

Theses of PhD dissertation

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**THE REINDEER HUSBANDRY AND ITS TERMINOLOGY IN  
NORTHERN SÁMI**

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## I. PREVIOUS RESEARCH

So far, there has been no example for the presentation of the Sámi terminology of reindeer husbandry on the basis of linguistic aspects, even though the synchronous and diachronic examination of the vocabulary could also reveal, among others, the changes that have developed in the relationship of the words and the underlying concepts in the past decades, in parallel with the technical development of reindeer husbandry. My undergraduate degree thesis entitled *The terminology of reindeer husbandry in Northern Sámi - based on the UEW and a collection of joiks* (1997) focused on the role of reindeer in the lives of the Sámi people and the reflection thereof in their folklore, based on the lyrics of joiks, deprived of their tunes, forming the core of Sámi folk poetry. My sources at the time of writing were the UEW,<sup>1</sup> as well as a collection of joiks by György Szomjas-Schiffert.<sup>2</sup>

The collection and presentation of certain groups of words, the examination of semantic fields, is a popular field of Finno-Ugric research. The group of words I have chosen does not only include nouns (like various names of reindeer based on some of their characteristics), but also adjectives (the characteristics of reindeer) and verbs (the activities of reindeer and their shepherds).

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<sup>1</sup> RÉDEI, Károly (Hrsg.): *Uralisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch 1–3*. Budapest – Wiesbaden. 1988–1991

<sup>2</sup> SZOMJAS-SCHIFFERT György: *Lapp sámánok énekes hagyománya*. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest. 1996

## II. METHODS

The goals of the current dissertation are to present the essence of reindeer husbandry as traditionally cultivated by the Sámi, and examine the terminology related to reindeer keeping and the nomadic lifestyle involved. Accordingly, this work comprises two main parts:

- ethnographical, historical and cultural reviewing the history of reindeer husbandry and its reflection in Sámi culture and everyday life;
- linguistic analysis of the nomenclature related to reindeer husbandry.

The sources at my disposal were partly of a linguistic-lexicological nature (bilingual dictionaries, etymological dictionaries, etymological glossaries, computer data bases), and partly related to other fields of study, primarily to ethnography. The sources of the Sámi vocabulary serving as the basis of this paper are two works by Nils Isak EIRA.<sup>3</sup>

In the semantic chapter of my paper, I have listed the Northern Sámi terminology of reindeer husbandry available in my sources into semantic groups. In the morphology chapter of my paper, I describe the morphological features of the names and attributes of reindeer. In the etymologic chapter, I have analyzed the terminology from an etymological perspective.

In the third part of my paper, under the title *The terminology of reindeer husbandry in Northern Sámi*, there is a Northern Sámi glossary of a

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<sup>3</sup> *Boazobargi giella*. Diedut Nr. 1. Sámi Instituhtta, Guovdageaidnu. 1984 *Bohccuid luhtte – gulahallat ja ollášuhttit siidadoalu*. DAT, Guovdageaidnu. 1994

total of 604 elements, included 419 names of reindeer (according to age, sex, antlers, fur, physical condition, earmarks, property relationships, behavior, function). After the title, its Sámi and Hungarian definitions are to be found.

### **III.**

#### **RESULTS**

The informative reindeer names that form the core of the terminology of reindeer husbandry convey relevant information on the animals that they denote to the name-giving community, the nomadic reindeer keepers. The implicit information inherent in these terms, however, makes it possible to list the elements of this terminology into conceptual-semantic groups. Although the lines between these groups cannot always be clearly drawn, they reflect the approach and motivation underlying the name-giving. I have set up three main groups. In the first one, I have listed the names, features, activities, as well as the names of certain groups of reindeer (collective nouns) given to them according to various criteria. The second major group contains the words that refer to humans such as the names given to, and the activities performed by the reindeer shepherds. The third large group is aimed to cover the (natural and physical) environment. It is here that I have classified the words that refer to the conditions of reindeer husbandry, the typical or important locations, periods and tools thereof, as well as those that denote the feeding of the reindeer.

