MORPHOLOGICAL STRATEGIES FOR ‘COMPLEX SENTENCES’
IN CENTRAL ALASKAN YUPIK (ESKIMO),
A POLYSYNTHETIC LANGUAGE OF THE NON-SLOT TYPE

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Central Alaskan Yupik (Eskimo: CAY) is a polysynthetic language of the non-slot type and bears a heavy functional load upon its morphology that can take care of a great part of what is syntactically manipulated—incl. “complex sentences”—in many other languages.

Beginning with typological profile and basic structural information of the language accompanied by illustrations of the non-slot type polysynthesis, this presentation is a brief glimpse into the mechanisms which yield the non-slotness and into the different kinds of ‘complex sentences’ some of which are morphologically manipulated.

Of the productive derivations by suffixes—both class changing and elaborating—, particular attention is directed to what is termed ‘cyclic expansion’ as it is directly involved in the non-slotness.

Complex sentences consist of two or more (syntactic) clauses: two (or more) coordinate clauses or a main clause plus a subordinate, i.e. adverbial or appositionalis which latter is the most versatile and has morphosyntactic idiosyncracies. Greater emphasis will be laid on complex clausal constructions with different morphological strategies—complement clauses, relative clauses, comparative clauses (comparative verbs), and multilayered clauses (‘complex verbs’).

The presentation will be closed with an appendix where I venture a perception of a ‘word’, possibly too insular and linguo-centric a one, which has been harboured through my work on CAY (and reflection about Japanese morphology).

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