

**Marjatta Jomppanen, Pohjoissaamen ja suomen perusinfinitiivi vertailussa *leat ja olla* -verbien yhteydessä, Oulu 2009 (Acta Universitatis Ouluensis B. Humaniora 92). 210 pp.**

The topic of the author's PhD dissertation is the use of the verb of existence in infinitival structures in North Saami (Lappish = *lp*) and Finnish. The study is based upon North Saami and Finnish fiction published between 1979 and 1997.

The aim of Marjatta Jomppanen's contrastive linguistic study is to clarify the syntactic function of the North Saami infinitive, as well as to compare it with the relevant Finnish structures. The monograph is a continuation of Ole Henrik Magga's study written in Norwegian (*Studier i samisk infinitivsyntaks. Del I: Infinitivsetning. Akkusativ og infinitiv*, Oslo 1986). Magga primarily focused on the role of the infinitive as object in the accusativus cum infinitivo structures.

Marjatta Jomppanen dealt with the questions of the second most frequent use of the infinitive. The first or basic infinitive (the form of dictionary entries) most frequently appears with the verb of existence in different structures: 1) infinitival phrases as subjects, 2) basic infinitives in the context of nouns or adjectives, 3) North Saami verb of existence and the infinitive substituting the conditional perfect, a structure that implicates 'being close' in Finnish (so called *propinquative*), 4) the infinitive in relative clauses, 5) the supine structure in Saami (to express negative clause of purpose). The latter is not present in Finnish. Marjatta Jomppanen dealt with these questions in several studies, and the pieces have formed a complete whole by now.

The study operates with the traditional linguistic terminology and does not intend to test any of the modern syntactic theories. A traditional syntactic research focuses on the sentence as a whole, but the use of the infinitive as a verbal centre of the sentence (InfP, Infinitive Phrase) deserves a detailed investigation, i.e. the phenomena are to be

examined in their broader context. The majority of the examined structures are related to modality and negation.

The short list marks that the system and function of the Saami and Finnish infinitives differ. Firstly, there are somewhat fewer nominal forms used in Saami. This itself is a source of differences. There are identical structures in the two languages, whose form and syntactic function are the same, and there are cases in which the Saami basic infinitive corresponds with the third infinitive in Finnish. There are structurally totally identical constructions with completely different meanings. The Saami supine has no formal equivalent in Finnish, though its meaning is very similar to the meaning of the longer form of the Finnish first infinitive (adverbial of purpose). The table summarising the structures of the two languages highlights this problem (cf. e.g. p. 24 and p. 26).

A significant goal of the monograph is to make it clear both for language learners and linguists how the nominal forms differ semantically and structurally in the two languages. The investigation logically goes from the positive to the negative corner of the scale of sentence-likeness. The semantically identical expressions turn out to be structurally different in the two languages. On the other hand, it is a significant statement that the difference between the languages does not always mean structural difference, but the expressions can be analysed in different ways in Saami and Finnish. The researcher devotes great care to word order, sentence order and stylistic phenomena, too. Although the study is not of quantitative nature, it refers to the frequential differences in the two languages several times.

Chapter 1, the introductory part (Johdanto, pp. 15–42) focuses on the aim of the research in detail, the syntactic func-

tion and system of the infinitives, as well as on terminological questions. Then the detailed analysis of the different structures follows. Let us have a glimpse at the different cases with a typical example respectively.

Chapter 2 deals with the subject function of the infinitive (Infinitiivilauseke subjektina, pp. 43–74): e.g. lp *Lea hávski čállit ~ fi On mukava kirjoittaa* 'It is good to write'. It is also used in the neccessive structure: lp *Mus lea lohkat daid girjjiid* 'Minun on luettava ne kirjat. I have to read those books'. The analysis of the expressions of recipient function is excellent: lp *Munnje lea hávskkit johtit go orrut* 'Minusta on mukavampi kulkea kuin olla (paikallaan). For me it is better to / I prefer wander then idle about' | *Mána (GEN) lei váttis gávdnat su* 'Lapsen oli vaikea löytää häntä. For the child it was difficult to find her' — *Mána (ACC) lei váttis gávdnat* 'Lasta oli vaikea löytää. The child was difficult to find'. The first sentence is about the agent of the infinitive while the second one is about the object of the infinitive (*máná*).

