

# Topics in Meadow Mari Information Structure

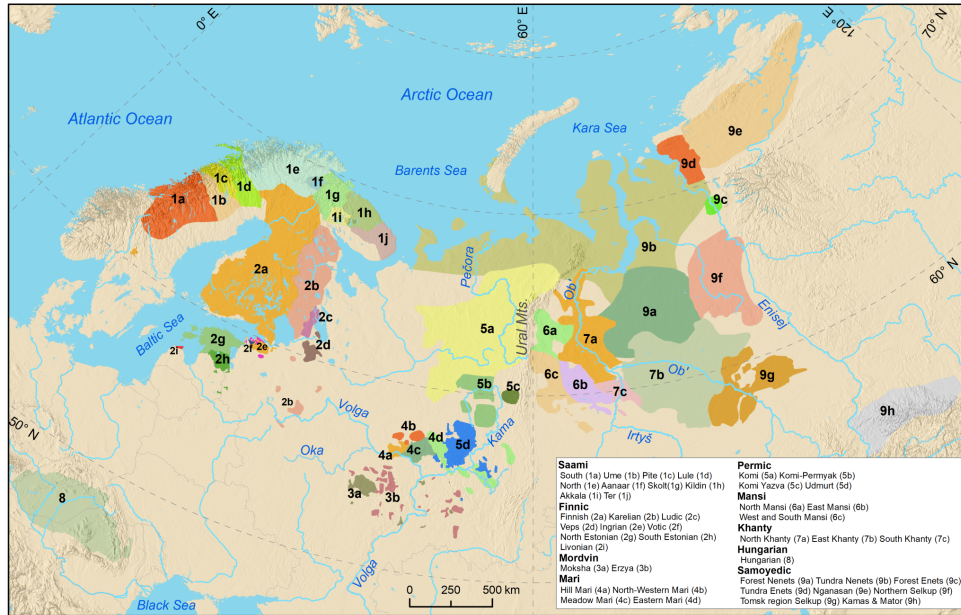
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# The Meadow Mari language

- Two varieties: Meadow Mari + Hill Mari
- Meadow Mari: 258 722 speakers (2020)
- Rigid head-finality:
  - head-final compounds
  - postpositions
  - lexical verbs > modal verbs
  - clausal complements > matrix verb
  - SOV word order
- Morphology + syntax well researched, but only little on information structure



## Aims of this talk

- General description of morphosyntactic marking of Mari information structure:
- Foci
- Topics
- The Postverbal Field
- 3SG Possessive Suffix žE

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# Roadmap

1 Foci

2 Topics

3 The Postverbal Field

4 3SG Possessive Suffix ŽE

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## Focus – Preliminaries

Krifka (2008) and Rooth (1985)

Focus indicates the presence of alternatives relevant for the interpretation of linguistic expressions

- Focus types:
  - Information Focus (= wide focus)
  - Presentational Focus
  - Identificational Focus (= contrastive focus, narrow focus): predicate holds *only* of exhaustive subset
  - Correction Focus
- Common tests:
  - Answers to *wh*-questions, alternative questions, polar questions
  - Corrections
  - CT-F / F-F sequences

## Mari Focus – General

- Constituent focus marking is underspecified for type of focus (information, identificational, ...)
- Information focus:
  - In situ via prosodic marking (preferred strategy in spoken language)
  - Immediately preverbal (FOC – v either clause-final or clause-medial)
  - Postverbal
- Other types of focus:
  - Presentational Focus: postverbal
  - Verum Focus: clause-initial
  - (Identificational focus: Pseudocleft)
  - Negative constituent focus with particle *ogəl*



## Word order basics / Full clausal focus

(1) SUBJ – DAT.OBJ – ACC.OBJ – V

(2) TIME ADV – PLACE ADV – MODAL ADV

(3) (Why is there so much animal hair here?)

*AŠNĀŠE ERDENE JOČALAN PÖRTĀŠTÖ PĀRĀSĀM PUĀŠ.*  
 caregiver in.the.morning child.DAT in.house cat.ACC gave

‘THE CAREGIVER GAVE A CAT TO THE CHILD IN THE HOUSE IN THE MORNING.’

