linguistic and geographic distances

References

CED = Corpus of Estonian Dialects.

http://www.murre.ut.ee/estonian-dialect-corpus/

Google Maps (2014) Google.

Kahle, David & Wickham, Hadley (2013) ggmap: A package for spatial visualization with Google Maps and OpenStreetMap. R package version 2.3.

http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=ggmap

EKI (2014) = Eesti Keele Instituudi kohanimeandmebaasi kihelkonnapiiride andmestik [Map of the Place Name Database created by the Institute of Estonian Language].

References

- Maa-amet Geoportal.
 - http://geoportaal.maaamet.ee/eng/
- QGIS Development Team (2015). QGIS Geographic Information System (*version* 2.10.1). Open Source Geospatial Foundation.
- Saareste, Andrus (1938). Eesti murdeatlas. I vihik. Tartu: Eesti Kirjanduse Selts.
- Saareste, Andrus (1941). Eesti murdeatlas. II vihik. Tartu: Teaduslik Kirjandus.
- Saareste, Andrus (1955). Petit Atlas des parlers estoniens. Väike eesti murdeatlas. Skrifter utgivna av Kungl. Gustav Adolfs Akademien 28. Uppsala: Almqvist & Wiksell.