

# An Erzyan orthography compatible with compound words, issues

Klementeva, E.F. & J.M. Rueter

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Compound words and their treatment in the  
Erzya orthography of 2012.

# Compound words and their treatment in the Erzya orthography

- Searching for a methodology
- Ideal: Orthographies should have methodologies, so no orthographic dictionary is really necessary.
- A methodology might be based on categories inherent in the individual language

# Orthography of 2012

- Earlier Orthographic dictionaries: 1939, 1955, 1969, 1978
- Terminology: adjective, adverb, affixoid, lexicalization, noun, particle, participle
- Principles: of Morphology, Phonetics and Tradition

# Affixoid

This term is not explained separately!!

Чи, пуло, пель, пря, ланго, алкс, пе, кирда, мезе, ни,

In practice this is used for 3 phenomena:

- (1) Semantic value not attested in independent word
- (2) Semantic value without independent wordform
- (3) Base form for use in grammatical case of so called postpositions [relative spatial nouns]

# Morphology

- This is in fact a morphematic principle, whereby the parts of words show no variation in orthography, regardless of how they might be pronounced.
- Куз, кузонь, кузга hence:
- */kusne/* кузтнэ

# Morphology 2

- Write compound words whose components have not been shortened. [Voicing does occur]
- Кашавакан, каштомкурго

# Phonetics

- The principle is to write the word as it is spoken, whereas any change of lettering will also change or marr the meaning



# Phonetics 2

- Where components have been abbreviated [stem-final vowels are dropped, perhaps even more]
- Вежгель (<= вишине + кель)
- Сельведь (<= сельме + ведь)
- Инязор (<= ине + азор)

# Tradition (implicit)

- This principle is not explained

# Spelling in practice

- In the morning we write together, and in the afternoon we write separately

# 2012 Rules

Words combinations with 2 components

Combinations with 3 or 4 components

Pair words

Combinations with particles

# Two stems written together

- 1.1) First component is a noun without a suffix
- 1.1.1) second component is {недь, туло} [part of whole]
- 1.1.2) {потмо, чире, куншка} [relative spatial noun]
- 1.1.3) {коня}; when meaning is not primary: ломань коня, реве коня [Affixoid-type]
- 1.1.4) {-мо}: кенкшкундамо, [X in conflict with rule on page 14]
- 1.2) first component is {васонь, ине}: васонькоморо, васоньпеельть [Affixoid-type, also 1.7 below]
- 1.3) first component: ве 'one'[in conflict with 2.4], пеле, пель, пельс: велув, вепекень, пелеве, пельспиезь
- 1.4) first component: трокс [adverb, subsequent]
- 1.5) first component: алга, ланга: алгавайгель, алгапанар [adverb, previous]
- 1.6) first component is a participle in -и/-ы: палымода, педигуй [X in conflict with 3.2]
- 1.7) when one or the other component does not constitute an intelligible meaning in the modern language: какжаля (?какж + аля),

# Two stems written separately

- 2.1) If the first component is a noun with a suffix [perhaps they meant derivative suffix]
- 2.2) If the first component ends in -нь: велень бука, Каргонь ки [genitive modifier]
  - EXCEPTIONS: (principle of tradition) вараканьпал, салмуксоньсалы, чееренькарькс [not consistent in the dictionary]
- 2.3) If the first component is deverbal in {-ма, -мо}: велямо мукорь, кортамо пелькс, ловнома кудо
  - EXCEPTIONS: пивтемпарь[elided sounds], содамоёвкс (principle of tradition)
- 2.4) If the first component is a numeral: кавто пильгесэ, ниле иень, кото лазт
- 2.5) If the first component is a participle (not -и/-ы of course): празь умарь, керявт тикше, морыця тейтерь
- 2.6) If second part is deverbal noun in {-ма}: кедь кирдема, стяко аштема [X in conflict with 1.1.4]
  - EXCEPTIONS: чилисема, чивалгома

# 3 and 4 component compounds

- 3.1) written together: кудазорава, одирьва, урьвала [elided sounds];
  - This also includes affixoid: калькуропря, кедькопорьланго, пельвайгельпе, пиципалакспуло [conflict with morphology principle]
- 3.2) written separately: ашо пря цёра, покш пря корш, верьгизэнь пови киска [in conflict with 1.6], сисем прясо гуй, ёзнэнь пупамо тикше, пазонь чавома чувто, верень лоткавтыця тикше
- 3.3) first two components are written together the third separately:
  - галаумарь тикше, дураккуяр недькс, [X in conflict with phonetics, 3.1] ёнтол кель, кедьнимияв левкс, овтумарь чувто
- 3.4) the second and third components are written together and the first separately:
  - авака ривезьлевкс, ашо дуракпанго, вишка пиципалакс, петнав карвопанго, бабань пиципалакс
- 4) Words consisting of four components: од авань чама лопа, тантей чине галань цеця