## Constituent Focus 1: in situ

- (4) a. *Kö təlat futbolkəm pöleklen?*  
 who you.DAT football.dress.ACC gifted  
 ‘Who gifted you the football dress?’
- b. *AčAM futbolkəm pöleklen.*  
 father.PX1SG football.dress.ACC gifted  
 ‘MY FATHER gifted me the football dress.’
- (5) a. *Mom ačat pöleklen?*  
 what.ACC father.PX2SG gifted  
 ‘What did your father gift you?’
- b. *Ačam FUTBOLKƏM pöleklen.*  
 father.PX1SG football.dress.ACC gifted  
 ‘My father gifted me the FOOTBALL DRESS.’

## Constituent Focus 2a: preverbal (clause final)

(6) (Pregla 2023)

*Ikeče jaləšte jočalan jomak-vlakəm KOVA /*  
 recently village.INE child.DAT tale.PL.ACC grandmother

*\*kova ojləš.*  
 grandmother told

‘GRANDMA / \*Grandma recently told stories to the children in the village.’

## Strategy 2b: preverbal (clause medial)

(7) (Pregla 2023)

*Poškudo* *TENGEČE* *ERDENE* ***puəš*** *jočalan* *pörtəštö* *pərasəm*.  
 neighbor yesterday morning gave child.DAT house.INE cat.ACC

‘The neighbor gave a cat to the child in the house YESTERDAY MORNING.’

## Strategy 3: postverbal

(8) (Pregla 2023)

*Poškudo erdene jočalan pörtəštö puəš PƏRƏSƏM.*  
 neighbor yesterday child.DAT house.INE give.PST1.3SG cat.ACC

‘The neighbor gave A CAT to the child in the morning.’

## Presentational focus

- (9) Eastern Meadow Mari, Petrušino (Beke 1938, p. 257)

*Ožnâ ik tšerkan jalâštâ ulmažâ POP.*

once one church village.INE was priest

‘Once upon a time in a church village there was a PRIEST.’

- (10) (Serdobol’skaya and Toldova 2012, p. 712)

*Memnan pört voktene âle TƏGAJ KLAT.*

2SG.GEN house besides be.PST1.3SG such storage

‘Next to our house there was a THIS STORAGE.’

## Verb Focus / Verum Focus

- (11) *Tudo jalăște ILEN? – Uke, tudo jalăște KOLEN.*  
 3SG village.INE lived no 3SG village.INE died  
 ‘Did s/he LIVE in the village? – No, s/he DIED in the village.’

## Verb Movement – Preliminaries

- Unmarked order in verbal complex: CVB – NEG – AUX
- NEG must precede highest verb
- NEG and AUX can move, but must stay adjacent

(12) (Georgieva, Salzmann, and Weisser 2021, p. 464)

a. *Tudəm uʒən om kert.*

CVB NEG AUX

b. \**Tudəm uʒən kert om.*

CVB AUX NEG

c. *Tudəm om kert uʒən.*

NEG AUX CVB

‘I cannot see her.’



## Verb Focus / Verum Focus

- (13) CLM, News text

*OM KERT māj tidəm niguze ašten.*  
 NEG.1SG can.CNG 1SG this.ACC no.way do.CVB

‘I can NOT do this in any way.’

- (14) *Tenij māj Budapestaške šəm kaj.* – *KAJašač tāj*  
 this.year 1SG Budapest.ILL DID.NOT go.CNG you.went 2SG

*tenij Budapestaške!*  
 this.year Budapest.ILL

‘I did not go to Budapest this year. – You DID GO to Budapest this year!’

## Identificational Focus

- Regular constituent focus
- Pseudocleft (“like Russian”)

(15) *MIHAIL pəčaləm kuča.*  
 Mihail rifle.ACC hold.3SG  
 ‘MIHAIL is holding the rifle.’

