

Language and Speech in Synchrony and Diachrony

Language and Speech in Synchrony and Diachrony:

*Papers from an International
Linguistics Conference*

Edited by

Galina T. Polenova

and Tatiana G. Klikushina

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INTRODUCTION

This collection contains papers on key problems in theoretical and applied linguistics, pragmalinguistics, cognitive science, lexicology, text studies, discourse, cross-cultural communication and translation, speech in the anthropocentric paradigm and language teaching methods. These papers present the results of research carried out by scientists from different countries.

The article of G.T. Polenova is devoted to the problem of the origin of categories: the mode of action, aspect and tense. Using Yeniseian (Ket) material, the author describes the formation of these grammatical categories, originating from the category of states (in the syncretism of the parts of speech), through their development as means of expressing the opposition of action/state (verb/name). It is proved here that the categories of tense and aspect relate back to the binary opposition of modes of action. She concludes that the formal expression of the verbal opposition present/past tense relates back to the oppositions of state/action, active/inactive, durative/momentary and perfective/imperfective.

The evolution of case categories is studied by L.V. Burenko and is based on the present state of the sole survivor of the Yeniseian languages—the Ket language—along with additional analysis of the Jug and the Kott languages presented in the work of other researchers. Some conclusions, connected to the genesis of case categories, are made. The meaning of first case affixes is hypothesized.

L.G. Pavlenko describes the evolution of concept metaphor in the development of polysemy in English motion verbs.

L.V. Tabachenko analyzes mechanisms in the development of modificational and mutational prefix word formation types in the history of the Russian language that have not yet been the object of diachronical study.

A.A. Kalinina's article deals with grammatical research into the 'emotional coloring' of functional types of sentences: exclamatory sentences are considered as an 'emotionally noted' (marked) option of the narrative, interrogative or imperative.

The article of E.V. Marinova concerns the study of foreign words used in speech, in their function as analytical, or unchanged, borrowings, and the peculiarities of their assimilation and functioning in modern Russian.

Sh.K. Nurbaeva studies homonymic-polysemantic relations and their explanation in Modern English unilingual dictionaries, mainly focusing on monosemantic homonyms as part of the blockbuilding process.

The authors M.V. Pimenova and T.V. Levina discuss the approach to syncretism in P.V. Chesnokov's works: he considered the phenomenon to be a combination of signs in one unit of various qualitatively different categories and also as indicating the existence of diachronic/synchronic and static/dynamic syncretism.

G.S. Plotnikova investigates syntactical synonymy as a complex many-sided phenomenon in which lexical, morphological and syntactical aspects are interlaced. The focus of the author is the situation reflected in the sentence, the fragment of reality and its semantic model where two or more models organized by similarly named components with differences in expression can express one and the same type of meaning.

F.Sh. Ruzikulov discusses the importance of the intonation process in the derivational development of speech morphology and speech syntax where the word acquires features in speech that are not present in the system of the language.

The article of E.V. Faleyeva deals with some morphological features of the substantive and verbal phraseological unit in dictionary and textual comparison.

A.M. Bushuy devotes his chapter to theoretical and applied aspects of translation that differ in certain specifications in light of inter-lingual equivalency.

H. Werner devotes his article to the question of whether the Xiongnu spoke the Yeniseian language and to the collapse of the Xiongnu Empire.

I.I. Karaseni devotes his chapter to the study of Biblical lexemes in the book *Thus spake Zarathustra* by Nietzsche. The author investigates lexemes and phrases of The Bible and their stylistic characteristics both in the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries. He analyzes and compares biblical fragments in Nietzsche's book, their interpretation into Russian by Rynceвич and by Antonovskiy and the Bible itself. He assumes that there are different variants of *Thus spake Zarathustra* in translation because interpreters have different opinions about this book's genre.

V.P. Ovcharenko's paper analyzes the necessity of acquiring cross-cultural communication skills for engineering students. Special attention is paid to the experience of foreign scientists and the scope for cross-cultural competence formation in teaching students. The paper suggests some practical ways to enable larger numbers of engineering students to take the first step towards global competency.

The article of Yu.V. Privalova reviews the formation of the cultural-language personality of the translator in the process of modern education. The results of theoretical analysis of concepts such as the language personality and cultural-language personality of the translator are presented. The components of the cross-cultural constituent of translation competence, essential for resolving cultural tasks in translation, are examined.

E.A. Sidelnik discusses the role and impact of cross-cultural communication in the process of professional and language socialization in engineering students.