While the reasons for the accuracy of the terminology are explained by the outcome of the semantic analysis, the consequences thereof are reflected by the morphological characteristics. On one hand, the derivatives

found among the terms prove the need for developing a synthetic language, on the other hand, the high number of compounds in the words under review represents the analytical constructions which are indispensable to define and linguistically express the details.

<b>SEMANTIC GROUP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>SIMPLEXES</b>	<b>DERIVATIVES</b>	<b>COMPOUNDS</b>
<b>SEX / AGE</b>	29	12 (41%)	5 (17%)	12 (41%)
<b>ANTLERS</b>	108	19 (17,5%)	4 (4%)	85 (79%)
<b>FUR</b>	91	5 (5,5%)	16 (17,5%)	70 (77%)
<b>PHYSICAL CONDITION</b>	54	22 (41%)	17 (31,5%)	15 (28%)
<b>EARMARKS</b>	22	3 (14%)	1 (4,5%)	18 (82%)
<b>BEHAVIOR</b>	77	20 (26%)	35 (45,5%)	22 (28,5%)
<b>FUNCTION</b>	34	6 (18%)	11 (32%)	17 (50%)
<b>PROPERTY RELATIONSHIPS</b>	4	0	0	4 (100%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	419	87 (21%)	89 (21%)	243 (58%)

On grounds of percentage of derivatives and compound words in these semantic groups, we can find that the meaning of terms is closely connected with their morphological features: the more important information is included, the more structured the name is.

The vocabulary that I have analyzed from an etymological perspective shows at least such an exciting picture. Out of the 82 words that I have examined, 10 words go back to the Uralian age, 14 can be traced back to the Finno-Ugrian age. The Finno-Permic age forms of 4 words can be followed back, and the Finno-Volgaic forms of 6 of them are familiar. Out of the 82 elements 69 also have Proto Sámi reconstructions (we can find 11 Proto Sámi reconstructions in the group of words of foreign origin).

AGE			
<b>I. ORIG.</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CERTAIN</b>	<b>UNCERTAIN</b>
	65	57	8
<b>U</b>	10	10	Ø
<b>FU</b>	14	9	5
<b>FP</b>	4	4	Ø
<b>FW</b>	6	3	3
<b>PS</b>	31	31	Ø
<b>II. FOREIGN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+ PS</b>	<b>Ø PS</b>
(LOANS)	17	11	6

#### IV.

#### RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

- A finnországi lapp réntartók szókinszéről. In: MOLNÁR Zoltán – ZAICZ Gábor (szerk.): *Permistica et Uralica. Ünnepi könyv Csúcs Sándor tiszteletére*. Fenno-Ugrica Pázmániensia I. Piliscsaba. 50–58.
- Északi lapp rénborjú-elnevezések. In: CSEPREGI Márta – VÁRADY Eszter (szerk.): *Permiék, finnekek, magyarok. Írások Szij Enikő 60. születésnapjára*. Urálistikai Tanulmányok 14. ELTE Finnugor Tanszék, Budapest. 53–56.
- A réntartás terminológiájának szemantikai vizsgálata és annak korlátai. In: BERECKZI András – CSEPREGI Márta – KLIMA László (szerk.): *Ünnepi írások Havas Ferenc tiszteletére*. Urálistikai Tanulmányok 18. ELTE Finnugor Tanszék – Numi Tórem Finnugor Alapítvány, Budapest. 179–184.
- A rén elnevezései a magyarban. A rén megjelenése magyar szépirodalmi fordításokban. In: BERECKZI András – CSEPREGI Márta – KLIMA László (szerk.): *Ünnepi írások Bereczki Gábor tiszteletére*. Urálistikai Tanulmányok 19. ELTE Finnugor Tanszék – Numi Tórem Finnugor Alapítvány, Budapest. 139–142.
- A réntartás terminológiájáról: a rén agancs szerinti elnevezései a norvégglappban és a finnben. *Folia Uralica Debreceniensia* 15. Debrecen. 3–11.
- A rénelnevezések hierarchiájának és alaktani megformáltságának lehetséges összefüggéseiről. *Folia Uralica Debreceniensia* 19. Debrecen. 15–44.