

# Subordinate structures in Mansi conversation

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# Topic of the presentation

- Originally, I planned that today I would talk about the Russian influence in the subordinate constructions of the Mansi language.
  - However subordinate constructions are used very rarely in the data which Anastasya Saypasheva and I collected last summer.
  - Therefore, I will rather discuss why our speakers do not use any subordinate constructions.

# Structure of the presentation

- My presentation will have two main parts:
  - I will report on my own experience about our field trip:
    - the material we recorded
    - some of the difficulties we had to face when we tried to use the interview protocol
  - I will show what I mean when I say that the speakers do not use any subordinate constructions:
    - what they use instead
    - I will try to account for this phenomenon

# Participants of the field trip

- In 2014 we spent three weeks in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug Yugra in a project called Multilingual practices in Finno-Ugric communities
- Anastasya Saypasheva
  - phd student in Budapest
  - native Mari - Russian bilingual speaker
- Svetlana Dinislamova
  - working for the Research Institute of Ob-Ugrian Peoples, Khanty-Mansiysk
  - native Mansi
- Katalin Sipőcz and Bettina Bíró
  - from University of Szeged

# What kind of language data we would collect?

- conversations where native Mansi speakers spoke to each other
  - protocol of interviews:
    - involve at least two, (preferably more) subjects in the conversation
    - the non-native speaker does not participate in the conversation and lets one of the native speakers control the conversation
    - various topics, such as family life, education, infrastructure, work, etc.

# What kind of language data we would collect?

- the sociolinguistic survey
  - contains metadata of every participant in the conversation
  - in the field we tried to take this survey personally
    - so we have both conversational and personal speech from the same informant
- a questionnaire of my dissertation
- we tried to record some reading of word-lists and texts for phonetic analysis as well



Jasunt  
1 informant  
1 conversation

Sekuriya  
1 informant  
1 conversation

Sos'va  
5 informants

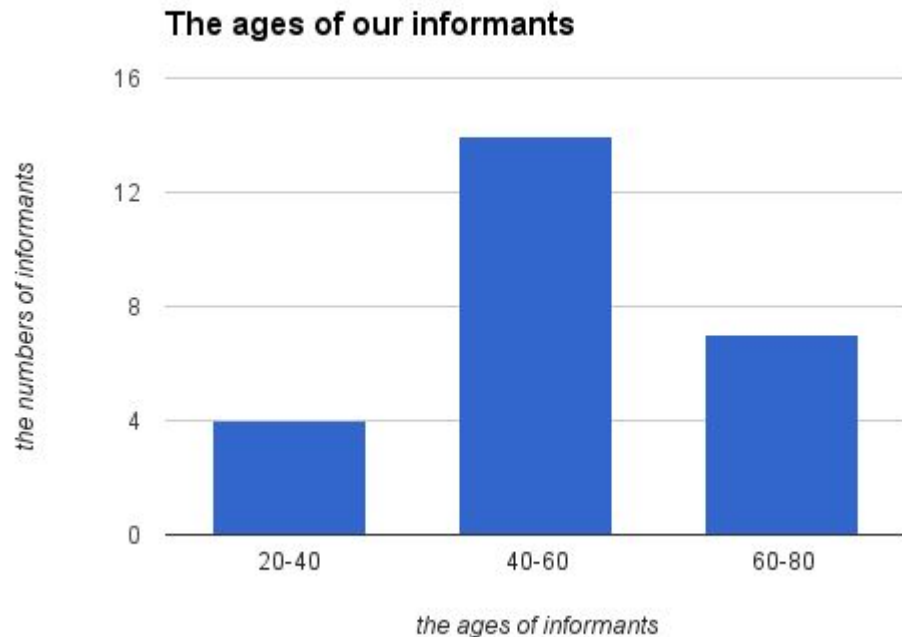
Berezovo  
5 informants  
1 conversation

Kimkyasuj  
3 informants  
1 conversation

Khanty-Mansiysk  
10 informants  
1 conversation

# Informants

- totally 25 speakers:  
21 females, 4 males



- some with Mansi as dominant language (according to themselves), but only one of them speaks really poor Russian