B.G. Soldatov pays special attention to the translation process. The author stresses that this involves the interaction not only between two languages, but between two cultures as well. Therefore, translation should be regarded as a type of inter-cultural communication.

N.V. Soldatova points out that the implementation of a competence-based approach in professional education contributes to the achievement of its main goal—to prepare a qualified specialist of appropriate level and profile who is competitive in the labour market, capable of mastering his profession, competent in related areas, capable of working effectively in his field, ready for professional growth and social and professional mobility.

B.S. Avezova discusses the issue of Russian borrowings in Tajik. The author aims to find out how deeply Russian words have entered the Tajik language and to gather and give information about different sorts of Russian borrowings. She seeks to show how much Russian influences Tajik and to try and foretell whether Russian and Tajik will combine. The methods of the author's works included questionnaires, interviews and analysis of magazines and TV programs.

M.G. Akhanova touches upon the questions of the inter-dependence of the category of class and the category of definiteness/indefiniteness in the main Yeniseian interrogative and indefinite pronouns. An attempt is made to analyze latent methods used to express the invariant meaning of the category of definiteness/indefiniteness through the category of class.

L.A. Bakro analyzes the novel *In den Zeiten des abnehmenden Lichts* by Eugen Ruge. The author pays special attention to the translation of Russian realia (mainly borrowings) in the novel into German, thus studying the dialogue of two cultures.

The article of E.E. Deberdeeva examines the comprehension process as a necessary component of thinking activity that is specifically representative of Russian and English culture. In analyzing the comparative characteristics of cognitive metaphor as a means of disclosure

through thinking mechanisms, the example of comprehension verbs in Russian and English is given.

T.G. Klikushina studies contemporary problems in the sphere of military terminology, both in Russian and English. The vocabulary of special terminology, and especially military terminology, is constantly enlarged by new military terms that appear due to the development of new military technology and technical know-how. The main idea of this article is connected to the study of names of new military technology and thematic groups of military terms.

N.V. Nozdrina investigates monosyllables and disyllables with the initial labial sound in Indo-European languages.

T.A. Bushuy shows that the pragmatic peculiarities of communicative units bear socially meaningful information (communicative content). The main idea is that this issue can be resolved through a communicative approach to language.

A.L. Golovanevsky and L.A. Sleptsova state that language and thinking remains an important issue, the investigation of which has seen contributions from many Russian linguists, including P.V. Chesnokov. The authors of this article make an attempt to take a fresh look at the thesis of the original and profound interpreter of Tyutchev's poetry, B.M. Kozyrev. Their analysis of the semantic role of poetic keywords, epistolary and public works testifies that Tyutchev thought in Russian in political terms as well.

O.V. Kravets, in her paper, examines issues concerning the interrelation between logical and semantic forms of thinking and ontological and gnoseological stratifications. Applying methods of linguistic analysis, the author examines comparative structures in functional-semantic fields in English. This research lays the foundation for further studies of the structure of the functional-semantic field of comparativeness.

A.I. Lyzlov studies the evaluative features constituting an important part of the plane of content of proverbs and sayings. These features are examined comparatively on the basis of three languages: English, German and Russian, which have created a rich stock of proverbial expressions throughout the history of their development. The evaluative potential of paremiological units in the three languages is studied using the conceptual image of 'death'—considered to be one of the cornerstones of human consciousness. Death is objectified in proverbs, not only directly, but also figuratively, by means of metaphor and personification. It also shows that the proverbs under consideration are able to express both universal truths and ideas that have a specific national character.

In their paper, G.G. Matveeva and I.A. Zyubina, analyze the creation of speech portraits by public prosecutor's—this work is devoted to the description of personal human expression from experimental pragmalinguistic results.

Ye.A. Murashova investigates pragmatic meaning—a relatively young direction in the scientific paradigm. Traditionally the attention of scholars has been drawn to a substantially broader concept: the concept of meaning (a word, a linguistic statement, etc.). Considering that pragmatic meaning is a kind of concept concerning the type-concept 'meaning,' we find it useful to move from the traditional approach to the investigation of the meaning to the modern investigation of pragmatic meaning.

A.D. Saidova performs synchronic analysis of gerundial substantive types, including: tuning, tiling, rigging, rating, northing, mounting, moulding, loosening, icing, holding, furling, dressing, coping, bridging, bleeding among others, and shows that the semantic structure of gerundial substantives often has marked terminological lexical-semantic variants.

