

Conditional constructions in Uralic

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Riese, Timothy 1984
The Conditional Sentence in the Ugrian,
Permian and Volgaic Languages.
Studia Uralica 3.
Vienna
(Hungarian, Mansi, Khanty, Komi,
Udmurt, Mari, Mordva)

- Comrie, Bernard 1986 Conditionals: a typology. In: Traugott, Elizabeth C. et al (eds) On Conditionals. Cambridge-London etc., Cambridge University Press. 77-99.
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definiton

A conditional construction is regarded as a particular relation between two events. This relation is such that the fulfillment of one of the linked events (the one coded by the main clause) is relevant to the degree of reality of another event (the one coded by the subordinated clause).

1.

Ha *kap-ok fizetés-t vesz-ek egy hörcsög-öt*

if get-I salary-ACC buy-I a hamster-ACC

'if I get salary, I buy a hamster'

overview

1. parameters

typological parameters that are necessary to describe conditional constructions in Uralic

2. values

realisations of the parameters

3. summary

most characteristic properties of the Uralic languages

parameters

sentence structure

- simple sentence
- complex sentence
 - order of clauses

parameters

marking

- simple sentence
 - markers of non-finite verbs
- complex sentence
 - word order
 - adverbial subordinators and their position
 - tense

values: sentence structure: simple sentence

sentence structure

- non-finite (+ finite verbal forms)

[e.g. Estonian, S-E-Khanty, E-W-N-Mansi, Hungarian, N-Samoyedic]

non-finite verbal form:

gerund [e.g. Nganasan, Nenets]

participle [e.g. E-S-Khanty]

infinitive [e.g. Estonian]

values: sentence structure: simple
sentence: non-finite verbal form

Nganasan: gerund

2.

taa-tə *ńaagəi'* *i- hi'* *ńi-siδə -ŋ* *d'iki-*' *d'aŋur-tini*
reindeer-your well is-**GER** not-will-you loose-NEG tundra-on
'if you have a good reindeer, you will not loose your way in the tundra'

values: sentence structure: simple
sentence: non-finite verbal form

East-Khanty: participle

3.

wăy *tăjma-m-ńê* *mä* *pečkän* *Λutt-əm*
money have-**PRTC-POSS** I gun bought-I

'if I had money, I would bought a gun'

values: sentence structure: simple
sentence: non-finite verbal form

Estonian: infinitive

4.

ainult hoolega õppi-des suudame omandada kaasaegse teaduse alused
justdiligently learn-**INF** can we acquire the basis of the modern sciences'

'just diligently [if] learning can we acquire the basis of the modern sciences'

values: sentence structure: complex sentence: order of the clauses

- **subordinate clause+main clause [e.g. Udmurt]**

(5) Udmurt

<i>vuz-a-lo</i>	<i>śurs</i>	<i>mańet-ke</i>	<i>śot-od</i>
sell-I	thousand	roubles- if	give-you

'if you give thousand roubles, I sell (it)'

- **main clause + subordinate clause [e.g. Udmurt]**

(6) Udmurt

<i>śot-od</i>	<i>vuz-a-lo</i>	<i>śurs</i>	<i>mańet-ke</i>
give-you	sell-I	thousand	roubles- if

'I sell (it), if you give thousand roubles'

values: sentence structure: complex
sentence: order of the clauses

embedded: main clause + subordinate clause + main clause [e.g. Hungarian]

(7) Hungarian

kap-sz ha ide-jö-ssz egy puszi-t
get-you **if here-come-you** a kiss-ACC
'I kiss you, if you come here'

values: markedness: simple sentence:
marker of non-finite verbs

- **unmarked non-finite verbs [e.g. Nenets]**

(8) Nenets

ηανοχο-na *ńanda* *χäe-b'*

boat-on towards go-**GER**

'[if] going by boat towards (smth)'

values: markedness: simple sentence:
marker of non-finite verbs

- **marked non-finite forms : local case suffixes, possessive suffixes (e.g. Khanty, Mansi, Estonian) etc.**

4.

ainult hoolega õppi-des suudame omandada kaasaegse teaduse alused
just diligently learn-**INF** can we acquire the basis of the modern sciences'
'just diligently [if] learning can we acquire the basis of the modern sciences'

values: markedness: simple sentence:
marker of non-finite verbs for
conditional

South-Khanty

tam jöwəttə-n-ka

there arrive-**PRTC-COND**

'if arriving there'

values: complex sentence: unmarked
complex sentence

(9) Erzya Mordvin

koda véčk-at *koda saj-t'*

as love-2SG so marry-2SG.IMP

'[if] you love her, marry her'

(10) Moksha Mordvin

kâl-an *ajaš kalmaj-näzä*

die-I not burier-my

'[if] I die, nobody burry me'

values: complex sentence: unmarked
complex sentence

(11) Komi

on vaj jur-te kerišť-a

not take-you head-your cutoff-I

'[if] you don't take it, I cut off your head'

values: complex sentence: marked
complex sentence: word order

(12) Estonian

kui *sa* *toast välja* *lähe-d* *pane* *uks* *kinni*
if about out out leave-you put door closed

'if you leave the room, close the door'

(13) Estonian

lähe-d *sa* *toast välja* *pane* *uks* *kinni*
leave-you about out out put door closed

