

Ugric

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

www.copius.org

Version 1.4 (last updated 30 November 2021)



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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), Irtysk (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) *təŋkər*, 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 *sṃm̄ > 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 *šṭ̄ > 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 **η* > Ugr **ηk*

PU **jǎŋi* ‘ice’ > Ugr **jǎŋkə* > MsE *jǎŋk*, N *jǎŋk*, KhE *jǎŋk*, S *jeŋk*, N (Obd) *joŋk*, Hung *jég*

PU **piŋi* ‘tooth’ > Ugr **piŋkə* > MsS *pǎŋ*, E *pǎŋk*, N *puŋk*, KhE *pǎŋk*, S N *peŋk*, Hung *fog*

PU **sǎŋi* ‘air, weather’ > Ugr **θǎŋkə* > 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 *lǒŋ*, S *tǒŋ*

PU **wǎŋiw* ‘son-in-law’ > KhE *wonj*, S N *wenj*, Hung *vő* (*veje*, *vője* ‘his son-in-law’)