T.D. Sidorova studies extremist discourse. An attempt is made to bring to light the author's intentions that conflict with traditional cultural attitudes. The study uses methods drawing on the communication discourse knowledge paradigm. The interaction of discourse and its underlying concept of 'verbal extremism' are taken into account.

O.V. Tikhonova's paper focuses on studying the prose texts of Germany's greatest Romantic poet, Heinrich Heine; his poetic language demonstrates the features of Romanticism in general. Some prose passages, often overlooked by researchers, including the poet's diary entries, notes and drafts, have been analyzed. The topics found in these texts typify H. Heine's works. They are: the revolutionary and the bourgeois, art and literature, German identity, religious patterns, love and marriage and culture problems.

A.V. Faleyeva describes the features of colloquial phraseology in American English.

L.F. Birr-Tsurkan and K.K. Abelianova analyze online job advertisements in German and Russian as a specifically applicable type of text. The main focus is on the structural components of adverts, the role of company logos and slogans in the text and on vocabulary choices for particular structural elements.

S.V. Ionova examines the standards of secondary texts that are actively studied today and do not sit comfortably in the usual genres of fiction. The material in this article aims to illustrate that text derivatives in our speech practice are varied as well as not being obvious. Remakes influence readers, spectators, scientists, politicians, schoolchildren and customers.

The developing facilities of electronic communication make their use increasingly possible.

E.Ye. Kotsova, in her article, deals with the professional vocabulary of Arkhangelsk health care workers in terms of sources of formation and semantic derivation. The main source of replenishment of professional medical slang words is through the lexical-semantic method of derivation. The lexicon of this social dialect is dominated by expressive professional slang words.

O.G. Melnik shows that text cohesion can be provided by different means. This study looks at deictic elements as an important part of connectedness. The basic characteristics of deixis in general, and text deixis in particular, are given. This analysis is based on empirical data from a passage of journalistic literature. A comparison of discourse deixis and deixis proper is given.

A.N. Minka devotes her article to the description of the text forming functions of phraseological units (set phrases) with the component 'colour' in English. Special attention is given to some problems of stylistic usage and the structural and semantic modifications of phraseological units in the text. Phraseological units with the colour component are capable of carrying out a number of stylistic aims connected to the organization of the text and its separate parts. Functioning in the text, phraseological units of this kind provide a nominative function, forming a united system of description.

Ye.V. Mislivets analyzes the vocabulary of the Shapoval's argot speakers in Novy Ropsk village revealing a large number of lexico-thematic groups and embracing a wide sphere of objects and notions that were closely related to the daily life of master-hands. Socio-historical factors (the disappearance of trade, industrialization and historical events such as wars, collectivization and the process of reformation at the end of the twentieth century) has led to the the communicative sphere of usage of this language being confined solely to family communication; its conspiratorial function is seldom used nowadays.

The paper of E.V. Polyakova deals with problems of idiomatic variability as a phenomenon of word play. It touches upon the issue of the cognitive and psycholinguistic characteristics of idiomatic transformation in discourse. Occasional transformations of the form and meaning of idioms are referred to as the realization of idiomatic creativity.

L.K. Salnaya considers teaching scientific discourse as an important part of university education. The peculiarities of scientific discourse are presented and its objectives and genres are distinguished. It is suggested, that the skills of effective scientific communication should be intentionally

formed during the course of study. Methods and forms of teaching English for Professional and Scientific Communication are proposed.

N.G. Shchitova in her article shows through analysis of precedent phenomena in the speech communication of participants on the reality show *Dom-2* that the heroes of the project use allusions, advertising slogans, quotations from popular songs, feature films and TV series, as well as literal and modified reproduction of precedent names and sayings. Modern youth seek to express their individuality, intelligence, creativity, self-expression and life experience with the help of particular units, verbal texts, transformed quotes and proverbs.

This edition is dedicated to linguists, philologists, tutors, postgraduates, advanced students at institutions of higher education and other readers interested in the problems of linguistics and language teaching methods.

PART I:

**LANGUAGE AND ITS GRAMMATICAL
CATEGORIES IN THE DIACHRONIC ASPECT**

TENSE AND ASPECT IN KET IN THE DIACHRONIC ASPECT

GALINA POLENOVA
(RUSSIA)

1. Introduction

In the 18th century there were many Yeniseian languages: Assan, Arin, Pumpokol, Kott, Ket and Yug. By the 19th century the first three had died out. By the end of the 19th century Kott had died out, and over the 20th century Yug also died out. Now, only the Ket language, spoken by about 700 people, remains. The Ket language, as with the rest of the Yeniseian languages, is unwritten. It has an archaic system that goes as far back as the Paleolithic era (see Polenova 2011). The distinctive features of its grammatical structure are: the combination of elements of internal flexion with agglutinative affixes and numerous traces of noun classes penetrating the entire system of the noun and verb; relics of the features of the active language system; a lack of morphological parts of speech etc.

