

This dissertation project is aimed at researching various linguistic phenomena that contribute to the overall organization of the discourse system in Northern Mansi in different time periods. Northern Mansi (< Ob-Ugric < Finno-Ugric < Uralic) is an indigenous language in Northern Siberia with approximately 1.000 speakers in two adjacent regions of Russia: Sverdlovsk Oblast and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug.

The dissertation has two main goals: to determine and describe the scope of phenomena contributing to the discourse structure in Northern Mansi and to investigate the evolution of Northern Mansi discourse structure in the last 100-150 years using text corpora from various time periods. The main research topics are voice and conjugation, evidentiality/mirativity and discourse particle.

In general, Northern Mansi is a relatively well documented and described language, thus the research involves a large amount of Northern Mansi data dating back to the following periods: the 19<sup>th</sup> century (A. Reguly's and B. Munkacsi's data), 1901-1906 (A. Kannisto's data), 1925-1938 (V. Chernetsov's data), a large amount of data from the Soviet period (fieldwork data gathered by E. Rombandeeva and published texts and newspaper articles), early 21<sup>st</sup> century (R. Bardina's data, published texts, newspaper articles), author's own fieldwork data from 2017-2021.

Since the data sets mostly consist of narrative texts, the main method of this research is corpus-based analysis. However, to study the modern state of the language deeper, elicitation and experiments are also used. Each of the methods has its own advantages and setbacks, so the combination of the three (corpus-based analysis staying the main one) is believed to be the optimal strategy.