

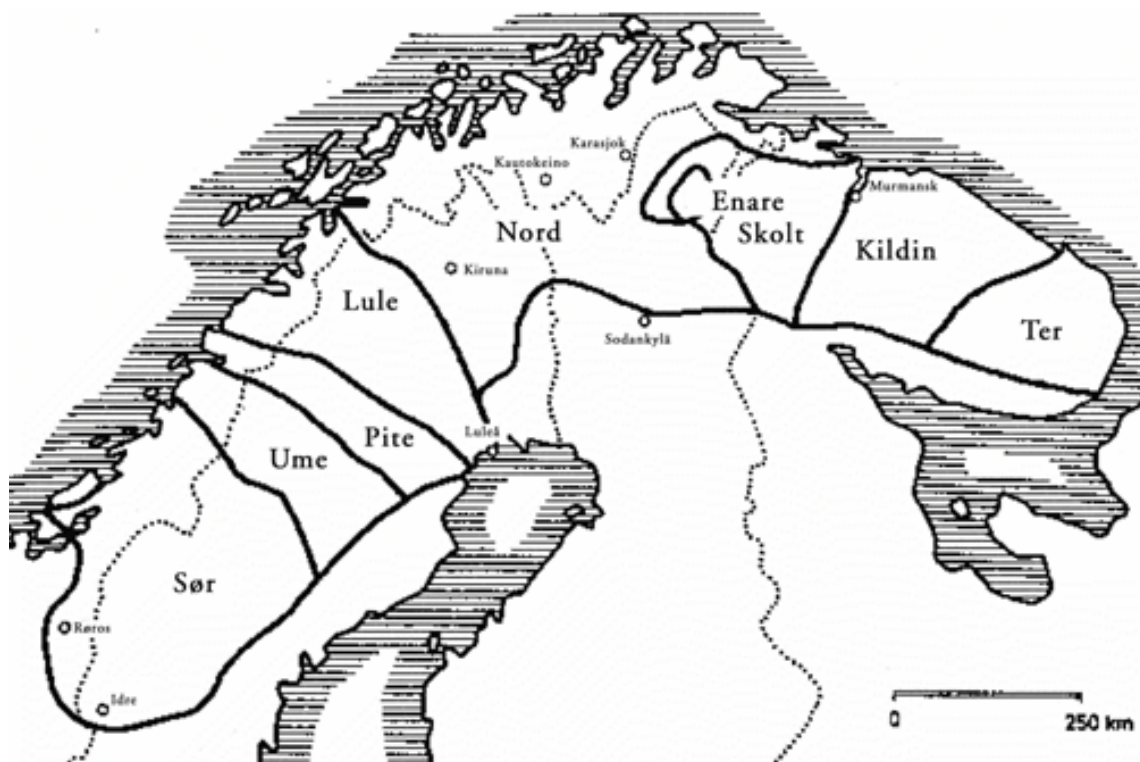
Pite Saami

A brief description of case

1 Pite Saami

Pite Saami is a language indigenous to Sweden and Norway. It is a member of the Saami languages, which are ultimately in the Uralic family (with Finnish, Estonian and Hungarian).

It is nearly extinct, with only around 20 speakers remaining.



The language is highly agglutinative, and distinguishes singular, dual and plural in

number, and 1,2,3 in person (there is no distinction for clusivity).

2 Case System

Pite Saami has a basic NOMINATIVE-ACCUSATIVE alignment, with 9 cases in total.

The basic case endings that are in the language are given in the following table:

Portmanteaux endings:

Table 5.1: Nominal case and number suffixes

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
NOM	-	- (~ <i>-h</i>)
GEN	- (~ <i>-h</i>)	- <i>j</i>
ACC	- <i>v</i>	- <i>jt</i>
ILL	- <i>j</i>	- <i>jda</i>
INESS	- <i>n</i>	- <i>jn</i>
ELAT	- <i>st</i>	- <i>jst</i>
COM	- <i>jn(a)</i>	- <i>j</i>
ABESS	- <i>dak</i> , - <i>daga</i> , - <i>gat</i> , - <i>gahta</i> , - <i>ahta</i>	
ESS	- <i>n</i>	

Nominative case is used for the S argument and A argument:

- (4) *dä* *stuor sarves* *båhta*
dä *stuor sarves* *båhta*
 then big moose\NOM.SG come\3SG.PRS
 'Then a big moose arrives.'