Chapter 3 covers the topic of the infinitive next to a noun or an adjective (Perusinfinitiivi substantiivin ja adjektiivin yhteydessä, pp. 75–110): e.g. lp *Sus ledje váttisvuodat váz z z i t ~ fi Hänellä oli vaikeuksia kävellä* 'It was hard for him to walk' | lp *Son lei čáppat o a i d n i t ~ fi Hän oli kaunis katsella* 'She was beautiful to look at' (different subject, rare, passive meaning: she was beautiful — someone else was looking) | lp *Son lei čeahppi muitalit ~ fi Hän oli taitava muistelemaan* 'He was good at telling stories', literally 'He was good at remembering' (same subject, active: he was good — he was telling stories; in Finnish they use the illative of the third infinitive).

In many cases the the Finnish equivalent of the Saami passive infinitive is *-ttAvAksi*: *Gahpir leai menddo divrras boaldit ~ fi Lakki oli liian kallispolttava/poltettavaaksi* 'The cap was too valuable to burn'. In Saami they

only use the basic infinitive, while in Finnish there is a difference in the use of the infinitive: *valmis polttamaan — valmis poltettavaaksi* 'ready to burn (ACT)' — 'ready to be burned (PASS)'.

An individual subchapter deals with the following set structure: *Sus ii lean eará (ráddi) go vuolggit* 'Hänellä ei ollut muuta (keinoa) kuin lähteä. He had no choice but to leave (negative)'. And the relevant positive structure: *Mii leai eará go jorgalit* 'Mitäpä muuta oli kuin kääntyä. The only choice was to turn back'.

The following, 4<sup>th</sup> chapter deals with the verb of existence + infinitive (*Lei/oli* InfP -tapaukset, pp. 111–132): e.g. lp *Son lei gahččat, juos ii livčče lean várrugas* 'Hän olisi kaatunut, jos ei olisi ollut varovainen. He would have fallen if he had not been careful' (in the main clause the variant of perfect conditional while in the if-clause negative past conditional is used, probably to avoid repetition) ~ *Olin kaatua kiukkaaseen* 'I almost fell on the sauna heater' (so called propinquative). The same structure has totally different meanings in the two languages. I find the interpretation of the parallels *fi puu oli kaatua ~ kaatumaisillaan ~ kaatumassa* very expressive.

The chapter 5 focuses on the infinitive + relative pronoun (Relatiivi-infinitiivilauseke, pp. 133–152), for example: lp *Doppe ledje kássat ja rekkot go ste čohk k á d i t ~ fi Siellä oli laatikoita ja jakkaroitu missä istua* 'There were chests and stools where (it was possible) to sit / (for sitting on)'. Some researchers find these structures elliptic, lacking the modal auxiliary. Jomppanen, on the other hand, considers this structure a unique construction (p. 134).

In Hungarian not only infinitive (*Nem tudok mit tenni ~ Nincs hova mennem* 'I don't know what to do ~ I don't have anywhere to go') but also the imperative with conjunctive meaning can be used for the same concept (*Nem tudom, mit csináljak / hova menjek* 'I don't know what I should do/where I should go'). Apart from some sporadic examples there is no mention of what solutions are

used to substitute for the lack of negative infinitive (*lenni vagy nem lenni — to be or not to be*). This problem is partially solved in the following chapter.

