



Morphophonology of Mordvinic Nominal Plural Forms

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Introduction

- The Mordvinic languages: Erzya and Moksha
- Morphophonology: Russian style [Иткин 2007]
- A certain morphophonological process

Introduction

- Nominal stems in the Mordvinic languages [Rueter 2010], [Zhivlov 2013]:
 - 1) consonant
 - sg. *vaks* „span“ and pl. *vaks-t*
 - 2) consonant (+ vowel)
 - sg. *pang-o* „mushroom“ and pl. *pang-t*
 - 3) vowel
 - sg. *tundo* „spring“ and pl. *tundo-t*

Literature review

- [Бубрих 1953] on Erzya
- Vowel drop
- Happened before voiceless consonants
- In some cases the vowel recovered
- The drop is sustained mainly after *g, k, d, d', t, t'*

Literature review

- [Zhivlov 2013] on Erzya
- 1) consonant
 - Stems that end with:
 - A single consonant (except for *p*, *t*, *k*)
 - A consonant cluster *ks* or *kš*

Literature review

- [Zhivlov 2013] on Erzya
- 2) consonant (+ vowel)
 - Stems that end with:
 - A single consonant *p*, *t* or *k*
 - A consonant cluster (except for *ks* and *kš*)



Literature review

- [Козлов 2018] on Moksha
- The vowel is mostly dropped if stem ends with *p, k, g, c, c', x* or *č*.



Research objectives

- Describe the stem distribution synchronically.
- Describe the evolution of the distribution.



Method

- Process the dictionary data
 - Moksha: [MPC 1998]
 - Erzya: [ЭPC 1993]

Anticipated results

- 1. There is a (morpho)phonological description for the distribution of stems in all the three languages: Moksha, Erzya and Proto-Mordvinic.
- 2. Both modern Mordvinic languages developed different systems of nominal stem distribution that do not coincide with the Proto-Mordvinic system.

Anticipated results

- 3. In both modern Mordvinic languages the hidden vowel is just dictionary information while in the Proto-Mordvinic language stems were distributed by some (morpho)phonological rule.
- 4. In all the three languages the hidden vowel is just dictionary information and the distribution cannot be explained with (morpho)phonology.



Future research

- The morphophonology of the Uralic languages is not described well enough to be projected to the proto-languages of subfamilies of the Uralic family.
- My research is an attempt to fill this gap.
- In the future, I plan to extend the study to the similar process in verbs.

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