(16) *Kö pəčaləm kuča, tide MIHAIL.*  
 who rifle.ACC hold.3SG this Mihail  
 ‘It is MIHAIL who is holding the rifle.’



# Identificational Focus

(17) #*Kö lampə̃m kuča, tide*  
 who lamp.ACC holds this

*ǰəVAN.*

*ǰəvan*

‘It is IVAN who is holding the lamp.’



## Constituent Focus and Negation

- (18) *Anna končəmašəm ok pukšo.*  
 Anna ghost.ACC NEG.3SG feed.CNG  
 ‘Anna doesn’t feed a/the ghost.’
- (19) *Anna KONČƏMAŠƏM ok pukšo.*  
 Anna ghost.ACC NEG.3SG feed.CNG  
 ‘Anna doesn’t feed a/the GHOST.’
- (20) *Anna KONČƏMAŠƏM ogəl pukša.*  
 Anna ghost.ACC NEG feed.3SG  
 ‘Anna doesn’t feed a/the GHOST.’

## Mari Focus – Summary

- Constituent focus marking is underspecified for type of focus (information, identificational, ...)
- Information focus:
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- Other types of focus:
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## Mari Focus – Open Questions

- Distribution of strategies for constituent focus?
  - Prosodic marking: least marked strategy?
  - Preverbal: clause final vs. clause medial?
  - Postverbal: correction contexts?
  - Negation particle *ogal* vs. prosodic marking?
- Any ordering principles for pre-focal categories?

# Roadmap

1 Foci

2 **Topics**

3 The Postverbal Field

4 3SG Possessive Suffix ŽE

# Topics

Reinhart (1981)

A topic is what a sentence is *about*.

- Topic types:
  - Newly introduced, newly changed, newly returned / shift topics
  - Continuous / familiar topics
  - (Contrastive Topics)
- Common tests:
  - Aboutness-Test
  - Topic marking phrases (*as for ...*)
  - Topic progression in narrations
  - Effects of topicality, e.g. anaphor resolution



## Mari Topics – General

Topics are generally left-peripheral:

- Aboutness-test
- Non-subject topics in topic progression
- More likely antecedent for null subject
- Topic-marking phrase *manmašte*
- Left dislocation
- (Contrastive Topics)

## Aboutness-test

(21) Have you heard anything about Serge?

*(Serge), pialeš, (Serge) u pašam (Serge) muən, (\*Serge).*  
 Serge fortunately Serge new work.ACC Serge found Serge  
 ‘Serge fortunately found a new job.’

(22) Tell me something about the garden. What is happening there?

*Sadəšte üdaramaš rvezəm šeleš.*  
 in.garden woman boy.ACC hit.3SG

‘In the garden, the woman is hitting the boy.’

## Non-Subject Topics

(23) CCWLM, Journal *Kidšer* (26.03.2016)

*Tunam, koncert ertarəme*                                  *dene kok šüdö tüzem tenge*  
 then     concert   carry.out.PTCP.PASS   with   200 000                                  ruble

*pogənen.*                      ***Tide šijvundə-m*** *murəzo onkologij čer*     *dene*  
 were.gathered   this   money.ACC   singer   oncology   illness   with  
*čerlanəše joča-vlakəm emlaš*     *kusaren.*  
 sick            child.PL-ACC   cure-INF   donated

‘In the course of the concert 200 000 rubles were gathered. **This money**, the singer donated to the treatment of children with cancer.’

## PP and adverbs

- Higher adverbs can precede fronted topics

(24) CCWLM, Journal *Kidšer* (29.03.2016)

*Tačəse kečəlan tə somələm murəzo Šakmaeva Svetlana šukta.*  
 today                    this duty.ACC singer Šakmaeva Svetlana leads

‘Today, **these duties** are fulfilled by the singer Svetlana Šakmaeva.’