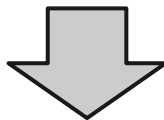


# My own experience about the protocol of interviews

- we managed to record conversations five times
  - in Khanty-Mansiysk the majority of potential informants were on vacation
  - in the countryside the middle-aged people speak Mansi only with the elder generation
    - two villages by Sosva or Sygva, where whole families are speaking Mansi: Lombovozh and Kimkjasuj
- it proved to be very difficult to create a situation where all participants would speak the language
  - they soon changed language because of the presence of a participant, who understood only Russian

# My own experience about the protocol of interviews

- some the speakers are unable to speak about various topics
  - not only because they do not know the words
  - some of the the speakers simply have no need to talk about topics such as infrastructure or education, which do not concern them



So if we look at the recordings of the conversations, we see that some of them are forced, and the others are only about two or three topics.

# Subordinate constructions of the Mansi language

- I focused only on the syntactic expression of subordination
- I tried to study the marking of
  - relative clauses
  - adverbial subordination, such as
    - purpose constructions,
    - causal relationships,
    - temporal clauses

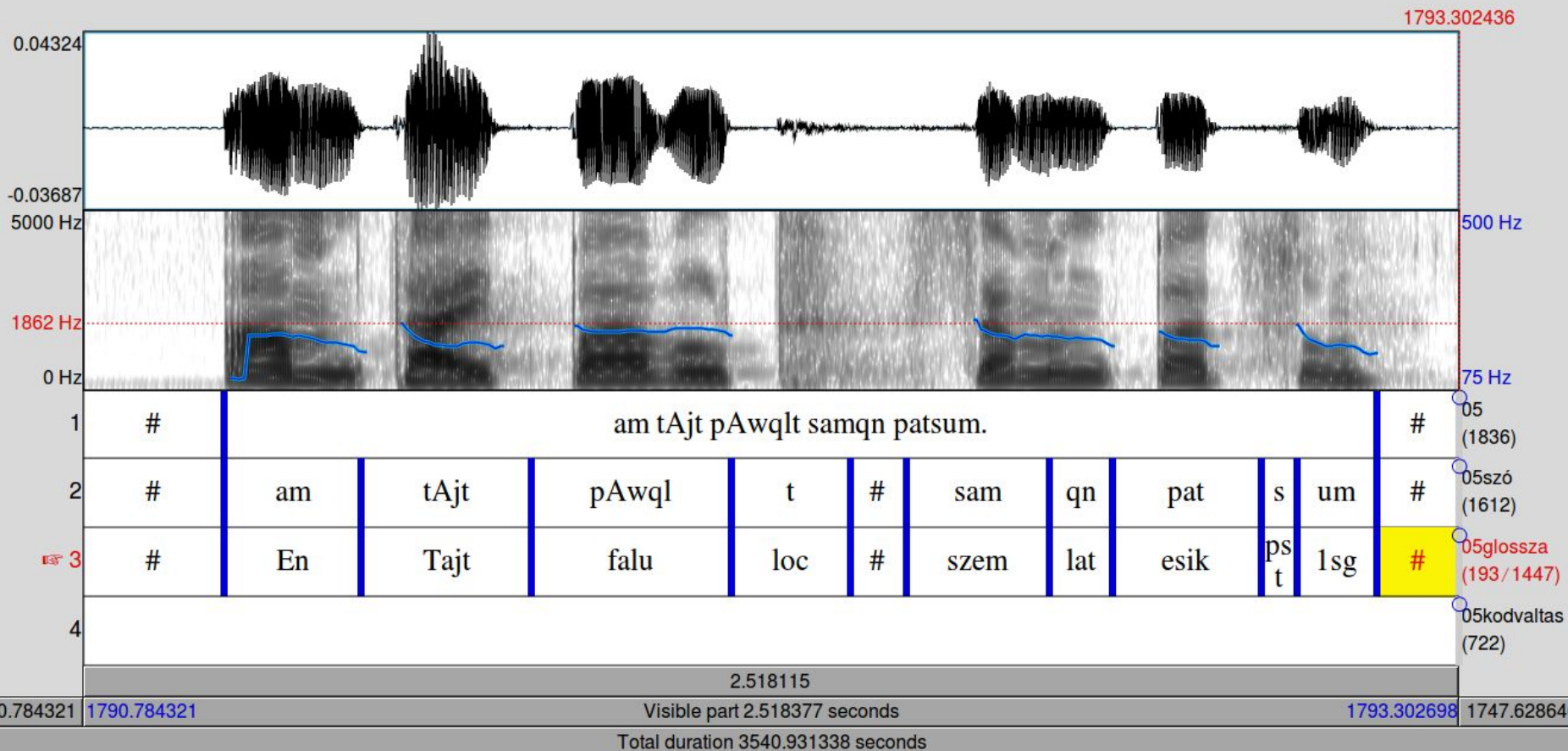
# Subordinate constructions of the Mansi language

