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The case of past participle constructions**

The presentation discusses the expression of future time reference (FTR) in Livonian with the main focus on past participle (PTCP) constructions containing an FTR device: *līdō* ‘will be’ + PTCP and *sōdō* ‘get; become’ + PTCP; see examples (1) and (2). The aim is to outline the use of these constructions and view them in the light of language contacts in the circum-Baltic area.

(1) Courland Livonian (Setälä 1953: 108)

<i>ku</i>	<i>sinā</i>	<i>lī-d</i>	<i>nu'o-ra'dl-ōn</i>	<i>siz</i>	<i>sa</i>
when	you	LEE-2SG	off-cut-PTCP	then	you

<i>kīt</i>	<i>sīe</i>	<i>neits-ōn</i>
tell.imp.2sg	this.GEN	Girl-DAT

‘when you have cut [it] off, then tell this girl ...’

(2) Courland Livonian (Mägiste 1964: 58)

<i>sīe</i>	<i>reit</i>	<i>sī'nn-ōn</i>	<i>sō-b</i>	<i>ie-ra'l-tōt</i>	<i>jalgō</i>
this	time	you-dat	get-3sg	off-cut-PTCP	leg.PART

‘this time your leg will be cut off’

It has been shown that the primary function of Livonian *līdō* + PTCP is to express future anteriority, i.e. that an action will be completed before another action in the future or by some future reference point; see example (1); the secondary function is to express epistemic meaning. Livonian *sōdō* + PTCP, in turn, is also used with reference to the future, but apart from *līdō* + PTCP it expresses an action carried out at a certain reference point not by the reference point; compare (2) and (1). Whereas *līdō* + PTCP is common in active relations, *sōdō* + PTCP mainly occurs in expressions of passive relations. (Norvik, to appear)

The presentation will compare the use of FTR devices in Livonian with that of Latvian and Estonian. Preliminary results show that the expression of FTR in Estonian (close cognate language of Livonian) is different from that of Livonian, whilst the use of corresponding constructions in Latvian (*būt* ‘will be’ + PTCP and *tikt* ‘get’ + PTCP) show striking similarities with the past participle constructions in Livonian (for Latvian, see Kalnaca 2014; Paegle 2003). The analysis proceeds from functional-typological approach to language. The linguistic material collected from Livonian mainly originates from various collections of texts, for example Setälä (1953).

References

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