Cases as Markers of Non-verbal Predicates: Essive and Translative in Uralic

Casper de Groot
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c.degroot@uva.nl
This paper argues for the following points

• Enlarge the domain of the study into secondary predication to main non-verbal predication.

• Main non-verbal predications may share properties with Depictives.

• Depictives may share properties with Manner.

• Uralic Essive and Translative are no case markers but predicative markers.
International Research project
Uralic Essive

• On the basis of a typological linguistic questionnaire
  we wishes to establish an appropriate description of
  the use of the Essive markers in the Uralic.

• The investigation takes the form as starting point and
  then describes its function.

• If a language under investigation does not have an
  Essive, the forms/constructions are described, where
  other languages may use the Essive.
Essive versus Translative

- Essive carries the meaning of a temporary location or state of being, often equivalent to the English "as a (child)".

- Translative indicates a change in state of a noun, with the general sense of "becoming X" or "change to X"

- Uralic:
  Essive cognate: $-n$
  Translative cognate: $-ks$
What is the Essive?

Finnish
• Heikki on Jämsässä lääkärinä.
  ‘Heikki is (working as) a doctor in Jämsä.’

Hungarian
• Katonaként voltam Tallinnban.
  ‘I was as a soldier in Tallinn.’
The Essive in the languages of the world

• The “Essive Case” is a unique property of the Uralic language family. Some but not all Uralic languages have an “Essive case”.

• Where some of the Uralic languages employ the “Essive case”, other languages use some other case (e.g. the Instrumental), adpositions, complementizers, or do not use a marker at all.
Uralic languages

URALIC

Finnic
- Estonian
- Finnish
- Ingrian
- Karelian
- Livonian
- Vepsian
- Votic

Mari

Mordvin
- Erzya
- Moksha

Permian
- Komi
- Udmurt

Sami
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- Northern
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Samoyedic
- Enets
- Nenets
- Nganasan
- Selkup
- Kamas

Ugric
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- Mansi
Where is the Essive used?

Mary is sick-ESS
John is a soldier-ESS
Kate went to the meeting cheerful-ESS
Dan is working as a doctor-ESS
Sue ate the fish raw-ESS
Pete considers Chris a fool-ESS
God changed them into birds-ESS
We will make sauna on saturday-ESS
the house-GEN behind-ESS
Where is the Essive used?

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<th>Statement</th>
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Non-verbal predications

Predicative adjective
FIN Hän on sairaa-na.
he is sick-ESS
‘He is sick.’

Predicative noun
VOT Elin sematehe-nnä Tallina-za.
I-was soldier-ESS Tallinn-LOC
‘I was a soldier in Tallinn.’
Non-verbal predications

Restrictions

Classes of adjectives and nouns (stage level)
Person (1,2,3, singular, plural)
Aspect (Habitual only)
Tense (Past only)
Location (Overt expression)

EST Ta oli seal noore-na.
s/he was there young-ESS
‘S/he was there (as/when) young.’
Non-verbal predications

Time stability

The Nominative in Finnish and Estonian is used in situations that are relatively ‘time-stable’ (individual level), whereas the Essive (or other oblique case) emphasizes the temporary nature of the situation (stage level).
Non-verbal predications

Encoding of the predicate

Double
FIN   Tyttö on  pieni
Girl  is     small.NOM
‘The girl is small.’

Hän on  sairaa-na.
he is     sick-ESS
‘He is sick.’
Non-verbal predications

Encoding of the predicate

• Votic
  (i) “turning into a state/location” (Translative, marked with -ssì),
  (ii) “being in a state/location” (Essive, marked with -n/-nn/-nnə)
  (iii) “leaving a state/location” (Excessive, marked with -nt).
Non-verbal predications

Triple encoding in Estonian

a. NN on meie saadik London-is
   NN is our ambassador.NOM London-INES
   ‘NN is our ambassador in London.’

b. NN on meie saadiku-na London-is
   NN is our ambassador-ESS London-INES
   ‘NN is our ambassador in London.’

c. NN on meie saadiku-ks London-is
   NN is our ambassador-TRANS London-INES
   ‘NN is our ambassador in London.’

(a) being ambassador is a permanent (inalienable) characteristic of NN;
(b) NN is (temporarily) in London in his capacity as ambassador;
(c) NN is fulfilling the role of ambassador (in an official capacity, but it is not a permanent characteristic of NN).
Non-verbal predications

Languages without the Essive

Livonian
İd aigast ma vo’l’ Puoipse oppattaj-ks
One year I was in Pope teacher-COM TRANS
‘For one year I was in Pope as a teacher.’
Non-verbal predications

- Alternations Nominative – Essive – Translative

- Permanent – temporally bound
  Individual level - Stage level

- Explicative – evaluative identification
  X is a doctor – X as if he is a doctor

- “What seems to be relevant here is the distinction between functive proper (He works as a doctor = ‘He works, and the way he works identifies him as a doctor’), and a wider notion of identification related in some way or another to the event, with the possibility of an explicative reading.” (Creissels 2011)
Secondary predication - Depictive

Estonian

• Mary läks loengule rõõmsa-na.
  Mary went to lecture cheerful-ESS
  ‘Mary went to the lecture cheerful.’