'if you leave the room, close the door'

values: complex sentence: marked
complex sentence: adverbial
subordinator: separate word

(14) Erzya Mordvin

bud'i *t'ej-at* *t'ej-t'* *kudo*
if make-you make-2SG.IMP house

'if you build, build a house'

(15) Erzya Mordvin

kol'i *udu-tad* *tiń* *si'rgoż-ed'e*
if sleep-2PL youPL wakeup-2PL.IMP

'if you sleep, wake you up'

values: complex sentence: marked
complex sentence: adverbial
subordinator: enclitics

(16) Mansi

śāli-purne-ūj tawenäl pili-ke ulpä wōrtōlnut

reindeer s/he.ABL fear.3SG-**if** perhaps bear

śar jor

quite strong

'if reindeer fears him/her, (then) perhaps bear is very strong'

position of the subordinator

(17) Komi

lok *kujim* *vo* *míšt eni-ke* *en* *teđ*
come.IMP.2SG three year after now-if NAUX.PAST2SG know.PAST.2SG
'come (back) in three years, if now you didn't know it'

(18) Komi

pi'iras-ke *me vetla* *da* *dona* *kožin* *vaj*
Petersburg-if I go-I then expensive gift bring-I
'if I go to Petersburg, I shall bring you expensive gifts'

(19) Komi

ez *ke šog* *vel* *gaž* *eg* *teđe*
NAUX.PST.3SG if sorrow is.PST.3SG joy NAUX.PST.1SG know.PST.1SG
'if there had not been sorrow, I would not have experienced joy'

position of the subordinator

(20) Hungarian 'if you leave the room, close the door'

ha *ki-mész* *a* *szobá-ból* *csukd* *be* *az* *ajtó-t*
if out-go-you the room-out close-2SG.IMP in the door-ACC

(21) Hungarian

ha *a* *szobá-ból* *ki-mész* *csukd* *be* *az* *ajtó-t*
if the room-out out-go-you close-2SG.IMP in the door-ACC

position of the subordinator

(22) Hungarian

a szobá-ból ha ki-mész csukd be az ajtó-t
the room-out **if** out-go-you close-2SG.IMP in the door-ACC

(23) Hungarian

**ki-mész ha a szobá-ból csukd be az ajtó-t*
*out-go-you **if** the room-out close-2SG.IMP in the door-ACC

values: complex sentence: marked
complex sentence: adverbial
subordinator: conditional suffix

„conditional mood”

Finnic, Saamic, Mordva, ?Mari, Udmurt, Mansi, Hungarian,
Selkup, Nganasan, Kamassian

But see

South-Khanty

tam jöwəttə-n-ka

there arrive-**PRTC-COND**

’if arriving there’

values: complex sentence: marked complex
sentence: adverbial subordinator:
conditional suffix
(mood)

(24) Hungarian

*ha el-men-**né**-l* *sír-**né**-k*

if away-go-**if**-you cry-**if**-I

'if you leave, I would cry'

marker of the main clause
(„correlative“)

(25) Hungarian

ha *ki-mész* *a* *szobá-ból* *akkor* *csukd* *be* *az* *ajtó-t*
if out-go-you the room-out **then** close-2SG.IMP in the door-ACC

‘if you leave the room, then close the door’

values: complex sentence: marked complex
sentence: adverbial subordinator: tense

- present
- past
- (future)

combinations of

tense+adverbial subordinator

combination of tense+adverbial subordinator
according to the degree of hypotheticality

(26) Hungarian: hypothetical

Ha *kap-ok fizetés-t* *vesz-ek egy* *hörcsög-öt*
if get-I sellary-ACC buy-I a hamster-ACC

'if I get salary, I buy a hamster'

combination of tense+adverbial subordinator
according to the degree of hypotheticality

(27) Hungarian: counterfactual present/future: conditional verb
form, marked morphologically as synthetic

Ha kap-né-k fizetés-t ven-né-k egy hörcsög-öt

if get-**if**-I salary-ACC buy-**if**-I a hamster-ACC

'if I got salary, I would buy a hamster'

combination of tense+adverbial subordinator
according to the degree of hypotheticality

(28) Hungarian: counterfactual past: analytical: past of
the verb+past conditional of 'be'

Ha kap-t-am vol-na fizetés-t vet-t-em vol-na egy hörcsög-öt
if get-**PAST-I** **was-if** salary-ACC **buy-PAST-I** **was-if** a hamster-ACC

'if I had got salary, I would have bought a
hamster'

summary

- dominant sentence structure: complex sentence
- dominant order of clauses: subordinate clause + main clause
- if the order is the reverse, then the subordinate clause is marked, or the subordinate clause **and** the main clause. I.e. in main clause + subordinate clause order marked main clause and unmarked subordinate clause is exceptional: **Then I buy a hamster, I get salary.*
- dominant marking: marked subordinate clause by separate words/enclitics/suffixes – but no preverbs or prefixes
- combination of present and past tense + suffixes as adverbial subordinators depending on the level of hypotheticality
- multiple/overmarked conditionality
- one and the same conditional marker can function as a suffix **and** as a separate word for adverbial subordination in the same language or dialect

Thank you for your attention!

Kee references

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