

## Possessive in Khanty (Ostyak)

### 1. Preface

This article describes some of the features of possessive constructions in Khanty (formerly known as Ostyak), namely Northern Khanty. Basis is primarily the grammatical sketch 'Ostyak' by Irina Nikolaeva with additions from the 'Ostjakische Grammatik' by W. Steinitz (for the dialect of Sherkal).

### 2. Suffixes and paradigm

The form is as following:

(1) noun-number.of.noun-POSS

where POSS is number and person of the possessor.

(2) noun number for possive

SG	-∅
DU	-ŋil
PL	-l

Steinitz is saying that DU is -ŋə- and PL is -l-, rest is the same

(3) POSS-suffixes

Possessed/Possessor or	SG	DU / PL
SG 1	-(e:)m	-(t)am
2	-(e:)n	-(t)an
3	-(ə)t / -l	-at / -al

	<b>DU 1</b>	-(e:)mən	-mən
	2,3	-((l)ə)n	-(l)ən
	<b>PL 1</b>	-(e:)w	-uw / -əw
	2	-((l)ə)n	-(l)ən
	3	-(e:)t, -e:l	-at / -al

### 3. Extras

For emphasizing the corresponding personal pronoun can be added:

- (4) (luw) xo:t-ə-l  
 he house-EP-3SG  
 'his house'

For lexical subjects there is no agreement:

- (5) juwan xo:t  
 John house  
 'John's house'

There are no reflexive POSS. Khanty uses regular POSS for reflexive meanings.

### 4. Semantics

The default of the POSS is possession or ownership. But there are more possibilities:

- (6) a) lexical possessives (with relational nouns)  
 b) extrinsic possessives (without relational nouns)  
 i. Ownership possessives (meaning: 'owning')

## ii. Non-ownership possessives (meaning: assosiative)

The last group is the most frequent, because in Khanty it's the only way to express relationship between two nouns.

- (7)
- a)      ná:n      laraś  
         bread   chest  
         'a chest for bread'
- b)      kalaŋ      sox      sax  
         reindeer skin   coat  
         'a coat made of reindeer skin'
- c)      ku:rt      jo:x  
         village   people
- d)      jux      ke:si  
         tree      knife  
         'wooden knife'

The Poss also emphasizes the relationship between nouns.

- (8)      ma      iši      taxa:j-e:m-na      il      ko:r-s-ə-m  
         me      same      place-1SG-LOC      down      fall-PST-EP-1SG  
         'I fell down in the same place (lit.: 'at the same my place')

## 5. Literature

- Nikolaeva, Irina A.: Ostyak. München, Newcastle: LINCOM Europa. 1999
- Steinitz, Wolfgang: Ostjakische Grammatik. Leipzig: Harrassowitz. 1950