• Peeter töötab Itaalias koka-na.
  Peter works in Italy cook-ESS
  ‘Peter works as a cook in Italy.’

Finnish also uses the Essive in these examples.
Secondary predication - Depictive

Hungarian

• Kati nyers-en ette meg a halat.
  Mary raw-ADV ate up the fish
  ‘Mary ate the fish raw’.

• Mari jókedvű-en ment az előadáshoz.
  Mary cheerful-ADV went the lecture-to
  ‘Mary went to the lecture cheerful/ly.’

• Péter szakács-ként dolgozik Olaszországban.
  Peter cook-ESS works Italy-in
  ‘Peter works as a cook in Italy.’
Secondary predication - Depictive

Hungarian

Noun+ESS (stage level)
• Pál idegenvezető-ként dolgozik Görögországban.
  Paul tour operator-ESS works in Greece
  ‘Paul is working as a tour operator in Greece.’

Preposition + Noun (individual level)
• Pál mint idegenvezető dolgozik Görögországban.
  Paul as tour operator works in Greece
  ‘Paul is working as a tour operator in Greece.’
Secondary predication - Depictive

- Komi-Permyak

 Петер лечитись-ӧн уджалӧ Таллиннын.
Peter doctor-INSTR works in Tallinn
‘Peter is working as a doctor in Tallinn.’

- Udmurt also employs the Instrumental in this kind of depictive.

- Russian influence.
Secondary predication - Depictive

Restrictions
• Adjective > Noun
• Subject > Object > other

Semantic aspects
• Time-stability (stage level, individual level)
• Manner – Depictive
Secondary predication - Complement

Finnish Essive as a marker of a complement
• Pidä-n poikia älykkäi-nä.
  Hold-1SG boy.PL.PART intelligent.PL-ESS
  ‘I consider the boys intelligent.’

Estonian employs the Translative
• Ma pean neid poisse tarka(-de)-ks.
  I consider these boys intelligent(-PL)-TRANS
  ‘I consider these boys intelligent.’

Hungarian employs the Dative
• Okos-ok-nak tartom a fiúkat.
  clever-PL-DAT I-consider the boys
  ‘I consider the boys clever.’
Secondary predications - Complements

Restrictions

• Class of verbs (‘consider’ vs ‘appoint’)

• Peter considers the boy clever (state)
• Peter appointed the boy the leader (change in state)
Other types

Skolt Saami

• te’l E'mmel muu'tti si'jjid lå'dd-en
  then God changed them bird-ESS
  ‘Then God changed them into birds.’

Votic

• Nämä nejssa лаuko–pă-n ламmitte–ma sauna
  they start saturday-ESS heat-CONV sauna
  ‘They will make sauna on Saturday’.
Translative

Bill (became) a soldier-TRANS
God changed them into birds-TRANS

Pete considers Chris a fool-TRANS

John is a soldier-TRANS
Dan is working as a doctor-TRANS
Uralic languages with Essive

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**Translative as marker of secondary predicate**

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<tr>
<th>Depictive (as a teacher)</th>
<th>Livonian</th>
<th>Erzya</th>
<th>Moksha</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complement (I consider him clever)</td>
<td>Estonian</td>
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Other uralic languages with Translative

- Finnish
- Karelian
- Vepsian
- Votic
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## Essive versus Translative

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<td>Translative</td>
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<td>Skolt Saami</td>
<td>Essive</td>
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Note:
- Essive cognate: $n$
- Translative cognate: $ks$
Other aspects

Syntax
- The position of the X-ESS in the clause
- Other syntactic restrictions
- The scope of negation

Pragmatics
- Focus
- Depictives form or are within the scope of the focus of the clause
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Non-verbal predications - Depictives

• Main non-verbal predications may share properties with Depictives.

• Stage level Adjectival predicates marked by Essive.

• Explicative vs evaluative identification of Nominal predicates – individual level interpretation possible.
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• Uralic Essive and Translative are no case markers but predicative markers.
Depictives - Manner

• Depictives but not main non-verbal predicates may share properties with Manner

• Estonian – unlike Finnish - depictives with Essive may have a manner interpretation.

• Hungarian may use –ként in a manner sense:
  • Gyerek-ként gondelkozik. ‘He thinks as a child.’

• Hungarian adverbial marker as depictive marker.
This paper argues for the following points

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- Main non-verbal predications may share properties with Depicitives.

- Depictives may share properties with Manner.

- Uralic Essive and Translative are no case markers but predicative markers.
Essive and Translative are predicative markers and not case markers

- Verbs do not select Essive or Translative arguments

- Exception: a closed class of verbs, such as consider, appoint, change).

- Essive in Finnic and Saami on Adjectival and Nominal main and secondary predicates

- Essive in Hungarian on Nominal secondary predicates
International Research project
Uralic Essive

• Purposes of the project
• Descriptive
• Typological
• Theoretical
<table>
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