Cases denoting path in Komi: Semantic and typological perspectives
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Introduction
In the Komi language, there are two very similar cases that express path: prolative and transitive in -əd and -ti. According to Haspelmath (2009), such via-cases are a rare phenomenon in languages, and therefore it is especially interesting that Komi has two of them.

Hypothesis
In principle, any linguistic category can grammaticize to the extent that it is expressed by an inflectional case (Janda 2007: 639–640). When this happens, the case is in a paradigmatic opposition to other cases of the language (Janda 2007: 643–645). It can be inferred that:

- If there is no grammatical meaning (incl. semantic meanings), that is, it is not in paradigmatic opposition to other cases of the language, the case should not be productive.
- As the two via-cases of Komi, the prolative and the transitive, are a productive part of the case system (Bartens 2000: 107), their meanings should differ in some way.
- The hypothesis is that the via-cases of Komi differ in their morphosyntactic or semantic meaning.
- Differences have been proposed, but to our knowledge, they have not been tested against a corpus.

Morphosyntactic meaning means that different cases encode the same meaning in different morphosyntactic positions, e.g., nouns and postpositions (e.g. in Mari, see Alhoniemi 1985). Semantic meaning means that both cases may occur in the same meaning in different morphosyntactic positions, but are used to express events that differ in some way from one another.

Corpus
- Within Fenno-Ugrica collection
- Proofread in FU-Lab (komikyv.org)
- Texts published in 1923–1934
- 400,000 tokens: 232 prolatives, 202 transitives

Classification
The landmarks were divided into three categories according to their properties. The verbs were divided into two categories based on the quality of the action they represent.

Results
We found out that prolative and transitive are used in different morphosyntactical contexts. Prolative is used more with nouns and transitive with postpositions. This division is not sharp, but it is a strong tendency.

We also found three types of landmarks whose properties seem to influence case selection: 1) landmarks that indicate a passage, 2) oblong landmarks with one functional dimension, and 3) two- or three-dimensional landmarks.

Types 1 and 2 occur almost exclusively with nouns in prolative, while type 3 occurs more with nouns in transitive than in prolative.

Our study also shows that the marking of path in Komi is not dependent on the semantics of the predicate. There is no difference in case distribution when verbs are classified into direct action and motion groups.

REFERENCES
Fenno-Ugrian collection of the National Library of Finland: https://fennougrica.kansalliskirjasto.fi/