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THE SAAMI (LAPPISH) BIRD NAMES

A linguistic analysis

SUMMARY

The thesis deals with the Lappish bird denotations. I collected material from all the printed sources existing in all Lappish dialects. Not only genera and species are included in the database but also words and expressions with no meaning or with a meaning which cannot be exactly defined. Hapax legomenon, the names for poultry and names with such general meaning as e.g. 'bird', 'wader' etc. are also parts of the database. However, it is not usual in monographs like this, I wanted to introduce an aggregate picture of Lappish words meaning 'bird'.

The material is exposed in alphabetical order. Entries consist of two parts: the first shows the names, their dialectological distribution and sources, while the second one introduces the etymology of the word with its sources.

The analysis of the data refers to the dialectological distribution, etymology and structure of the words.

While analysing dialectological distribution, I examined in what proportion there were bird names occurring in one, two, three, four, five, six dialects or in all seven dialects of Lappish and I also compared this distributions with the layers of origin. Distributions were also categorized on the base of their frequency. The results showed that the more dialects know the word, the more probably the word is originating form any of the proto-languages (proto-Uralic, proto-Finno-Ugric etc.), and, on the other hand, when a word is known only in one or more but not in typically distributed dialects, it is less probable that it comes from a proto-language stage.

Analysing the origins of bird denotations, we found that the main types are proto-language origin, loanwords and words of inner origin, i.e. derivatives, compounds, onomatopoeic words and some other types as back-formation, dissimilation, variant and folk etymology.

The words originating from several proto-language stages are one of the most important part of research. In the case of some ancient words, I tried to prove that they do not come from proto-languages.

As for loanwords, their main sources are Scandinavian languages, Finnish and Russian. There is a close connection between dialects and loanwords: older Scandinavian loanwords can be found in all Lappish dialects, while newer ones are missing from the East dialect. On the other hand, Finnish loanwords cannot be found in the most southern dialects, while Russian ones occur only in the East.

The structure of a bird name can be as follows: there are simplex words, derivatives and compounds. As for inner origin, in the case of bird denotations, onomatopoeia is extremely important, and that is why I dedicated a whole chapter to onomatopoeic words. A short chapter deals with the two names belonging to baby language, and another one with folk etymology.

Creating terminology is an important and essential condition for a language to be able to be used as an official language and the language of science. As in Northern Lappish, especially concerning bird names, this process is in action, I analysed the newly created bird denotations thoroughly.

To sum up, we can claim that the system of Lappish bird denotations does not show many differences from that of other Finno-Ugric and/or other languages: there are peoplish and artificial names, general expression and names referring to genera or species, there are dialectical and generally known words among them, and even their etymological and structural types coincide with other languages. On the other hand, there are such special Lappish features which are also interesting, e.g. the strong dialectological distribution, the dominance of peoplish names as a consequence of the lack of official nomenclature, and the different proportion of types of origin. There are also some features which, without this research, could have remained hidden, e.g. the connection between dialects and etymology. In addition to it, I exposed some new etymologies and queried some traditional etymologies. Along with the fact of a new linguistic monograph, these features form the most important results of the thesis.