- (5) *ja dä dáhka almatj dâlâv*
ja dä dáhka almatj dâlâ-v
 and then make\3SG.PRS person\NOM.SG fire-ACC.SG
 'And then one makes a fire.'

Accusative is used for the O argument:

- (9) *dä virtiv válldet giehpajd ja ribrev ja*
dä virti-v vállde-t giehpa-jd ja ribbre-v ja
 then must-1SG.PRS take-INF lung-ACC.PL and liver-ACC.SG and
dagarijd ulgos
dagari-jd ulgos
 such-ACC.PL out
 'Then I have to take out the lungs, the liver and such things.'
- (10) *mân vaddav gajka buhtsujda biebmov*
mân vadda-v gajka buhtsu-jda biebmo-v
 1SG.NOM give-1SG.PRS all\ILL reindeer-ILL.PL food-ACC.SG
 'I give food to all the reindeer.'

Illative: Goal and hearer of speech:

- (12) *muhten båtsoj ij både gärrdáj*
muhten båtsoj ij både gärrdá-j
 some reindeer\NOM.PL NEG\3PL.PRS come\CONNEG corral-ILL.SG
 'Some reindeer don't come into the corral.' [pit080909.007]
- (13) *muv áhttje hálloj sâmes raddnáj...*
muv áhttje hállo-j sâmes raddná-j
 1SG.GEN father\NOM.SG say-3SG.PST some friend-ILL.SG
 'My father said to some friend...'

Inessive is roughly used for location:

- (16) *nå, mav enabov dihki Áhkkabakten?*
nå ma-v enabo-v dihki Ahkkabakte-n
 well what-ACC.SG more-ACC.SG do\2SG.PST Ahkkabakte-INESS.SG
 'Well, what more did you do in Áhkkabakte?' [pit080924.021]

- (17) *vággen Sálvjåhkå'l*
vágge-n Sálvjåhkå=l
 valley-INESS.SG Sálvjåhkå=NOM.SG=be\3SG.PRS
 'Sálvjåhkå is in the valley.' [pit100404.007]

Elative case marks the source

- (19) *váldav tjåjvev ribrist luovas*
válda-v tjåjve-v ribri-st luovas
 take-1SG.PRS stomach-ACC.SG liver-ELAT.SG loose
 'I loosen the stomach from the liver.' [pit080909.079]

- (20) *nå gässe dija älgjädä Örnvikast vuodjet vадnásav?*
nå gässe dija älgj-jdä Örnvika-st vuodje-t vадnása-v
 well when 2PL.NOM begin-2PL.PST Örnvik-ELAT.SG drive-INF boat-ACC.SG
 'Well when did you start taking the boat from Örnvik?' [pit080924.563]

- (21) *dån båda Amerigist*
dån båda Amerig-ist
 2SG.NOM come\2SG.PRS America-ELAT.SG
 'You come from America.' [pit080621.28m02s]e

Comitative case is used for co-participants and instruments:

- (28) *men ádtjo sáme gielav ságastit duv*
men ádtjo sáme giela-v ságasti-t duv
 but may\2SG.PST Saami\GEN.SG language-ACC.SG speak-INF 2SG.GEN
årbenij?
årbeni-j
 sibling-COM.PL
 'But were you allowed to speak the Saami language with your siblings?'
 [pit080924.366]

- (30) *del vuodja bijlajn Örnvikaj ja dä vádnasijn*
del vuodja bijla-jn Örnvika-j ja dä vádnasi-jn
 now drive\3SG.PRS car-COM.SG Örnvik-ILL.SG and then boat-COM.SG
Tjeggelvasa badjel
Tjeggelvas-a badjel
Tjeggelvas-GEN.SG over
 'Now one drives to Örnvik by car, then by boat over Lake Tjeggelvas.'

Abessive is used for things that are missing:

- (32) *válda káfav suhkorijn jala suhkorahtha?*
válda káfa-v suhkori-jn jala suhkor-ahta
 take\2SG.PRS coffee-ACC.SG sugar-COM.SG or sugar-ABESS
 'Do you take your coffee with sugar or without sugar?'
[pit110509b.11m41s]e

- (33) *dân lä vájmodak dal*
dân lä vájmo-dak dal
 2SG.NOM be\2SG.PRS heart-ABESS now
 'You are heartless now.'

