

One and Twentieth International Linguistics Olympiad Problem the First: Koryak Language

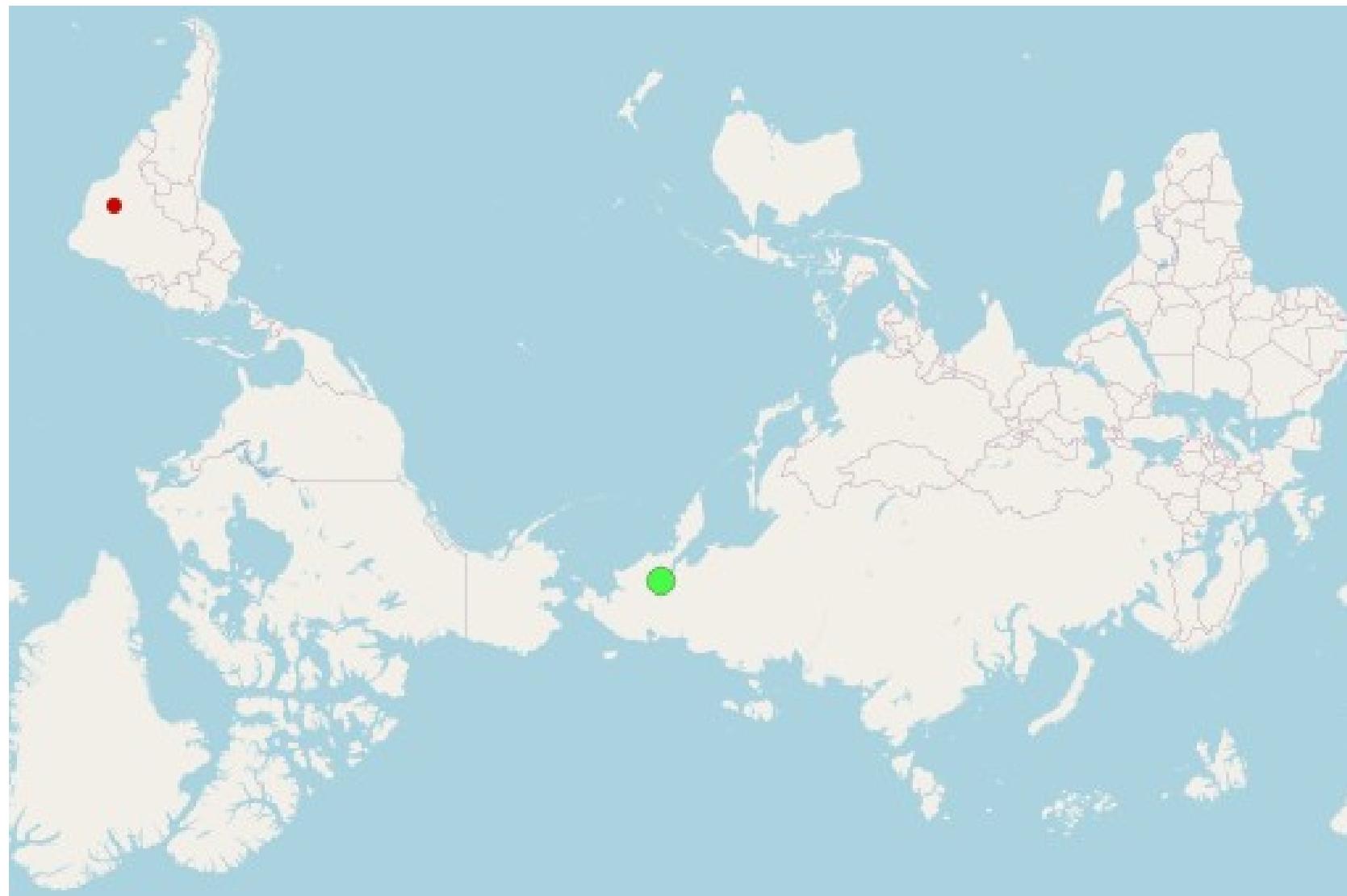
Нэццеq мəngətte ənnen pajolqawken
Hoptamakakan lingvistikakin olimpiada
Vitkuqin tajkəjolqəl: cawcəvajeləjel

Ivan Derzhanski

Family matters

- Chukotko-Kamchatkan
 - Chukotian
 - Chukchi
 - Koryakic
 - Alutor
 - J-Koryakic
 - Koryak
 - Kerek
 - Kamchatkan
 - NE Itelmen
 - S Itelmen
 - W Itelmen

Where is it spoken?