## Null Subject Antecedents

- Meadow Mari: Consistent null subject language
- Resolution of 3SG Null Subjects wrt Aboutness Topic (Frascarelli 2018; Holmberg 2010)

(25) *Jelu<sub>1</sub> tengeče Serge<sub>2</sub> dene kutaren. ande Ø<sub>1/2</sub> sajən malen kerteš.*  
 Jelu yesterday Serge with spoke now well sleep can  
 ‘Yesterday Jelu<sub>1</sub> talked with Serge<sub>2</sub>. Now s/he<sub>1/2</sub> can sleep well.’

	Subject	Topic	Preferred antecedent
<i>Jelu</i>	✓	✓	79.1%
<i>Serge</i>	✗	✗	20.9%

## Null Subject Antecedents

- (26) *Serge*<sub>2</sub> *dene Jelu*<sub>1</sub> *teŋgeče kutaren. ənde Ø*<sub>1/2</sub> *sajən malen kerteš.*  
 Serge with Jelu yesterday spoke now well sleep can  
 ‘With Serge<sub>2</sub>, Jelu<sub>1</sub> talked yesterday. Now s/he<sub>1/2</sub> can sleep well.’

	Subject	Topic	Preferred antecedent
<i>Jelu</i>	✓	✗	54.3%
<i>Serge</i>	✗	✓	37.0%

## Topic Marking Phrase

- *manmašte* (*man-ma-šte* ‘say-PTCP-INE’) ‘concerning, as regards, about’
- Typically clause-initial
- Marked constituent can have clause-internal correlate

(27) CCWLM, Newspaper *Marij El* (01.09.2007)

*Paša manmašte, Sergej nimənarat jara ok šinče,*  
 work about Sergej no.amount.of idle NEG.3SG sit  
*pükenlam, kuxnálán škafəm aštəleş.*  
 chair.PL-ACC kitchen cupboard.ACC makes

‘Speaking about work, Sergej doesn’t sit around idly either, he’s building chairs, and kitchen cupboards.’

## Topic Marking Phrase

- *manmašte* (*man-ma-šte* ‘say-PTCP-INE’) ‘concerning, as regards, about’
- Typically clause-initial
- May have clause-internal correlate

(28) CCWLM, Newspaper *Marij El* (04.06.2003)

(Why aren't the plays ‘Salika’ and ‘Orjeņ melna’ continued?)

*Salika manmašte, tudo scena gáč ok korandalt,*  
 Salika about it scene from NEG.3SG be.removed

*möņgešla.*

on.the.contrary

‘As for ‘Salika’, it will not be removed from the scene, on the contrary.’



## Left dislocation

- Syntactically (and prosodically?) detached from main clause

(29) SCMM

*A tunam jaləštəže, kö təšte en pervəj televizoržo,*  
 and then in.village.PX3SG who here SUP first television.PX3SG  
*kön lijən ələ?*  
 whose was AUX

‘And at that time in the village, who had the first television, whose was it?’

## Contrastive Topics

- (30) (What food do your pets like to eat?)

*PIJ-EM(-ŽE) pəzəm kočkaš jörata, PƏRƏS-EM(-ŽE) koləm*  
 dog-PX1SG-PX3SG meat.ACC eat loves cat-PX1SG-PX3SG fish.ACC

*kočkaš jörata.*

eat loves

‘MY DOG likes to eat meat, (and) MY CAT likes to eat fish.’

# Mari Topics – Summary

Topics are generally left-peripheral:

- Aboutness-test
- Non-subject topics in topic progression
- More likely antecedent for null subject
- Topic-marking phrase *manmašte*
- Left dislocation
- Contrastive Topics

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2 Topics

**3 The Postverbal Field**

4 3SG Possessive Suffix ŽE

# The postverbal field

- In SOV languages: usually backgrounded, non-topical constituents
- Mari postverbal field (surface structure): not uniform
  - Afterthoughts and completions
  - Familiar topics
  - Heavy XP shift
  - “Altruistic postverbal elements”

## Afterthoughts and Completions

- Optional correlate in the main clause

(31) (Serdobol'skaya and Toldova 2012, p. 740)  
(You're never coming along!)

*Ĵaláštaže*                      *ala-gušto*      *ilet*                      *kilometr*    *torašte*  
village.INE.PX3SG    somewhere    live.2SG    kilometer    distance.INE

*memnan deč.*

1PL.GEN    from

'You live in the countryside somewhere, kilometers away from us.'

