

Functional Study on Adverbial Cases and Adpositions in Finno-Ugric and Indo-European

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Abstract *Finno-Ugric languages are renowned for possessing a rich morphological case system. Finnish has 15 basic cases and Hungarian has 18. These large number of cases can be classified into three types; grammatical, locative, and adverbial. Grammatical cases are related to syntax, but locative and adverbial cases are regarded as adjuncts, and such adjuncts have rarely been the focus of morphosyntactic studies. Among Indo-European languages, German has just four cases and English has only few of them; instead, they have many prepositions, and such prepositions act as adjuncts. This paper deals with several adverbial cases in Finno-Ugric: essive, causal (causative), and translative cases, and contrasts them with the equivalent expressions (mainly prepositional forms) of German and English.*

This paper has examined several forms (cases, adpositions, and conjunctions) for some adverbial meanings among four languages: English, Finnish, German, and Hungarian. There are clear morphological differences and common features between Finno-Ugric and Indo-European.

Key words: Linguistics, Morphology, Adverbial cases, Indo-European, Finno-Ugric

1. Introduction

Finno-Ugric languages are renowned for possessing a rich morphological case system (Csepregi 1991, Iggesen 2005). Finnish has 15 basic cases and Hungarian has 18. These large number of cases can be classified into three types; grammatical, locative, and adverbial. Grammatical cases are related to syntax, but locative and adverbial cases are regarded as adjuncts, and such adjuncts have rarely been the focus of morphosyntactic studies. Among Indo-European languages, German has just four cases and English has only few of them; instead, they have many prepositions, and such

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Finnish, German, and Hungarian: Paulo Coelho 1988, *The Alchemist*; and Paulo Coelho 1994, *By the river Piedra I sat down and wept*. As similar study that uses parallel texts has been carried out by Stolz (2001).

First, this paper classifies several meanings related to the above adverbial forms, such as Cause, Reason, Purpose, Operation, Position, Role, Manner, and Figurative (cf. Haspelmath & Buchholz 1998, Iggesen 2005, Kortman & König 1992, Nose 2006). Then, an examination is made on the forms that are used to express the above meanings by extracting them from the cross-linguistic parallel texts. The forms observed in the texts are cases (grammatical, locative, adverbial), adpositions (prepositions and postpositions), conjunctions, and other verbal or lexical forms (Csepregi 1991, Hakulinen 2000 Karlsson 1999, Keszler *et al.* 2002). The ultimate aim is to portray the functions by means of a semantic map (Heine *et al.* 1991, Haspelmath 2003).

3. Collecting and contrasting the data

In this section, some examples of adverbial constructions are assembled. This paper uses the parallel texts from the four languages, and gathers the data cross-linguistically. The following meanings in particular are examined: reason and purpose, result, and role. When we consider the cases in Finno-Ugric, it becomes clear that the adverbial cases in Finnish and Hungarian are so widely diverse in meaning² (Karlsson 1999, Keszler *et al.* 2002), and are difficult to analyze in terms of morphosemantics. For that reason, a limited types of adverbial cases — reason, purpose, result, etc. — have been selected for this paper.

The meanings are approximately as follows: reason and purpose indicate approximately *from*, or may mean a cause in causal relations. Result indicates *to*, or is used in causal relations, an effect. Finally, a role illustrates *at* or a location (cf. Keszler *et al.* 2002). As a result, the three meanings form a kind of semantic triangle [from-at-to].

Examples:

Reason and Purpose

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a.	Fi: <i>Mi-ks-ette</i>	lähde	Mekk-aan	nyt?	
	what-TRA-not	leave	Mecca-LOC	now	
b.	Hu:Akkor	<i>mi-ért</i>	nem indul	e l	m o s t
				Mekká-ba?	
	then	what-CAU	not start	PRF	now
				Mecca-LOC	

- c. Ge: Wenn das so ist, *warum* geht Ihr nicht jetzt nach Mekka?
why
- d. En: Well, *why* don't you go to Mecca now?
- (6) Alchemist 27
- a. Fi:Tuli-t tietä-mään uni-sta.
come-PAST.2SG know-infinitive dream-LOC (relative)
- b. Hu:Az-ért jö-ttél, hogy valami-t
that-CAU come-PAST-2SG that something-ACC
meg-tud-jál az álm-aid-ról.
PRF-learn-IMP.2SG the dream-your-LOC (relative)
- c. Ge: Du willst etwas *über* Träume erfahren.
over dream
- d. En: You came *so that* you could learn about your dreams.

The examples given in (5) are interrogative sentences, i.e., asking some reason or purpose. All languages use interrogative markers such as *why* in English (5d); the interrogative marker in Finnish (5a) is *miksi*, and in Hungarian, *miért* (5b). The forms *miksi* and *miért* can be analyzed morphologically as *mi-ksi* (what-translative), and *mi-ért* (what-causal), respectively. That is, the translative case-element *-ksi* can be found in Finnish, and the causal case-element *-ért* in Hungarian³.