We use the terms as accepted in the methodology of content typology. By content typology we mean a typological study where the formal aspect of language is seen in a close connection to the content expressed by those forms (Klimov 1983). According to this theory there are a number of diachronically arranged stages of the adaptation degree to transfer the subject-object relationship: class, active, ergative/possessive and nominative/accusative types. All these systems are represented in material on the Yeniseian languages and in Ket.

The class system is characterized by the distribution of nominal vocabulary in content-characterized groups, as well as the relevant class affixes in the verbal morphology and from the set of those affixes to the binary opposition of animate and inanimate.

The active structure of the language involves the orientation of its surface characteristics onto its unique deep structure—the semantic determinant of the language opposes not the actual subjective and objective relations, but the relations which exist in extra-linguistic reality,

between the active and inactive actants. The substantives oppose the active and inactive classes while the verbs express the following oppositions: active/stative; action/state. The language is characterized by syncretism of the noun and the verb.

We assumed the presence of a set of particles in Ket with the index of the original class with a spatial meaning (Polenova 1987): these were the original root-word demonstrative deixes. These words had the structure *CV* or *VC* in metathesis. The consonants represented the class denotatum and the vowel gave an idea of the remoteness of this denotatum: *-i-* ‘the nearest, small, insignificant,’ *-u-* ‘middle (the sphere of an interlocutor),’ *-a-* ‘distant, big, and important’ (Zhivova-Polenova 1978).

The formants serving both for word building and formation of nouns and verbs represent two-phoneme-elements in the Ket language:

Table 1 : Names of the Primary Particles in Ket

<i>bi-bu-ba/bo,</i>	<i>ib-ub-ab/ob</i>
<i>di-du-da/*do</i>	<i>id -ud-ad/*od</i>
<i>ti-tu-ta/*to</i>	
<i>gi-gu-ga/*go</i>	
<i>ji-ju-ja/jo</i>	<i>ij-uj-aj/oj</i>
<i>ɲi-ɲu-ɲa/ɲo</i>	<i>*iɲ- *uɲ-ay/oɲ</i>
<i>ki-ku-ka/*ko</i>	
<i>l'i- *l'u-l'a/*l'a/l'o</i>	<i>il'-ul'-al'/ol'</i>
<i>ni- *nu-na/no</i>	<i>in- *un-an/on</i>
<i>s'i- *s'u-s'a/*s'o</i>	<i>is'-us'-as'/*os'</i>
<i>mi- *mu-ma/*mo</i>	<i>*im- *um-am/om</i>

One-phoneme-characters include: *i-u-a/o* (vocalic); *b, g, k, d, t, m, p, ɲ, s', j, n, l', r', q/ɣ* (consonantal). All elements that are not marked with an asterisk we have found in the Ket language, either as independent words or as grammatical markers. Cf.:

(1) <i>Ad</i> ‘I’ <i>u</i> ‘you’ <i>bu</i> ‘he, she’	<i>ab</i> ‘my’ <i>k</i> ‘yours’ <i>bu-da</i> GEN.SG.M ‘his’ <i>bu-di</i> (GEN.SG.F) ‘her’
 <i>ət</i> ‘we’ <i>ək</i> ‘you.PL’ <i>a-na?</i> ‘who?’ (a person) <i>as?</i> ‘what?’ <i>ki</i> ‘this’ <i>qa</i> ‘that’ (far away)	 <i>ət-na</i> (GEN.PL) ‘our’ <i>ək-ŋa</i> (GEN.PL) ‘your’ <i>an-da?</i> (GEN.SG.M) ‘whose?’ <i>bi-l’a?</i> ‘how?’ <i>tu</i> ‘that’ (near)

T.M. Nikolayeva called primary particles “the bricks from which all words of the communicative fund are created” (Nikolayeva 2000: 37).

We carried out a diachronic analysis of the aspectual and temporal parameters in the modern Ket language. We considered only simple verbs with the base at the end of the word, which, together with the root nouns and adjectives, go back to the most ancient stratum of vocabulary. In semantic terms they are the verbs that are listed in the analysis of G.A. Klimov’s active language system (Klimov 1977). The first group we refer to is class order where there are no parts of speech but only the primary deictic particles form some sememes (see Polenova 2012).

