Manner adverbs in Finnish Romani

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In my paper, I will attempt to provide an account of manner adverbs of Finnish Romani using Andrew Spencer's (ms.) Generalized Paradigm Function morphology, which is a recent model of Stem-and-Paradigm morphology. The theoretical framework will be here enriched by event semantics, which analyze manner adverbs as 'predicates of events'.

Manner adverbs characterize the manner of action as well the status of subject and object referents (Hakulinen et al. 2004: 644). They constitute a semantically and structurally heterogenous group of lexical adverbs, lexical items formed by means of derivational morphology, and collocations. The semantic groups include adverbs denoting position and relative location; intensity of sound, speed; and means or instrument, and distributive and temporal adverbs.

Lexical manner adverbs are few in Finnish Romani. Contemporary Romani dialects share no borrowed adpositions; instead, new adpositions were adopted in Romani dialects first after their diaspora in Europe (Matras 2002: 92). Finnish Romani has borrowed most of its lexical manner adverbs from recent contact languages, in particular Swedish, Danish, and Germanic languages.

The largest group of manner adverbs consists of secondary adverbs derived from adjectives either using the suffixes -es, -as, or amorphologically. The adverbial morphology is an interesting borderline case between inflectional and derivational morphology. In my paper I will position the formation of adverbs in the class of deadjective transpositions (originally Marchand 1967; see also Spencer, ms., Granqvist, in press) despite of the fact that the resulting adverbs may actually be semantically opaque and permit a range of adverbial uses. Furthermore I will present putative results regarding the ways which lexico-semantic classes of base adjectives constraint the syntactic and semantic properties of derived adverbs.

The inventory of manner adverbs in Finnish Romani is extended by case forms of substantives have received specialized uses as manner adverbs: independent obliques and instrumentals serve as distributive adverbs or correspond to Finnish prolatives. Lexicalized old locatives often denote means and route. A final source of manner adverbs is morphological shift.

References


Spencer, Andrew, ms. Generalized Paradigm Function Morphology.