In (6), Finnish (6a) does not use the case system, but expresses the meaning in the form of an infinitive verb. When we express certain reason and purpose meanings, it is possible to create sentences not only by using noun phrases, but also by verb phrases. In Hungarian (6b), the conjunctive marker *azért* is used, and this form consists of the demonstrative pronoun *az* (*that*) + the causal case *-ért*⁴. In German (6c), preposition *über* (*on, over, for*) is used, and in English (6d), the conjunctive phrase *so that*. Thus, we see that there are significant differences between the four languages.

Result

(7) Alchemist 164

- a. Fi:Halu-an nähä kuinka ihmisen muuttuu *tuule-*
ksi.
want-1SG to see how people change wind-TRA
- b. Hu:Látni akar-om, hogyan változ-nak az ember-ek
vihar-rá.
to see want-1SG how change-3PL the person-PL
wind-TRA
- c. Ge: Ich will sehen, wie sich Menschen *in Wind* verwandeln.
into wind

Table 1: Adverbial constructions on cause, role, and result:

Meanings	Finnish	Hungarian	German	English
Cause, reason, purpose	Translative, Postp	Causal, Postp	Prep(über), Lex	Prep(for), Lex
result	Translative	Translative	Prep(into)	Prep(into)
role	Essive	Essive	Conj(als)	Conj(as)

(Postp: Postposition; Prep: Preposition; Conj: Conjunction; Lex: Lexical means)

Hungarian, *takia*, *puolsta*, and *vuoksi* in Finnish, as in (9) below. These causal postpositions indicate only reason, as shown in Table 1. In other words, in Finnish and Hungarian there are two forms (case (translative or causal) and postposition) to convey a reason.

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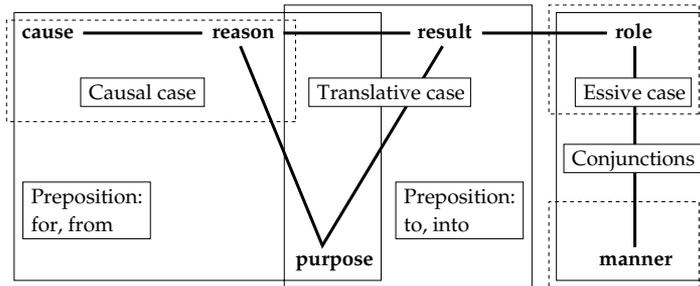
- a. Fi: Ennusmerkki-en *vuoksi* - alkemsti vasta-si.
 omen-GEN POSTP alchemist a n s w e r -
 3SG.PAST
- b. Hu: A jel-ek *miatt* - felel-te az alkemista.
 the omen-PL POSTP answer-3SG.PAST the alchemist
 'Because of the omens - the alchemist answered'

By means of the study of the adverbial constructions contrasting the essive, causal, and translative cases, the characteristics of Finno-Ugric adverbial cases and the related adposition forms in the Finno-Ugric and Indo-European will be clarified. For that purpose, a semantic map of the adverbial functions has been created. This type of visualization is termed as a semantic map approach, and was created by Haspelmath (2003) and Heine *et al.* (1991). In this section, I will demonstrate the step by step procedure of creating a semantic map.

(10) Creating a semantic map:

1. The semantic map is created by positioning of certain related functions (in this paper, reason, result, role, etc.). Haspelmath (2003) has already specified the placement of the functions from a typological perspective, and this paper addresses the placement of each of the function.
2. The distances between functions are similar to the semantic distances between them.
3. The semantic map in this study provides an approximate overview from cause (left) to result (right) in causal relations.

Figure 1: Semantic map of reason- result- role functions:



Thus, this paper creates a semantic map of selected adverbial meanings, as shown in Figure 1.

There is a semantic line from cause to role via reason and result. Purpose is related to reason and result. Role and manner are related to each other, and the manner function will be discussed in the next section. The causal case in Hungarian is located within the cause and reason functions. The translative case in Hungarian falls within the result and purpose functions; moreover, the translative case in Finnish occupies reason. In English and German, there is no causal or translative cases; instead the prepositions: *for*, *from*, *to*, and *into* are used. The essive case covers role, except in English and German conjunctions cover both role and manner.

4. Discussion

In this section, the following two points are discussed in terms of morphosemantics. The first point is that there are differences between case and adpositions between the four languages, and the formal differences among the languages are specified. The second point is that there are conjunctions for role and manner in English and German, whereas Finnish and Hungarian use the essive case for role. The differing usages of such conjunctions and essive case will be examined.