Using Yeniseian (in the first instance, Ket) material, we intend to describe the development of grammatical categories of tense and aspect from the original category of state (by syncretism of speech parts) through the development of means to express the opposition action/state (verb/noun). We base our conclusions not only on results presented in the works of ketologists, but also on material from our own expeditions to Ket settlements in 1974 (Madujka, Kurejka), 1981 (Kellog) and 1989 (Baklanikha). Our primary informants were: E.A. Serkova (born in 1890), N.E. Serkova (born in 1920), G.Kh. Baldina (born in 1934), V.F. Maxunov (born in 1927), S.A. Tyganov (born in 1930), A.P. Serkova (born in 1904), N.P. Serkova (born in 1936), T.M. Korotkikh (born in 1931), Yu.S. Dibikov (born in 1936), E.F. Lambina (born in 1924) and A.Ya. Kusamina (born in 1915).

2. On past syncretism of the Yeniseian noun and verb

At the synchronic level, the verb in Ket is morphologically opposed to other parts of speech. The original syncretism of the Yeniseian noun and verb is reflected in many features in Ket and these can be considered as relics of the era preceding the differentiation between verb and noun (Polenova 2011). Cf.:

- (2) a. *tud* *oɣon* *kajket* *uska* *d-im-bes'*
 DEM ATTR NOM ADV PRED
 this gone hunter back 3SG-PST-STEM
 'this hunter, who went hunting, has come back'
- b. *tud* *kajket* *oɣon*
 DEM hunter PRED
 'this hunter had gone' *Oɣon* is a finite verb form which means 'he went/walked' and therefore must be glossed: o⁶-k⁵-o⁴-(n)²-
 (t)n⁰3M⁶-TH⁵-PST⁴-PST²-go⁰ (Vajda 2007)

The same word *oɣon* performs different functions depending on the order of words. Let us examine an example, recorded from our informant T.M. Korotkikh in Kellog in 1981:

- (3) *itel'-am* *ket itel'-am*
 STEM-PRED person STEM-PRED
 'a knowing person knows'

The use of finite verb forms in prenominal relative clauses like the one with *oɣon* is a rather rare typological feature.

The Ket examples hereafter are based on the author's expeditions to the settlements of Ket speakers on the banks of the rivers Kureika 1979, Yelogui 1981 and Baklanikha 1989. In the words of M.M. Gukhman:

"Before the registration of the verb there was not, strictly speaking, the noun in our understanding of the word, i.e. a separate part of speech with distinct characteristics pointing to grammatical categories, but one and the same unit of speech acted with the function first of the future noun, then with the function of the future verb"¹

¹Gukhman, M.M. O stadijalnosti v razvitii stroya indoyevropeyskikh yazykov (About stadijality in the development of Indo-European system). In *Izvestiya AN SSSR, Otdeleniye Leningradskogo instituta yazykoznanija*, 2. 101–114. Leningrad: Akademiya nauk SSSR, 103

A number of writers have acknowledged the absence of a clear distinction between the verb and noun in Ket, including: B.A. Uspensky (Uspensky 1964), A.P. Dulzon (Dulzon 1968), E.I. Belimov (Belimov 1972) and G.K. Werner (Werner 1974; Werner 1997). The question of syncretism of the noun and the verb was closely examined in a previous paper (Zhivova-Polenova 1979).

The genetic unity of grammatical indicators of the noun and the verb is sufficiently demonstrated by comparing them in Ket (see tables numbers 1, 2). The subject-object-verb indicators in the Ket language were for the first time divided into classes (groups) *B* and *D* by Karl Bouda according to the formants of the 1st person singular (Bouda 1957).

The tables below illustrate the almost complete identity of nominal and verbal morphemes. The genitive indicators of personal pronouns, possessive name prefixes and the verbal indicators of group *B* coincide in the first and the second person singular (see table 1).

