

Comparison of durational patterns in North Saami and Inari Saami languages

Katri Hiovain¹ & Helen Türk²

¹Department of Digital Humanities, University of Helsinki, Finland; ²Institute of Estonian and General Linguistics, University of Tartu, Estonia

This work compares the durational patterns of two neighboring Saami languages, North Saami and Inari Saami, in the realization of quantity contrast. It has been shown that the languages share the cross-linguistically rare typological feature of a ternary length contrast manifested at the boundary of a stressed and unstressed syllable (see Markus et al. 2013). It has been suggested that while in North Saami there is a greater durational difference between the first and second quantity compared to the difference between second and third quantity, in Inari Saami, the first and second quantity are closer to each other (Magga 1984; Markus et al., 2013). This difference is also reflected in the respective orthographies and the terminology used when describing the quantity systems in these languages (Bye et al. 2009; see the examples below).

North Saami	Q1 – short <i>gili</i> 'village' GEN/ACC.SG	Q2 – long <i>gilli</i> 'village' NOM.SG	Q3 – overlong <i>gol'li</i> 'gold' NOM.SG
Inari Saami	Q1 – short <i>palo</i> 'fear' ACC/GEN.SG	Q2 – half-long <i>palo</i> 'fear' NOM.SG	Q3 – long <i>pállu</i> 'ball' NOM.SG

Based on previous research, we also aim to compare the accompanying compensatory effects in the durational patterns of the vowels surrounding the intervocalic consonant. In the case of Inari Saami, the earlier studies have shown that the duration of both first and second syllable vowels are correlated with the duration of the intervocalic consonant (Türk et al. 2019) while in North Saami only the length of the *first* syllable vowel is inversely related to the length of the intervocalic consonant (Magga 1984, Hiovain & Šimko, 2019).

By using previously collected and analyzed speech data (Türk et al. 2019 for Inari Saami and Hiovain & Šimko 2019 for North Saami) from both Saami languages, we conduct a comparative analysis of phonetic realization patterns of North Saami and Inari Saami ternary quantity contrast in disyllabic test words.

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