First, I consider the difference between using cases and adpositions (prepositions and postpositions) among the four languages. There are many adverbial cases in Finnish and Hungarian, such as the causal, essive, and translative cases, and these may express reason, result, and other such meanings. In English and German, on the other hand, there is no such adverbial case; instead, these languages use another form, i.e., prepositions. Also, there are other possible ways to express reason and other meanings; in my contrastive data, there are many other lexical or verbal forms indicating the adverbial meanings (see Examples (6)). However, as pointed out in (9), there are causal postpositions in Finnish and Hungarian, and which have

not only the adverbial cases but also some “adverbial” postpositions. Thus, it turns out that there is clearly a morphological characteristic common to all the four languages, since all of them use adpositions for reason.

Second, a discussion of conjunctions for role and other meanings. The following (11) and (12) are manner and figurative meanings. These two are related to the role, as shown in Figure 1.

Manner

(11) Alchemist 17

- a. Fi: Hän oli näh-nyt sama-n une-n *kuin viikko-
a aiemmin*
he was see-partp same-GEN dream-GEN as week-PAR
previous
ja herä-nnyt taas ennen loppu-a.
and wake-partp again before end-PAR
- b. Hu: Ugyanaz-t álmod-ta, *mint a múlt hét-en,*
same-ACC dream-PAST.3SG as the last week-LOC
(superessive)
és megint a vég-e előtt fölébred-t.
and again the end-its before wake-PAST.3SG
- c. Ge: Wieder hatte er den gleichen Traum gehabt *wie vor einer
Woche,*
like ago one
week
und wieder war er vor dessen Ende aufgewacht.
- d. En: He had had the same dream that night *as a week ago,*
and once he had awakened before it ended.

Figurative

(12) Alchemist 26

- a. Fi: Se kuulost-i *mustalai-sen rukoukse-lta.*
it sound-PAST.3SG gipsy-GEN prayer-LOC (abla-
tive)
- b. Hu: Olyan vol-t, *mint egy cigány imádság.*
such be-PAST.3SG like one gypsy praying
- c. Ge: Es klang *nach einem Zigeunergebet.*
to one gypsy prayer
- d. En: It sounded *like a Gypsy prayer.*

Conjunctions are used for manner in (11): *kuin* in Finnish, *mint* in Hungarian, *wie* in German, and *as* in English. In Hungarian, there is

another possibility for the use of the essive case, but the essive in Finnish does not convey a manner. The conjunction *mint* in Hungarian is used for the figurative meaning as well⁵. Other languages differ from each other: the ablative case *-lta* in Finnish, a preposition *nach* in German, and a conjunction *like* in English. Then there is the locative case in Finnish, but preposition *nach* in German; nevertheless conjunctions *kuin* in Finnish and *wie* in German are used to express manner and figurative meanings. To sum up, there are three discrete morphological ways for indicating cause, reason, purpose, result, role, manner, and figurative meanings.

Although in Finnish and Hungarian, there are many adverbial cases, there are none for manner and figurative; instead, conjunctions are preferred, as in English and German. These formal selections among several adverbial meanings are inclined to be common to the four languages, and they may share some morphosemantic factors such as iconicity, or cognitive basis.

5. Conclusion

This paper has examined several forms (cases, adpositions, and conjunctions) for some adverbial meanings among four languages: English, Finnish, German, and Hungarian. There are clear morphological differences and common features between Finno-Ugric and Indo-European.

First, Finnish and Hungarian have certain special cases (causal, translative, and essive), and they use these adverbial cases for reason, purpose, result, and role. In English and German, however, there are no such adverbial cases, instead there are prepositions like *for*, *into*, etc. Second, the adverbial cases in Finnish and Hungarian cover some adverbial meanings, but these languages utilize postpositions to convey reasons, and conjunctions for manner and figurative meanings. The usage of conjunctions for role, manner, and figurative are observed in the four languages. Finally, this paper has shown that there is a morphological parallelism among the four languages, with regard to the forms (case, adposition, or conjunction) they feature for an adverbial meaning.

Notes

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The following abbreviations are used: ACC- accusative; CAU- causal; GEN- genitive; LOC- locatives; ESS- essive; PART- partitive; partp- participle form; PAST- past tense; POS- possessive suffix; POSTP- postposition; PRF- verbal prefix; TRA- translative; SG- singular; PL- plural; 1, 2, 3- 1st, 2nd, 3rd person, respectively.

1. Dixon (2006) deals with such clause linking of reason, result, and purpose, and he calls such conjunctions as consequence linking.
2. The meanings of the adverbial cases are not as specific as locative cases, and the adverbial cases are not related to syntax, as are grammatical cases. Therefore, the adverbial cases are discussed in terms of adverbs.
3. One Finnish native speaker pointed out that Finnish people do not consider *miksi* to be the combination of *mi* and *-ksi*. This interrogative marker is already grammaticalized and it is difficult to analyze it morphologically; nevertheless the translative element *-ksi* is clearly visible within the form.
4. The *ezért/azért* forms in Hungarian are already grammaticalized, and they are regarded as a one-word conjunction.
5. The conjunction *mint* in Hungarian is used for comparative standard marker, meaning *than*.

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