

## OPEN PERSON CONSTRUCTIONS IN BORDER KARELIAN DIALECTS

In my presentation, I will introduce four different grammatical strategies for expressing impersonal reference in border dialects of Finnish and Karelian—namely the zero construction (1), the necessive construction (2), the open second person singular construction (3), and the imperative construction (4). The zero construction (1) has no overt subject and its predicate verb appears in 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular. In the dialects under examination, neither does the 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular construction (3) contain a pronominal subject. Construction types 2 and 4 differ from the former ones in a sense that they can be classified impersonal not only semantically but also syntactically. In my talk, I will focus on the areal and syntactic variation of different types, and if there is time, I will also get into the terminology.

### Zero construction (3SG)

- (1) [An interviewee advises how to make a soup from dried fish:]

<i>sii-tä</i>	<i>šoa-pi</i>	<i>oikei</i>	<i>hyvä-n</i>	<i>keito-n</i>	
it-ELA	can make-3SG	real	good-ACC	soup-ACC	
<i>ku</i>	<i>šii-h</i>	<i>pano-o</i>	<i>kerma-a</i>	<i>ja</i>	<i>voi-ta</i>
when	it-ILL	put-3SG	cream-PAR	and	butter-PAR

'One can make a real good soup from dried fish when one uses cream and butter.' (ILOMANTSI 503:1)

### Necessive construction (NES)

- (2) [An interviewer asks, how was the grain reaped and threshed in the old days, and an interviewee tells that the grain was dried and threshed in drying barns:]

*No leikattiinko siellä Karjalassa sirpillä?*

*čirpillä, čirpil leikkatii. tä kai kossaa niitetää ja sitte seipäätetää vaa konehil puijaa*

<i>ennem</i>	<i>pit-i</i>		<i>riihi-löi-s</i>		<i>puij-ja.</i>
before	have to-PST.3SG		drying barn-PL-INE		thresh-INF

'Was the grain reaped with a sickle?

Yes, it was. Nowadays, instead, the grain is threshed with machines. In the old days, **the grain had to be threshed in drying barns** [by hand].' (IMPILAHTI 1274:1)

### Open second person singular (2SG)

- (3) [An interviewee describes the life in the old days:]

<i>midä</i>	<i>enemmär</i>	<i>ruavo-i-t,</i>	<i>se-n</i>	<i>ol-i</i>	<i>parempi</i>
what	more	work-PST-2SG	it-GEN	be-PST	better.NOM

'The harder **you worked** the better.' (IMPILAHTI 5129:2)

### Imperative construction (IMP)

- (4) [Talvisodan alettua:] *ensmäi tuodih sitä sotatalvena, rytäkkötalvena ni sit tuotih Koneveillä. sit olimma, olimmaham myö sielä, parin vuottako vain emmä aivam pari vuotta ollut. siit viedii Juugah. sit tuí semmoíni pieni rauha jotta nyt Juuga tul-, tullut ois mejän olopaikaksi. eipä se tullut sentää, uuvestah sota sytty.*

<i>ei muuta kun</i>	<i>lähe</i>	<i>vain.</i>
nothing but	leave.IMP.2SG	only

*niin. vuuven olimma Juugassa ni siit kansa sanottii jotta nyt Karjalah piäsettä jo.*

'[During the war time:] I — — The war started again. **You just had to leave**, no matter what.' (SUISTAMO 1883:2a)