The data (first half)

	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨				
1	t	ə	j		ekmiñ		ŋ	ə	net	I	will	catch	them _(du)
2			k		ekmiñ		ŋ	ə	new	you _(sg)	—	catch	them _(pl)
3	mət	ə			lhu				n	we _(du)	did	see	him
4		ku			jgu		ŋ		net	you _(sg)	—	bite	them _(du)
5		k	in		uheñ		ŋ	ə	tək	you _(du)	—	wait_for	me
6	n				ekmit			ə	n	they	did	catch	him
7	mət		ko		lho	la	ŋ	ə	n	we _(pl)	—	see	him
8	mət				uhen				net	we _(du)	did	wait_for	them _(du)
9			ena	nŋev	la				tək	you _(pl)	did	send	me
10	t				uhet				tək	I	did	wait_for	you _(du)

The data (second half)

	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨				
11	mæc		c		uheŋ		ŋ	ə	tək	<i>we_(du)</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>wait_for</i>	<i>you_(du)</i>
12				in	ekmit				tək	<i>you_(du)</i>	<i>did</i>	<i>catch</i>	<i>me</i>
13	t	ə	je		lle		ŋ	ə	n	<i>I</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>lead</i>	<i>him</i>
14	ne		ku		lhu		ŋ		new	<i>they</i>	—	<i>see</i>	<i>them_(pl)</i>
15	na		ja		lho	la	ŋ		tək	<i>they</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>see</i>	<i>you_(pl)</i>
16	mæc		ce		nŋiv		ŋ	ə	new	<i>we_(du)</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>send</i>	<i>them_(pl)</i>
17	ne		je		nŋiv		ŋ	ə	net	<i>they</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>send</i>	<i>them_(du)</i>
18	mæc		ca		lla	la	ŋ		tək	<i>we_(du)</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>lead</i>	<i>you_(pl)</i>
										<i>we_(pl)</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>lead</i>	<i>you_(pl)</i>
										<i>we_(pl)</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>lead</i>	<i>you_(du)</i>

The Koryak verb form

- ①: subject (**t-** 1sg, **mət-** 1du/pl, \emptyset - 2, **ne-** 3du=3pl).
- ②, ⑧: **ə** iff needed to avoid #CC or CCC or CC#.
- ③ + ⑦: tense (**ku-ŋ** present, \emptyset past, **je-ŋ** future).
- ④ + ⑨: **ine-tək** 2du/pl subject : 1sg object.
- ⑤: root.
- ⑥: **-la** for 1pl/2pl subject and/or object.
- ⑨: object (-**tək** 2du/pl; -**n** 3sg, -**net** 3du, -**new** 3pl),
but see above about ④ + ⑨.

Koryak sound changes

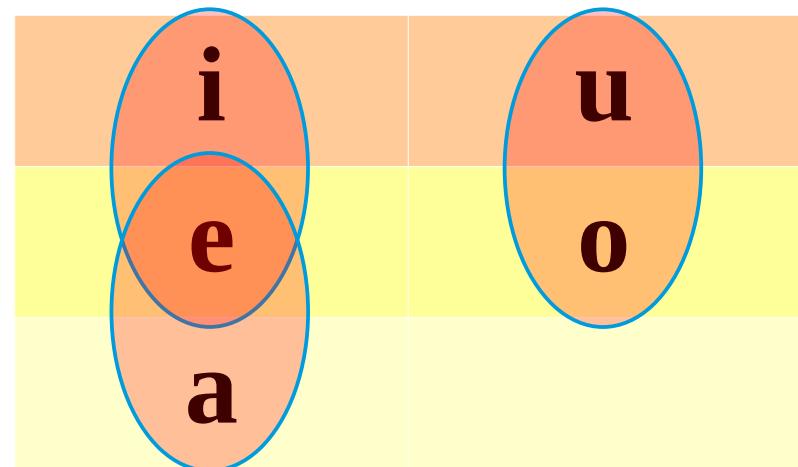
- the final vowel of a prefix is lost before another vowel
- assimilation:
 - $t+j > cc$
 - t assimilates completely to a following l or n
 - (*mirabile dictu*) $t > \dot{n}$ before η

Koryak vowel harmony

- if **-la** is present in the verb form,
all **e i u** in the word become **a e o**

Vowel harmony:

- morphemes contain
either high vowels (**e i u**)
or low vowels (**a e o**)
- if a low-vowel morpheme is present in the word,
all high-vowel morphemes lower their vowels



The assignments

19		ku		lle		ŋ	ə	n	<i>you_(sg)</i>	—	<i>lead</i>	<i>him</i>	
20		j	ine	jgu		ŋ		tək	<i>you_(du)</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>bite</i>	<i>me</i>	
21	t			ekmin				new	<i>I</i>	<i>did</i>	<i>catch</i>	<i>them_(pl)</i>	
22	t	ə	j		ohal	la	ŋ	tək	<i>I</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>wait_for</i>	<i>you_(pl)</i>	
23	mət		ko		nŋev	la	ŋ	ə	n	<i>we_(pl)</i>	—	<i>send</i>	<i>him</i>
24		je		lhu		ŋ		net	<i>you_(sg)</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>see</i>	<i>them_(du)</i>	
25	mət	ə		jgo	la			n	<i>we_(pl)</i>	<i>did</i>	<i>bite</i>	<i>him</i>	
26		k	en	akmel	la	ŋ		tək	<i>you_(pl)</i>	—	<i>catch</i>	<i>me</i>	
27	ne		ku		nŋiv		ŋ	ə	tək	<i>they</i>	—	<i>send</i>	<i>you_(du)</i>
28			ine	lle				tək	<i>you_(du)</i>	<i>did</i>	<i>lead</i>	<i>me</i>	

Judged hardest by 46 people (2nd)
Judged easiest by 13 people (4th)

- Average score: 7.89 (2nd easiest)
- Median: 7.3

Best solution:

Ənanmethachən tajkəgəjñən:

Best solution:

Ənanmethachən tajkəgəjnən:

Brest Lenarčič

(Slovenia)

Thank you!
Qajləm!