## Familiar Topics

(32) SCMM

(In Aleksej's house, there lives a fox, apparently.)

*Eše uremaš lektət da malat vel, maneš, rəvəžše.*  
 still street.ILL leave.3PL and sleep.3PL just say.3SG fox.PX3SG

‘And also they go on the street and just sleep, apparently, **the foxes.**’

## “Altruistic postverbal elements”

- Constituents can end up postverbally (on the surface) after focus driven verb movement (Pregla 2023)

(33) (Pregla 2023)

*Poškudo* *TENGEČE* *ERDENE* *puəš* *jočalan* *pörtəštö* *pərəsam.*  
 neighbor yesterday morning gave child.DAT house.INE cat.ACC

‘The neighbor gave a cat to the child in the house YESTERDAY MORNING.’



# Heavy XP Shift

(34) CCWLM, Newspaper *Marij El* (28.03.2007)

*Təgajrak mutlanəmaš erten marij kaləknan tüŋ mer*  
 such.kind.of talk went Mari people.PX1PL.GEN main social

*organizacijžən jubilej šotan konferencijəštəže.*  
 organization.PX3SG.GEN jubilarly type conference.INE.PX3SG

‘Such was the talk that went in the jubilarly conference of our main Mari community organization.’

## Mari Clause Structure – Summary

(35) SUBJ – DAT.OBJ – ACC.OBJ – V

(36) TIME ADV – PLACE ADV – MODAL ADV

- Focus via word order:
  - Immediately preverbal
  - Postverbal
  - Clause-initial (verum)
- Left periphery: Various kinds of aboutness-topics
- Postverbal field: Various reasons, non-topical position
- Pre-focal constituents: no special interpretation (Pregla 2023)

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# Discursive Functions of Possessive Suffixes

- Possessive suffixes indicate possession, kinship relations, part-whole relations, identifiability, topic shift, emotional connection, ...
- Mari, Permic, Ob-Ugric, Samoyedic
- Most frequently 3SG, but also 2SG, 1SG, 3PL
- Mari 3SG suffix žE (Georgieva 2022; Nikolaeva 2003; Riese et al. 2019; Simonenko 2014, 2017; Tuzharov 1987)
  - Contrast + Contrastive Topics
  - Identifiability
  - Topic Shift
  - Enimitive Function

## Possessive Suffixes

- Possession in the narrow sense
- Agreement with subject of non-finite clause

(37) *Pušenge-vlak laštaš-əšt-əm tarvanat.*  
 trees leaf-PX3PL-ACC move  
 ‘The trees are moving **their** leaves.’

(38) *Təj-ən kajə-mek-et, pel ij gəč üdərna šočo.*  
 2SG-GEN go-CVB.ANT-PX2SG half year from daughter.PX1PL was.born  
 ‘After you left, our daughter was born half a year later.’

## Possessive Suffixes – Distribution

- ŽE can be attached after regular possessive suffixes

(39) (What food do your pets like to eat?)

*PIJ-EM-ŽE*            *pəzəm*    *kočkaš jörata*, *pƏRƏS-EM-ŽE*            *koləm*  
 dog-PX1SG-PX3SG meat.ACC eat        loves    cat-PX1SG-PX3SG fish.ACC

*kočkaš jörata.*  
 eat        loves

‘MY DOG likes to eat meat, (and) MY CAT likes to eat fish.’

## Possessive Suffixes – Distribution

- ŽE attaches to any phrase or constituent

(40) CSMM, VKontake

[*Araka deč posna*]-žē veselitlaš ok lij mo?  
 vodka without-PX3SG have.fun NEG.3SG be.CNG Q

‘Can’t you have a good time without alcohol?’

(41) CLM, Fiction text

[*Təgaj pis'malan vašestə-de*]-ž-at níguze ok  
 such letter.DAT answer-CVB.NEG-PX3SG-ADD no.way NEG.3SG

lij.

be.CNG

‘One can’t just not respond to a letter like that, either.’