Chapter 6 examines the Saami (negative) supine and its Finnish equivalents (Supiinirakenne, pp. 153–174), e.g. *Geahččalan gokčat beljiidan a m a s a n g u l l a t s u g a r u i d* 'Yritän peittää korviani, etten kuule hänen kirouksiaan. I'm trying to shut my ears so as not to hear his curses' (abbreviation of an adverbial clause of purpose, negative structure). The process of the negative supine becoming a conjunction is very illuminating. Its first phase is the use of the third personal in the other persons: *Mon árvidin, olbmot nie dájuhe min, mánáid, a m a s* (Sg3) *m i i* (Pl1) *doppe ald dálus f i t n a t* 'Ymmärsin, ihmiset taajottivat meitä, lapsia, e t t e m m e k ä y siellä hänen talossaan. I realized that people are joking with us, children so that (we) wouldn't go to their houses'. In the second phase the negative auxiliary *amas* behaves like a conjunction: *Boađe deike a m a s i t b á z e čohkkát dien geađggi ala* 'Tule tänne ettet jää istumaan tämän kiven päällä. Come here so that you don't stay on that rock' (after the conjunction the simple negative form is used and not the infinitive!). The author also deals with the positive equivalents of the negative structure, which are not productive any more: *Boađe sisa gáfe j u g a ž i t* (similar to potentialis praesens) 'Tule sisään kahvia juomaan. Come in for some coffee (= to drink)'. First infinitive is used instead: *Boađe sisa gáfe j u h k a t* (InfP) 'id'.

The last part is the summary of the earlier chapters (Lopuksi, pp. 175–195). The author presents her findings regarding the five different syntactic structures in clear tables. We also find short summaries at the end of each chapter. The author sets out the direction of further research as well: a) the utilization of the results in teaching Saami as a foreign language, b) a contrastive Saami-Finnish course book and grammar, c) clarification of the proportionate and affective functions of the recurring infinitives, d) the Saami equivalents of the so

called colorative structure in Finnish (fi *Matti k ä v e l l ä h o r j u u* 'Matti staggers (to walk)' ~ lp *Máhtte vázzá suoibu*) (cf. V. J a r v a, Suomen kielen ekspressiivisten sanojen ominaispiirteitä. — Folia Uralica Debreceniensia 15, Debrecen 2008, pp. 13–33), etc.

There is a list of abbreviations at the beginning and a Works/Sources Consulted section at the end of the thesis. The book concludes in an Index. The author consulted all of the significant international literature, theoretical and practical sources.

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The Table of contents (Sisällysluettelo, pp. 11–13) already clearly shows that the course of research is clear, the discussion advances logically. It presents the earlier works thoroughly, and often criticizes them as well. The aim of putting the question is either to confirm or reject their findings, or to complete them with the author's own research arguments.

In today's syntactic research the "terminological war" is placed at the centre. The thesis is not free from it, although it tries to be moderate.

An important starting point of contrastive research is the question of the source language and target language. The author usually regards Saami as the source language, but the source and target languages (Saami and Finnish) can change if necessary.

The discussions about the negative equivalent of the infinitive and the positive equivalents of the negative structures are intriguing. It would also have been worth having a summarising discussion of these and the passive forms of the infinitive.

It can be said that any syntactic research in the Saami language is significant and appropriate. The author was thorough in collecting material, and the research is based on a broad corpus. The results can be used both in learning and teaching. The findings are useful for language learners, among whom there can be Finnish or people whose Saami remained passive because of the language spoken at home. For example, a lot of

pupils learn Saami as a second language. It is important to revitalize the spoken Saami language.

Certain observations are new, which have not or hardly been discussed by the Saami grammars. The conclusions of the dissertation are reliable and noteworthy. The work could set an example to similar syntactic research, and it also indicates which direction to go with further studies on this topic (cf. pp. 191–195).

Especially researchers in Finland have done a lot in the field of develop-

ing North Saami a national language: this kind of research is crucial to make the mother tongue usable in public administration, law, and, above all, in arts and sciences...

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