



# AGENTLIKE MEANING OF THE ALLATIVE ELEMENT IN A FINNISH VERBLESS CONSTRUCTION

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# TOPIC

- The Finnish **allative** case with animate referents
  - in the **initial** position
  - in a **verbless** construction.

- Its agentlike senses.

- E.g.

*Lapsiperhe-i-lle*

*erävoitto*

family.with.children-PL-ALL

won.round[NOM.SG]

**allative** argument

**THEME** argument

Lit. 'To families with children a won round.'



# STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Data.
2. ALLATIVES based on a typological survey by Rice & Kabata (2007).
3. The allative among the other Finnish cases.
4. Functions of the allative with animate referents.
5. Agentlike allative elements in my data.



# DATA

- 500 headlines from Finnish newspapers.
  - On the grounds of an introspective analysis, 123 of the headlines were categorized as containing an agentlike allative element.
    - 2 agentlike subgroups (of total 8): ACTORS and PURCHASERS.
- A paraphrase test with 163 participants.
  - Undergraduate students of language-related subjects.
  - 20 headlines.
  - Finite paraphrases.
  - The results gave support to the introspective categorization.



# ALLATIVE MARKERS

## Rice & Kabata 2007

- Functions of goal-marking morphemes, i.e. ALLATIVES, in 44 genetically and areally diverse languages.
- 33 different senses.
  - 1 agentive sense, ERGATIVE, found in a single ergative language (Ika).



# ERGATIVE USAGE

Ika

*tigri-se?*    *an-ga-na*

jaguar-ALL REF-eat-DIST

‘A jaguar ate it.’

(Frank 1990: 37, quoted in Rice & Kabata 2007: 510.)

# THE ALLATIVE AMONG THE OTHER FINNISH CASES

- There are 15 cases in Finnish. The allative is one of **the local cases**.

	NON-DIRECTIONAL 'stative'	DIRECTIONAL 'separative'	DIRECTIONAL 'terminal'
<b>internal</b>	inessive	elative	illative
<b>external</b>	adessive	ablative	<b>allative</b>
<b>general</b>	essive	–	translative

(Leino & Östman 2005: Constructions and variability.)

- It is an external local case with terminal direction meaning 'to', 'onto', 'towards'.
  - It is used to indicate endpoints and targets of transfer or change.



# THE ALLATIVE WITH ANIMATE REFERENTS (1)

## RECIPIENT

*kuuluisuuks-i-lle*    *lähete-tä-än*                      *ihailijakirje-i-tä*  
celebrity-PL-ALL    send-PASS-PERSON                      fan.letter-PL-PRT

‘Fan letters are sent **to celebrities.**’

## ADDRESSEE

*miekkailija*                      *huus-i*                      *tuomari-lle*  
fencer[NOM.SG]    shout-PST.3SG    referee-ALL

‘A/the fencer shouted **at a/the referee.**’

## BENEFACTIVE

*Tanja*                      *piirtä-ä*                      *kuva-n*                      *Niilo-lle*  
Tanja[NOM.SG]    draw-PRS.3SG    picture-ACC                      Niilo-ALL

‘Tanja draws a picture **for Niilo.**’





# THE ALLATIVE WITH ANIMATE REFERENTS (2)

## CONCEPTUAL

*Teemu-lle*                      *tul-i*                      *miele-en pelottava*                      *ajatus*  
Teemu-ALL                      come-PST.3SG                      mind-ILL scary[NOM.SG]                      thought[NOM.SG]  
'A scary thought occurred to Teemu.'

## PERCEPTUAL

*kummitus*                      *näyttäyty-i*                      *mummo-lle*  
ghost[NOM.SG]                      appear-PST.3SG                      granny-ALL  
'A/the ghost appeared to granny.'

## EMOTIONAL TARGET

*nunna*                      *on*                      *kiitollinen*                      *Jumala-lle*  
nun[NOM.SG]                      be.3SG                      grateful[NOM.SG]                      God-ALL  
'A/the nun is grateful to God.'



# THE ALLATIVE WITH ANIMATE REFERENTS (3)

## EXPERIENCER

*politiikka*            *on*            *vaikea-a*            *minu-lle*  
politics[NOM.SG]    be.3SG    hard-PTV            I-ALL

‘Politics is hard for me.’

*papi-lle*            *tul-i*            *hiki*  
priest-ALL            come-PST.3SG    sweat[NOM.SG]

‘A/the priest began to sweat.’

- ▶ How can agentlike participants be coded with the allative?