## No Definiteness Marker

- Licit on non-nouns – no referent, no definiteness
- Licit on indefinite pronouns
- Not licit on unique referents (*the sun, the door*)

(42) CLM, News text

*jüşö-šaməč* *kokla* *gəč* *ala-kö-žö* *jüləšö* *sortam*  
 drunk-PL among from INDEF-who-PX3SG burning candle.ACC  
*spirtan* *stakanəš* *joŋələš* *kamvozəkten* [...]

alcohol.with glass.ILL by.mistake dropped

‘Among the drunk, **someone** by mistake dropped the burning candle into a glass containing alcohol.’



## Anaphora / Identifiability

(43) (Simonenko 2017)

*Məj kum knigam nalənam. Ik kniga#(-žə)-m Kost'alan*  
 1SG three book.ACC bought one book-PX3SG-ACC Kost'a.DAT  
*pöleklem.*  
 give.present

'I bought three books. I will give **one of them** to Kost'a.'

(44) (Georgieva 2022, p. 6)

(Mom baked pancakes. She put three (of them) into the fridge and two (of them) on the table.)

%*Maša kokət-šə-m kočkən, a Taña kumət-šə-m.*  
 Maša two-PX3SG-ACC ate and Taña three-PX3SG-ACC

'Masha ate **the two** (from the table), and Tanya **the three** (from the fridge).'

# Contrast

(45) (Simonenko 2014)

*Memnan školna u, a teŋgeče ala-kö tide*  
 our school.PX1PL new but yesterday somebody that  
*okna-žə-m šalalten.*  
 window-PX3SG-ACC broke

‘Our school is new, but yesterday someone broke that [pointing to one window] window.’

## Contrastive Topics

- Indicate presence of alternative questions: “What does your dog like to eat?”, “What does your cat like to eat?”

(46) (What food do your pets like to eat?)

*PIJ-EM(-ŽE) pəzəm kočkaš jörata, pƏRƏS-EM(-ŽE) koləm*  
 dog-PX1SG-PX3SG meat.ACC eat loves cat-PX1SG-PX3SG fish.ACC

*kočkaš jörata.*  
 eat loves

‘MY DOG likes to eat meat, (and) MY CAT likes to eat fish.’

## Contrastive Topics

- Indicate presence of alternative questions: “Who cooked the soup? Who cooked the X? Who cooked the Y?”

(47) *Maša kočəšəm jamdəlen mo? – Šür-žə-m tudo*  
 Maša food-ACC prepare-PST2.3SG Q soup-PX3SG-ACC 3SG  
*šolten. Ves kočəšəm tudo jamdəlen a'le uke – om*  
 cooked other food.ACC 3SG prepared or NOT NEG-1SG  
*pale.*  
 know.CNG

‘Did Maša prepare food? – The soup she cooked. Whether she cooked other food, I don’t know. (= But some other food was cooked as well.)’

## Marker of Topic Shift

- Contexts without clear contrast set or clear implicit question
- žE often in left periphery, position for topics
- Marks a topic shift: newly introduced, newly changed, or newly returned topic

## Marker of Topic Shift

- (48) A. *Pamaš šuko ulo tušto, srazu pamaš gáč vüdəm*  
 spring many EXIST there at.once spring from water.ACC  
*numalət.*  
 carry.3PL

‘There’s lots of springs, people just go right away to get some water from the springs.’

- B. *Memnan pamaš-əže nímat kodən ogəl [...]*  
 1PL.GEN spring-PX3SG nothing stay-CVB is.not

‘At our place, **springs**, there is nothing left ...’

- A. *Sńegə-že vet čot šuko ulo [...]*  
 wild.strawberry-3SG see very much EXIST

‘(And) **wild strawberries**, you know, there’s lots of [...]

## Marker of Topic Shift

- (49) (Once, there was a brick factory besides this spring. In addition to the brick factory, they built a shed.)