Table 1. Indicators of the genitive case, of personal pronouns, possessive noun prefixes and the verbal indicators of group *B* in the singular

Person	genitive of the personal pronoun	Possessive prefixes	The verb indicators of group B			
			1st row	2nd row	3rd row	4th row
1st	<i>*a-ba</i>	<i>b-</i>	<i>ba-</i>	<i>ba-</i>	<i>bo-</i>	<i>bo-</i>
2nd	<i>*u-ku</i>	<i>k-</i>	<i>ku-</i>	<i>ku-</i>	<i>ku-</i>	<i>ku-</i>
3rd M	<i>bu-d-a</i>	<i>da-</i>	<i>-a-</i>	<i>bu-</i>	<i>bu-</i>	<i>-o-</i>
F	<i>bu-d-i</i>	<i>d (t)-</i>	<i>-i-</i>	<i>bu-</i>	<i>bu-</i>	<i>-u-</i>
N	-	<i>d (t)-</i>	<i>-i/ø-</i>	<i>ø</i>	<i>ø</i>	<i>-u-</i>

Table 2. Predicative indicators of the noun and the personal verbal indicators of group *D* in the singular

Person	Predicative indicators	Verbal indicators of group D
1st	<i>-di</i>	<i>di-/d-/t-</i>
2nd	<i>-ku (-gu)</i>	<i>ku-/k-</i>
3rd M	<i>-du</i>	<i>du-/ t-</i>
3rd F	<i>-da</i>	<i>də-/da-</i>
3rd N	<i>-em/ -am</i>	<i>də-/da-</i>

Cf.

- (4) a. *ba qi:m* 'my wife' *ba-γissal*
b-op 'my father' 'I shall spend the night'
k-op 'your father' *ku-t-uŋ* 'you-see'
uk se:l 'your deer' *ku-γissal* 'you-spend the night'
- b. *at* *qus'-kej-di*
 I chum-LOC-PRED.1SG
 'I am in the chum'
at *axta-di*
 I good-PRED.1SG
 'I'm good'
at *di-jak*
 I SBJ.1SG-to go
 'I'm going'

The suffix *-em/-am* is a predicative indicator first of all of the adjectives in congruency with the subject of the inanimate class. The Ket language, however, has a number of words that are functional verbs with the same suffix. Cf.:

- (5) a. *at itpedam* > *it-ba-d-am* *s'es* 'tod-am
 I STEM-SBJ.1SG-SBJ.1SG-PRED river shallow-PRED
 'I know' 'the river is shallow'
- b. *aks'* *baŋt* *u:s'-am*
 what 1.SG.DAT to have-PRED.3SG
 'What have I?'
- c. *ad* *tet'-n-am* *bu* *s'el*
 I husband-PST-PRED 3Sg *bad*
 'I'm married' *to:-l-am*
bu *t-qym-n-am* STEM-PST-PRED
 3SG SBJ.3SG.M.-woman-PST-PRED 'he, she (could) bad see'
 'He had married/he is married'
- (Baklanikha 1989).

3. Action verbs and statal verbs

According to the analysis of Y.S. Stepanov, the predicates of existence, state (possession) and simple states, such as: *me freezes*; *I have ...*, *I'm cold*, *It pains me*, *It sleeps me* express the category 'state' (Stepanov 1981). The Yeniseian material confirms that the category of the predicative appeared before differentiation between the noun and the verb.

In the Yeniseian proto-language, according to G.K. Werner, there were two series of personal pronouns, denoting respectively the subject of

action and the subject of state (Werner 1977). In today's Ket language the aspect of state is expressed in the verb form for the class of the animate with the affixes *di-du**, and for the class of the inanimate with the affix *bi-*:

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| (6) | <i>du-tAʔ</i>
SBJ.3SG.M-STEM
'he is freezing' | <i>qus'</i>
chum
'chum stands' | <i>ha-bi-ta</i>
STEM-SBJ.3SG _{inanimate} |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|--|

Indicators of the series *di-du* completely coincide with the predicate noun indexes, the only difference being that the noun locates them as a suffix and the verb as a prefix. They are used only in word forms of the present tense.

We argue that the division of verbs into verbs of action and verbs of state is a more advanced stage in the development of language; it was preceded by a single category of state that was expressed by deictic particles—the position and direction indicators with the structure *CV* vs. *VC*. In the Ket language, this period is witnessed in the features of predicative indicators. Here we see a transitional phase from the former period of class predication syncretising parts of speech to the development of the verbal copula and then to the personal marker of the subject. The native ligament (copula) was a combination of any consonant (*x*)—a class indicator—with a deixis (vowel): *xi/xə-xu-xa/xo*, as well as in metathesis: *ix/ex-ux-ax/ox*. It was a forerunner of the category “mode of action” (Polenova 2002: 56).

