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On distributive pronouns in Baltic

In the three documented Baltic languages we encounter three different distributive pronouns: Old Prussian *erains*, Lithuanian *kiekvienas*, Latvian *ikviēns* ‘everybody, everyone, each one’. The question is whether these three forms reflect a common pattern or were created independently from one another. At first sight, they seem to derive from the numeral ‘one’ used indefinitely (Old Prussian *ains*, Lith. *vienas*, Latv. *viēns*) preceded by different elements meaning either ‘until’ (Old Prussian *er*, Latvian *ik* ‘until’) or ‘how much, as much as’ (Lith. *kiek*, interrogative and conjunctive). The aim of this paper is to determine the derivational pathway that gave rise to each of these forms and to explain their distribution. The typology of distributive pronouns shows that they can derive from (1) indefinite pronouns (cf. Latin *quisque*), (2) global quantifiers (cf. German *jeder*) or (3) prepositions denoting displacement along a space (cf. Greek *kata*). A close parallel to the Baltic data can be the Breton distributive pronoun *kement* < ‘as much as’.