- One of them contains a non-finite verb (participle or gerund)
  - used in both relative clauses and the adverbial subordination
- The other one contains two finite verbs and a connective guide word
  - used in both relative clauses and the adverbial subordination

# Informants of the study

- At this time I will present only speech of three informants (all females):
  - the first informant is 80 years old, living in Sekuriya
  - the second speaker is 65 years old, living in Saranpaul
  - the third informant is 55 years old, working for the Institute in Khanty-Mansiysk
- I analyzed 7 minutes of speech from each of the above speakers

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# Constructures

	numbers of sentences	numbers of subordinate constructions:
Informant 1.	174	11
Informant 2.	112	2
Informant 3.	164	10

*Ań*     *tit*     *rupata*     *āt'im.*     *At*     *rūpiti.*  
now   here   work   neg   neg   work.prs.3sg  
'There is no job in this place, (therefore) he is not working.'

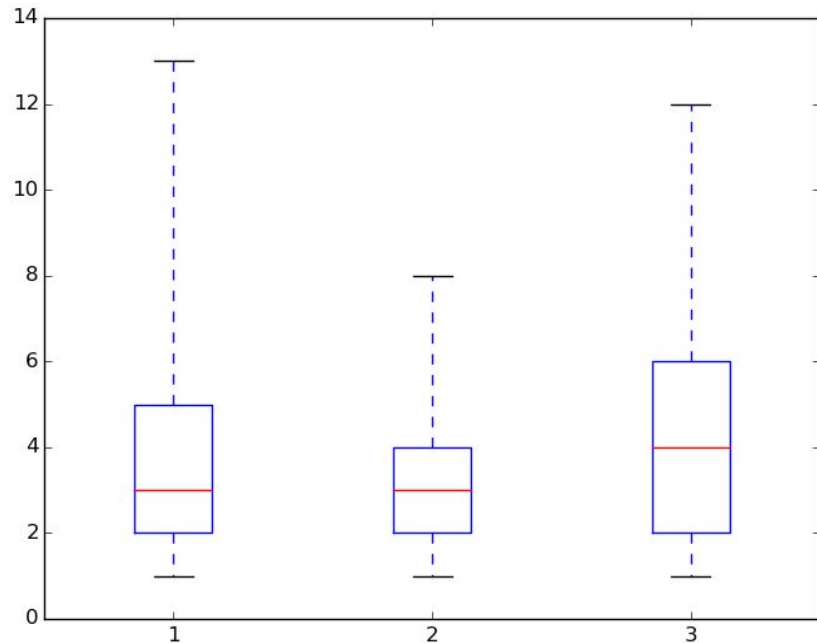
# Why the speakers did not use any subordinate constructions?

- Because they are not used in spontaneous speech
- It means that the informants used restricted language code even when they spoke with each other
  - they do not communicate in Mansi > these constructions fall out of practice



# The sentences of the three speakers

- the box-plot shows the minimum and the maximum length of Mansi sentences of a given informant
  - the boxes show the most general length of Mansi sentences in the data
  - an average Mansi sentence consists of 3-4 words



# Conclusions

- our field trip was both successful and unsuccessful
  - we have reached many informants
  - but we did not make many recordings of conversations
  - some of our informants used restricted language codes
    - the reason requires more research



# **Thank you for your attention!**

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