*No ikana šorgækten jogəmo šošo vüüd sarajəm muškən*  
 but once beating.down flowing spring water shed.ACC washing

*naŋgajen. Tiddeč vara levašəm ves vere čoŋenət.*  
 took.away from.this then shed.ACC other to.place built

*Revolucij žapəšte kerməč jamdələmaš čarnenət. Sarajže*  
 revolution at.time brick production stopped shed.PX3SG

*šuko žap eše šinčen.*  
 much time still sat

‘But one time the wildly flowing water in spring washed away the shed. After that they built the shed in a different place. After the Revolution they stopped making bricks. (But) **the shed** was still standing for a long time.’

## Left dislocated Topics

- (50) *Marij televidenij-že tidəmak vele ončəktat kuze*  
 Mari television-PX3SG this.ACC.EMPH only show.3PL how  
*ubiratlat.*  
 harvest.3PL

‘Mari television – they only show such stuff, how people harvest crops.’

- (51) *A.-že tide podružkə-žo mo?*  
 A.-PX3SG that female.friend-PX3SG Q

‘(And what about) A. – (is) this his/her friend?’



## Contrast vs. Topic Marking

- Non-topical, contrastive usage seems to be syntactically more flexible

(52) ..., *a teŋgeče ala-kö tide okna-žə-m šalalten.*  
 but yesterday somebody that window-PX3SG-ACC broke  
 but yesterday someone broke **that** [pointing to one window] **window**.

## Contrast vs. Topic Marking

- No topic shift, no contrast set → ungrammatical
- Contrast set “rescues” the suffix

(53) (What about your cat that went missing, have you looked for it?)

*Da, i muən luktənam, pərəs-em-əm / \*pərəs-em-žə-m.*

yes and find-CVB lead.out.PST2-1SG cat-PX1SG-ACC cat-PX1SG-PX3SG-ACC

‘Yes, and I did find (him), my cat.’

(54) (What about your cat and your dog that went missing, have you looked for them?)

*Da, i muən luktənam, pərəs-em-əm / pərəs-em-žə-m.*

yes and find.CVB lead.out.PST2.1SG cat-PX1SG-ACC cat-PX1SG-PX3SG-ACC

*A pij-em-əm eše muən oməl.*

but dog-PX1SG-ACC yet find.CVB NEG.1SG.BE

‘Yes, and I did find (him), my cat. But I have not found my dog yet.’

## Enimitive function

- Mari *že* homophonous with Russian discourse particle *že*
- Some overlapping functions: discourse organization, contrast, identifiability
- Differences: expression of emphatic identity; *enimitive* function (Panov 2020): marking a proposition as uncontroversial

(55) *My ne uspeem domoj. Metro že zakryto.*  
 1PL NEG make.it.1PL home subway žE closed

‘We’ll not be able to get home. The subway is closed [, as you probably know].’

## Enimitive function

- No identifiability, no topic shift, no contrast

(56) *Tače talat nímogaj munəm konden om kert. Rəvəž-še*  
 today you no.kind.of egg.ACC bring NEG.1SG can.CNG fox-PX3SG  
*čəvənam kočkən.*  
 chicken.PX1PL.ACC ate

‘I cannot bring you any eggs today. A fox has eaten our chicken, **you know.**’

# Possessive suffix – Summary

- Main discursive functions:
  - Identifiability
  - Contrast
  - Topic Shift
  - Enimitive
- Usage mostly optional
- Open questions:
  - Are there any contexts where its discursive usage is *obligatory*?
  - Enimitive semantics as clitic (vs. “regular” possessive suffix)?

# Summary

- Description of morphosyntactic marking of information structure in Meadow Mari
- Foci
  - Various different marking strategies (in-situ, immediately preverbal, postverbal)
  - Distribution of constituent focus strategies unclear
- Topics
  - Various kinds of aboutness-topics in the left periphery
- The postverbal field
  - Non-topical position, but placement also epiphenomenal
- 3SG possessive suffix ŽE
  - Contrast + Contrastive Topics
  - Identifiability
  - Topic Shift
  - Enimitive Function

Кугу тау!



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