4. The concepts of the mode of action and the aspect

One should distinguish between the concepts of “mode of action” (Aktionsart) and “aspect.” The modern approach to aspect considers it a grammatical category and the mode of action, a semantic one. In language, certain modes of action can receive a formal expression and then one can speak of “characterized” modes of action in contrast to “not characterized” and “inconsistently characterized modes” (Maslov 1965: 71).

Despite attempts to distinguish between categories of aspect and mode of action, in descriptive grammars of different languages a confusion of these two concepts is always found. In our opinion, both of these categories must be used: the former means the traditional understanding of aspect, i.e. perfective/imperfective, terminative/durative (a qualitative characteristic of action), and the latter (mode of action) means the degree

of duration and the multiplicity of the action (quantitatively). A.A. Potebnya has done the same with the Slavic verb.

The category of mode of action is presented in the Ket language as a momentary, iterative, inchoative, ingressive and terminative mode of action, according to E.A. Kreynovich (Kreynovich 1968). The Synthetic forms of the mode of action (iterative, momentary) are formed by affixes, the analytical forms (inchoative, ingressive and terminative) by auxiliary verbs. The markers for non-contrary modes of action may be combined in one and the same word form.

The category of mode of action is genetically linked to number. This fact allows us to conclude that the formation of the categories of number and mode of action in the Yeniseian languages were simultaneous, with the suppletive forms for momentary and iterative modes of action of such verbs as ‘to give,’ ‘to take,’ ‘to put,’ ‘to spend the day,’ ‘to poke,’ ‘to lift,’ ‘to cut,’ ‘to chop’ etc., being the most ancient. Cf.:

- (7) a. *ad* *bi-γ-oq*
 I OBJ_{inanimate}-2SG.OBJ_{animate}-STEM.PFV
 ‘I’ll give you’
d-es-ad-daq
 3SG.A-STEM₁-1OBJ_{animate}-STEM₂PFV
 ‘He’ll lay me down’
- a) b)l b. *ku-n’-b-o*
 2SG.OBJ_{animate}-PST-OBJ_{inanimate}STEM_{iterative}
 ‘I gave you it’
- c) d) *d-ad-da*
 A-me-lay downIPFV
 ‘He lays me down’

The most advanced stage in the development process of the category of mode of action (single, iterative) is the alternation of the suffixes **-k/-q:-ŋ**. This alternation, in fact, morphologically expresses the category under consideration and relates back to the class indicator of singularity/plurality. Cf.:

- (8) a. *qoq* *en’-ba-s’-oq*
 ‘one’ memory-1SG.A-PRS/FUT-to fly awayPFV
 ‘I’ll forget’
- b. *doŋ* *ad en-bi-s’-oŋ*
 ‘three’ I memory-3SG.OBJ_{inanimate}-PRS-awayIPFV/iterative
 ‘I am forgetting’

Aspect is understood as a grammatical category, indicating the character of the action, its relation to factors such as the limit of the action, result, duration and frequency, etc.; M.N. Vall and I.A. Kanakin ignore the tense category of the Ket verb and use only the categories of aspect and mood (Vall & Kanakin 1988).

5. The categories of aspect and tense in the Ket language

If we take into consideration the fact that the category of tense is formed on the basis of the category of aspect, the Yeniseian languages show a state where the line between the two is quite unsteady.

In a language, such as Ket, with a well-developed category of tense, there are a lot of very definite formatives in each form. Cf.:

Present-Future Tense			Past Tense		
Ø	-s-	-a-	-l-	-o-	ol'
			-n-	-on-	

(Kreynovich 1968¹: 14).

Analyzing the markers of the past tense that are present also in the verb forms of the imperative mood, E.A. Kreynovich came to the conclusion, that these are indicators of termination of action (perfect), but not of tense (Kreynovich 1968¹). Cf.:

(9) <i>bok-s-it</i>	'I'll light the fire'
fire-PRS/FU-STEM/PRF	
<i>boγ-na</i>	'I lit the fire'
fire-PST/PRED	
<i>boγ-na!</i>	'Kindle the fire!'
fire-PFV/MOOD	

There is reason to think that, in the initial stages of the verb's formation, a post-positive deictic particle (see above) carried information about the mode of action with the help of a class-indicator (consonant), and with a deixis (vowel), analyzing the actuality of this action for the speaker. According to R.S. Gayer:

“**-n-** expresses terminative actions involving the short-term and activity of the actor (action verbs); **-l-** is associated with imperfectivity, processing and inactivity of the actor (verbs of state).”²

The aspect-tense marker **-n-** is taken only by such forms of the verb, indicating the transition to a new quality, a new state, such as:

