

# Ugric

Community of Practice in Uralic Studies (COPIUS)  
Foundations of Uralic etymology

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# Ugric I

- the position of Ugric languages (Mansi, Khanty and Hungarian) in Uralic taxonomy is somewhat controversial. They are mostly grouped together into their own Ugric branch, but reconstructing their common ancestor, Proto-Ugric, has been challenging if not wholly impossible
- within the Ugric languages, Mansi and Khanty, are thought to form their own Ob-Ugric branch, but there are unresolved issues concerning the reconstruction of this node as well
- in many recent articles having to do with historical phonology, Proto-Ob-Ugric has not been utilized and instead developments from Proto-Uralic to Proto-Khanty and Proto-Mansi have been treated separately

## Ugric II

- the amount of common Ugric vocabulary is only around 120-150, vocabulary reconstructed for other nodes (Proto-Finnic, Proto-Mari, Proto-Samoyed) is 500-2000
- many of the common Ugric innovations are structural rather than phonological or lexical
- order of case and possessive suffixes: px+cas (*ház-am-ban*)
- ablative -l- (cf. Hung sociative -val/-vel)
- locative case series with \*nA
- object conjugation from 3rd person \*sV

# Ugric III

- Mansi dialects/languages (not an exhaustive list, but rather the main dialects and those subdialects which are mainly used in the examples given)

S(outh Mansi) = Tavda (T)

E(ast Mansi) = Lower, Middle and Upper Konda (KndL, KndM, KndU)

W(est Mansi) = Pelymka (Pel), North and South Vagilsk, Lower and Middle Lozva

N(orth Mansi) = Sosva (So), Upper Lozva (LozU)

- Khanty dialects/languages (not an exhaustive list)

S(outh Khanty) = Demjanka (Dem), Konda (Knd), Irtys (Irt)

E(ast Khanty) = Vakh (V), Vasjugan (Vj), often together as VVj (the so-called Far East), Surgut (Sur)

N(orth Khanty) = Kazym (Kaz), Obdorsk (Obd)

# Ugric IV

- the Ugric languages do, however, share a group of at least seemingly common sound changes:
- PU \*s, \*š (the latter is a marginal sound in PU) > (Ugr \*θ?) > PMs \*t (> t everywhere), PKh \*l > KhE (V) l, (Vj) j- (initially), l, S (Irt Dem Knd) t, N (Kaz) t, (Obd) l, Hung ø (loss)

PU \*sala- ‘to steal’ > PMs \*tūl- > MsE (KndL) *tulməχ*, N *tūlmaχ* ‘thief’ > PKh \*lal- > KhE (V) *laləm-*, (Vj) *jaləm-*, S *totəm-*, N *tətəm-* ‘to steal’

PU \*sälä- ‘to get in (a boat, a sled)’ > PMs \*tāl- > MsS *tāl-*, E (KndL) *töäl-*, N *tāl-* ‘get in (a boat, a sled), mount’, PKh \*läl- > KhE (V) *lel-*, (Vj) *jel-*, S *tet-*, N (Obd) *lel-*, Hung †*ell-* ‘to mount a horse’

PU \*šinjiri ‘mouse’ > PMs \*täŋkər > MsS E W *täŋkər*, N *taŋkər*, PKh \*läŋkər > KhE (V) *löŋkər*, (Vj) *jöŋkər*, S *teŋkər*, N (Kaz) *teŋkər*, Hung *egér*

# Ugric V

- note that the change includes not just the Anlaut, but other positions as well:

PU \**pesä* 'nest' > MsS *pitī*, W *pit'*, N *pit'i*, KhE *pěl*, S *pit*, Hung *fészek* (hard to explain as a regular cognate, unless the Hungarian reflects an earlier obscured compound/derivative *fé-szek*)

PU \**meḵsa* 'liver' > PMs: \**mīḵ*: \**majt-* > MsS *majət*, E (KndU) *meḵ*, N *mājt*, KhE *muyəl*, S *muxət*, N (Kaz) *mōḵət*, (Obd) *măḵəl* (epenthesis, PU \**ks* > PKh \**γəl*), Hung *máj*

# Ugric VI

- PU \*ś (alternatively nowadays often also \*ć) (> Ugr \*s) > PMs \*š/\*s, PKh \*s, Hung <sz> /s/

PU \*śeṃi ‘scale’ > PMs \*sṃ̄m̄ > MsS *sām* E (KndL) *sām*, E W *seṃ*, N *sām*, PKh \**sām* > KhE *sam*, S *som*, N (Kaz) *сoм*, (Obd) *sam*

PU \*śeṭa ‘100’ > PMs \*šṭ̄θ > MsS *sāt*, E (KndL) *šāt*, E *seṭ*, W *šeṭ*, N *sāt*, PKh \**sāt* > KhE *sat*, S *sot*, N (Kaz) *сoт*, (Obd) *sat*, Hung *száz*

PU \*śilmā ‘eye’ > PMs \*šām > MsS E (KndL) *šām*, E (KndM, KndU) *sām*, W *šām*, N *sam*, PKh \**sām* > KhE S *sem*, N (Kaz) *sem*, (Obd) *sem*, Hung *szem* (*szēm*)

- note that the sibilants have undergone similar changes (PU \*ś > PS \*s, PU \*s > PS \*t) in Samoyedic as well, which has been the main impetus for the attempts to reconstruct a common proto-language for Ugric and Samoyedic languages, dubbed East Uralic (J. Häkkinen 2007), this interpretation has not reached general acceptance, however



# Ugric VII

- PU \*Nś > Ugr \*Nć (this innovation might just be smoke and mirrors created by the reconstruction itself as many researchers nowadays instead of a palatal sibilant reconstruct a palatal affricate (e.g. Zhivlov 2014))

PU \*kunśi(-) ‘urine; to urinate’ > MsS *końć-*, E *χońś-*, W *kuńś-*, N *χuńś-* ‘to urinate’, KhE *kõs-*, S N *χõs-*, Hung *húgy* ‘urine’

- PU \*ŋ > Ugr \*ŋk

PU \*jäŋi ‘ice’ > Ugr \*jäŋkə > MsE *jöäŋk*, N *jāŋk*, KhE *jöŋk*, S *jeŋk*, N (Obd) *joŋk*, Hung *jég*

PU \*piŋi ‘tooth’ > Ugr \*piŋkə > MsS *päŋ*, E *päŋk*, N *puŋk*, KhE *pöŋk*, S N *peŋk*, Hung *fog*

PU \*säŋi ‘air, weather’ > Ugr \*θäŋkə > Hung *ég* ‘sky’

- Note that this change is a tendency to which there are several exceptions. The conditions of the change are unknown as well. For example, the fortification does not affect the following words:

PU \*sunji ‘summer’ > MsE *toj*, N *tuw*, KhE N *löŋ*, S *tõŋ*

PU \*wäŋiw ‘son-in-law’ > KhE *won*, S N *wen*, Hung *vő* (*veje*, *vője* ‘his son-in-law’)