# ACTOR (1)

- ACTORS are participants acting in the way that they achieve the referent of the THEME argument.
- The THEMES correspond to effected objects that come into existence along with the ACTOR's action.
  - ▶ The end result is not a concrete product but an abstract achievement or result.
- The energy flow is not actually directed at the THEME participant but at physical or strategic special characteristics of the unspecified action.
- The semantic frame of the construction involves an implication that the referent of the allative element changes in some respects because of achieving the THEME.



## ACTOR (2)

*Passeri-Ile      laukka      tai      voitto*

Passeri-ALL      gallop[NOM.SG]      or      victory[NOM.SG]

[name of a horse]

‘Passeri gallops or wins.’ (Lit. ‘To Passeri gallop or victory.’)

*Maalivahti                      Martin      Brodeuri-Ile      maali*

goalkeeper[NOM.SG]      Martin      Brodeur-ALL      goal[NOM.SG]

‘Goalkeeper Martin Brodeur scored a goal.’ (Lit. ‘To goalkeeper M. B. a goal.’)

# ACTOR (3)

- **55 ACTOR participants**

- **19 sports teams**
  - name mentioned
- **14 athletes**
  - name or sport mentioned
- **20 other collectives**
  - a mixed bag
- **2 other individuals**
  - name or nationality mentioned

- **57 THEME participants**

- **31 deverbal nouns**
  - voitto* 'victory'
  - pudotus* 'knockdown' (show jumping)
  - laukka* 'gallop'
- **26 abstract nouns**
  - tappio* 'defeat'
  - maali* 'goal'
  - neuvottelutulos* 'negotiation result'



## ACTOR (4)

- ▶ **Scenes are places of contest.**
  - Denoted events are almost always situated in sports, electoral, or other competitive contexts.
    - Occasionally, also corporate and political contexts are found.
  - Denoted events require particular physical or strategic action of ACTORS.



# PURCHASER (1)

- PURCHASERS acquire the referent of the THEME argument to their own sphere of control, typically, by purchasing or creating it.
- The THEMES are, respectively, either affected or effected objects.
- The semantic frame in question implicates a state in which the PURCHASER functions as a POSSESSOR.



## PURCHASER (2)

*Varka-i-lle*

*iso*

*saalis*

*ravirada-lta*

thief-PL-ALL

big[NOM.SG]

haul[NOM.SG]

trotting-track-ABL

‘Thieves had a big haul from a/the trotting-track.’

(Lit. ‘To thieves a big haul from trotting-track.’)

*JOT-lle*

*tytäryhtiö*

*Unkari-in*

JOT-ALL

subsidiary.company[NOM.SG]

Hungary-ILL

[name of a company]

‘JOT founds a subsidiary company to Hungary.’

(Lit. ‘To JOT a subsidiary company to Hungary.’)



# PURCHASER (3)

- **68 PURCHASER participants**

- **3 sports teams**
  - name mentioned
- **11 athletes**
  - name mentioned
- **51 other collectives**
  - a mixed bag
- **3 other individuals**
  - name mentioned

- **67 THEME participants**

- **26 concrete nouns**
  - tietokoneita* ‘computers’
  - hotellihuoneita* ‘hotel rooms’
- **22 abstract nouns**
  - mestaruus* ‘championship’
  - mainosmonopoli* ‘commercial monopoly’
- **18 ambiguous nouns**
  - hopeaa* ‘silver’ (medal/credit)
- **1 deverbal noun**
  - ▶ Could belong to ACTOR subgroup.



# PURCHASER (4)

- ▶ Scenes are relations in the domains of possession and control.
  - Denoted events are mostly situated in corporate, sports, or local contexts.
  - Other special domains include professional, religious, and administrative contexts.
  - Purchase may be based on buying, ordering, stealing, deserving, founding, building, or creating.
    - ▶ Conventional action in society.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Scenes pertaining to power relations seem to contribute to active construals of allative arguments.
  - Contest contexts: superiority in a particular domain.
  - Purchase contexts: possessing and/or controlling entities.
- ▶ The referent of an allative argument has to intentionally and actively participate in the event in order to acquire the referent of a THEME argument.
- However, scenes pertaining to the other subgroups of the allative in the verbless construction in question should also be examined in a similar way.
  - ▶ Precise comparison.



# REFERENCES

- Frank, Paul (1990) *Ika Syntax*. Studies in the Languages of Colombia 1. Summer Institute of Linguistics and the University of Texas at Arlington Publications in Linguistics 94. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics and the University of Texas at Arlington.
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