- | | | |
|------|------------------|-------------|
| (10) | <i>di:-ja-γo</i> | ‘I’m dying’ |
| | SBJ.1SG-PRS-STEM | |
| | <i>di:-n-o</i> | ‘I’m dead’ |
| | SBJ.1SG-PST-STEM | |

Interestingly, the question word ‘what?’ in Ket has two forms: one with the indicator **-j-** and one with **-n-**. Cf.:

- | | | | | |
|------|----|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| (11) | a. | <i>u</i> | <i>aj</i> | <i>ku:-j-vit?</i> |
| | | 2SG | WHAT | SBJ.2SG-PRS-STEM |
| | | ‘What are you doing?’ | | |
| | | <i>d-aya-s’a</i> | | |
| | | 1SG-wood-PRS-STEM | | |
| | | ‘I chop wood’ | | |
| | b. | <i>an’</i> | <i>ku-n’-da?</i> | |
| | | WHAT | SBJ.2SG-PST-STEM | |
| | | ‘What did happen to you?’ | | |
| | | <i>di-tʌl’</i> | | |
| | | SBJ.1SG-cold | | |
| | | ‘I am freezing’ | | |

The following type of aspect formant **-s-** is interpreted differently in the ketological literature. In our opinion, the opposition **-s-/-j-** expresses, respectively, the iterative and momentary modes of action at the diachronic level, cf. the verbs:

- | | | | |
|------|----|------------------------|--------------------------|
| (12) | a. | <i>ha-s’a</i> | <i>ha-l’a</i> |
| | | STEM-PRS/PRED | STEM-PST/PRED |
| | | ‘I cut’ | ‘I have cut’ |
| | b. | <i>ka-ja</i> | <i>ko-na</i> |
| | | STEM-PRS/PRED | STEM-PST/PRED |
| | | ‘I’ll cut (momentary)’ | ‘I have cut (momentary)’ |

²Gayer, R.S. *Struktura i modeli prostykh glagolov ketskogoazyky* (Structure and models of simple verbs in the Ket language), 64.

The marker *-s'*- conveys an idea of durative action relevant to the speaker. It is opposed by the marker *-l'*-, expressing a durative irrelevant to the speaker's state. The marker *-j-* conveys the idea of a quick, momentary action that is relevant to the speaker. The marker *-j-* corresponds to the indicator of a fact *-n-* (cf. the binomial aspect division in Proto-Afro-Asian: *imperfective:perfective* or *durative:punctual* (Dyakonov 1972)).

Thus, in the Yeniseian languages, *-j/-n'(-n-)/-t-* are reconstructed as markers of the terminative aspect in the momentary mode of action, and *-s'(-s-)/-l'(-l-)* as the markers of the imperfective aspect in the iterative mode of action. We admit that the morpheme *-j-* is not frequent enough to be considered for meaningful contrast at the synchronic level. The marker *-s-* in the present does not often correspond to the marker *-l-* in regular verb forms.

The essence of the grammatical tense is the interdependence of the verb with the moment of speech. The performance of the action may precede the moment of speech, accompany it or take place in the time following it. Accordingly, all forms of the indicative mood are divided into three groups: the forms of the past, present and future tense. Tense is a deictic category, being at the same time the property of a sentence and of an utterance. The aspect is not deictic in contrast to the category of tense in that it does not correlate with the time of the utterance (Lyons 1978).

According to Y.S. Stepanov, the time of the utterance is the class of 'now.' In its coordinates it is 'I—here—now.' The class 'now' is defined as a class of words and indicators that expresses the time of the speaking subject who defines himself as 'I.' This tense is always the actual present; in this series there are no other tenses (Stepanov 1981).

The present opposes, above all, the past tense, even though it is already irrelevant to the speaker, but the real, which occurred in the experience of the speaker, as opposed to the illusory future. In this paper, we start from the opposition of present/past and will try to trace the origin of this opposition as the most ancient in the verbal system.

According to A. Meillet, the verb stems of the Parent Indo-European language do not represent "proper time," but "a development of activities," "the action itself" and "completed action" (Meillet 2009: 212), i.e., they express the category of aspect but not that of tense.

In the Yeniseian languages, particularly in Ket and Yug, the categories of aspect and tense are so intertwined that some ketologists completely deny the existence of the category of tense leaving only the category of aspect (see Vall & Kanakin 1988). E. Vajda identifies a single token marker of 'tense-mood-aspect' (Vajda 2001).