Essive Case is used for predicate nominals with the verb *sjaddat* 'become':

- (34) *bednan sjaddav*
bedna-n sjadda-v
 dog-ESS become-1SG.PRS
 'I become a dog.'

- (35) *jegŋa sjaddá tjáhtsen*
jegŋa sjaddá tjáhtse-n
 ice\NOM.SG become\3SG.PRS water-ESS
 'Ice becomes water.'

A case suffix is not always used, but sometimes there are morphophonological changes

that distinguish case:

Table 5.6: The inflectional paradigm for the noun *bärrgo* ‘meat’

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
NOM	<i>bärrgo</i>	<i>biergo</i>
GEN	<i>biergo</i>	<i>biergoj</i>
ACC	<i>biergov</i>	<i>biergojd</i>
ILL	<i>bärrgoj</i>	<i>biergojda</i>
INESS	<i>biergon</i>	<i>biergojn</i>
ELAT	<i>biergost</i>	<i>biergojst</i>
COM	<i>biergojn</i>	<i>biergo</i>
ABESS	<i>biergodak</i>	<i>biergodahta</i>
ESS	<i>bärrgon</i>	

The pronominal system distinguished all cases except for abessive:

Table 6.1: Personal pronouns

	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	
NOM	<i>mân~mânnâ</i>	<i>dân~dânnâ</i>	<i>sân~sânnâ</i>	SINGULAR
GEN	<i>muv</i>	<i>duv</i>	<i>suv</i>	
ACC	<i>muv</i>	<i>duv</i>	<i>suv</i>	
ILL	<i>munje</i>	<i>dunje</i>	<i>sunje</i>	
INESS	<i>muvne</i>	<i>duvne</i>	<i>suvne</i>	
ELAT	<i>muvvste</i>	<i>duvvste</i>	<i>suvvste</i>	
COM	<i>mujna</i>	<i>dujna</i>	<i>sujna</i>	
NOM	<i>mâj~mâjâ</i>	<i>dâj~dâjâ</i>	<i>sâj~sâjâ</i>	DUAL
GEN	<i>munuo</i>	<i>dunuo</i>	<i>sunuo</i>	
ACC	<i>mânov</i>	<i>dânov</i>	<i>sânov</i>	
ILL	<i>munnuj</i>	<i>dunnuj</i>	<i>sunnuj</i>	
INESS	<i>munuon</i>	<i>dunuon</i>	<i>sunuon</i>	
ELAT	<i>munuost</i>	<i>dunuost</i>	<i>sunuost</i>	
COM	<i>munujn</i>	<i>dunujn</i>	<i>sunujn</i>	
NOM	<i>mij~mija</i>	<i>dij~dija</i>	<i>sij~sija</i>	PLURAL
GEN	<i>mijâ</i>	<i>dijâ</i>	<i>sijâ</i>	
ACC	<i>mijáv</i>	<i>dijáv</i>	<i>sijáv</i>	
ILL	<i>mijjaj</i>	<i>dijjaj</i>	<i>sijjaj</i>	
INESS	<i>miján</i>	<i>diján</i>	<i>siján</i>	
ELAT	<i>mijást</i>	<i>dijást</i>	<i>sijást</i>	
COM	<i>mijájn</i>	<i>dijájn</i>	<i>sijájn</i>	

These cases are also distinguished on interrogative words:

Table 6.6: Interrogative pronouns with human referents

	SG	PL
NOM	<i>ge</i>	<i>ge</i>
GEN	<i>gen</i>	<i>gej</i>
ACC	<i>gev</i>	<i>gejd</i>
ILL	<i>gesa</i>	<i>gejda</i>
INESS	<i>genne</i>	<i>gejdne</i>
ELAT	<i>gesste</i>	<i>gejsste</i>
COM	<i>gejna</i>	<i>gej</i>

As well as on relative pronouns:

Table 6.11: Relative pronouns

	SG	PL
NOM	<i>mij</i>	<i>ma(h)</i>
GEN	<i>man</i>	<i>mej</i>
ACC	<i>mav</i>	<i>mejd~majd</i>
ILL	<i>masa</i>	<i>mejda</i>
INESS	<i>manne</i>	<i>majdne</i>
ELAT	<i>masste</i>	<i>majsste</i>
COM	<i>majna</i>	<i>mej</i>

All data from Wilbur (2014)

References

Wilbur, Joshua (2014) *A grammar of Pite Saami*. Berlin: Language Science Press.