# Hyphenated compounds

- 5.1) reduplication: таркань-таркань, лангсек-лангсек
- 5.2) reduplication with vowel variation: куш-каш [but a куш a каш], кулдор-калдор, тушто-ташто...
- 5.3) paired words consisting of antonyms: атят-бабат, тей-тов, раужо-ашо
- 5.4) paired words consisting of synonyms: тапамс-калавтомс, тетякай-корьмакай, виде-паро
- 5.5) paired words consisting of which one has lost its meaning: чекамс-покамс, нулат-валат, кудат-андат
- 5.6) paired words which when together provide a broader sense: кепе-штапо, тевть-кулят, тевть-ладт
- 5.7) paired words of which both bare the meaning of a color [perhaps this is an modifier head with modifying adjective]
- 5.8) paired words of which the first is the particle кой-, та-, таго-, or the second is the particle -бути. [these all make indefinite pronouns, adjectives and adverbs]
- 5.9) paired words where the first one is the word {недля} and the second is a numeral: недля-кавто [countables]
- 5.10) paired words of which one is -теемс: ардомс-теемс, теемс-мендямс
- 5.11) abbreviated words, here the linking vowel is not written.



# Misc

- 6. Numerals adhere to both morphological and phonetic principles [кавто кискат VS кавтосядт, but кавто тѣжат]
- 7. The postposition ланго is treated as an affixoid and written together with words meaning
  - place: вальмаланго, киланго
  - time: ледемаланго
- 8. Particles ли, бу, жо are written separately

# Negative particle «а» separate

- 9.1) in combination with infinitive and finite verbal forms: а модемс, а молян, а теиндерян
- 9.2) in combination with nouns and adjectives where no lexicalization has taken place: а вирь, а кудо, а мода  
тиринь келень асодамось -- те эсеть раськень авечкемась
- 9.3) in combination with pronouns and adverbs derived thereof
- 9.4) in sentences where there is a verb of negation present: Мон а лемензэ, а эрямо тарканзо а содаса
- 9.5) in combination with participles beginning with vowels: а авардыця, а алыця, а андовикс [in conflict with 10.2]
- 9.6) in combination with active present participles ending in -ыця/-иця and passive participles in -ма that do not contain the -в- suffix and have not become nouns: а морыця тейтерь, а тардый кедь, а моры нармунь [in conflict with 1.6]; а вечкема цёра.  
If, however, there is a lexicalization as a noun, then it is written together: аморыцясь ульнесь од тейтерь. Эрзянь келень асодыцятнень марто ...
- 9.7) past participle: а пужозь лопат, а сивезь тарад [??авечкезь саимим]

# Negative particle «а» together

- 10.1) together they undergo lexicalization as a noun, adjective or adverb: аваньксчи, авейкетъксчи, авидечи, аудома[??conflict with 9.5], аламо, амарямга[conflict with 9.1],
- 10.2) In combination with participles in -ыця/-иця or -икс when the -в- suffix is present: анеявиця, авечкевиця, акирдевикс, атеевикс...

# Conflicts

- 1.1.4) {-мо}: кенкшкундамо VS 2.6) If second part is deverbal noun in {-ма}: кедь кирдема, стяко аштема [A lapse?]
- 2.1) If the first component is a noun with a suffix  
авака левкс, атяка левкс, пешкс гуй, BUT  
кодсташко, кодстпанкс, (dictionary)
- 2.2 чееренькаркс VS ривезень тол (dictionary)  
[tradition does not go past 1960s]

# Ideas

- Search for methods in what is already in use:
  - Lexicalization [in different word classes]
  - Quantification [combinations with numerals and measurements]
  - Symmetry [negation]
  - Expect the unexpected: Words we didn't think existed [письмар атяка]
  - Native speaker conceptualization

СЮКОНЯН!!

Эрзянь келень орфографиянь валкс: малав  
34 000 валт. Теицятне: Бузакова Р.Н.,  
Лисина Е. Н., Мосин М. В., Цыпкайкина В.П.  
Саранск. 2012.

# Words we didn't think existed

- Письмар атякатне кочкасть письмар кудот, тердить холедезь [implicit modifier] авакатнень. (Chesnokov 1974: 176)
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