

Third person markings on the finite indicative forms in Tungusic

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This presentation aims to examine the third person markings on the finite indicative forms in Tungusic from the perspective of linguistic area. In this study, the presenter uses typological parameters of verbal person markings, which consist of number-marking and number-distinction in the third person. The analysis will show that the third person markings on the finite indicative forms in Tungusic are generally classified on the basis of geographical distribution as follows: (i) North Tungusic (Evenki, Even, Negidal): 3SG or both-marking and obligatorily-distinct, (ii) East Tungusic (Olcha, Nanay, Uilta, Udihe): zero or 3PL-marking, and optionally-distinct, and (iii) South Tungusic 1 (Solon, Hezhen): both or zero-marking and non-distinct, and (iv) South Tungusic 2 (Manchu): non-person marking. Concerning the neighboring languages, Yukaghir and Sakha in northern Siberia are considered to be obligatorily-distinct types and this feature is consistent with that of North Tungusic. In addition, Buryat and Dagur in Mongolic optionally mark the third person plural with nominal plural suffix on finite verbal forms, as is the case in East Tungusic. In contrast, Khalha Mongolian and Chinese, spoken in southern area, do not encode any person marker on the finite indicative forms, as with Manchu. In conclusion, the presenter raises a possibility that the differences among the third person markings on the finite indicative forms in Tungusic are attributed to the influence from the adjacent languages.