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**A stratigraphy of Finnic and Saami loanwords in Germanic**

An important advance in etymological research in recent years is an increased importance of distinguishing different strata within loanword relations. That Finnic and Saami contain many early Germanic and other Indo-European loanwords has long been known, and while it has always been assumed that these borrowings reflect continuous processes of interaction across centuries or even millennia, it has only recently been shown how they can be separated into chronological layers, mainly on the basis of diverging sound substitutions (e.g. Sammallahti 2001; Koivulehto 2003; Aikio 2006, 2012; Kallio 2009, 2012, 2015).

Since I have claimed (e.g. Hyllested 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017) that borrowing at early stages also took place in the reverse direction, from Finnic and Saami to early Indo-European languages in Northern Europe, it seems timely to try to establish a corresponding stratigraphy of this, admittedly much smaller, material. For reasons of time and space, I will restrict myself to Germanic.

A handful of lexemes borrowed before the sound-laws defining Germanic actually operated, such as *o > *a and *k > h, are nevertheless confined to the Germanic area. I have previously suggested (Hyllested 2010, pace Ruohonen 2010) that PGmc. *haljō ‘hell, abode of the dead; female being presiding over it’ is a borrowing from Early Proto-Finnic *kolja ‘id.’ (Fi. Koljo ‘a giant connected with death’ ~ Mansi kul’- in names of the king of the netherworld, but in the rest of Uralic mostly ‘evil spirit’, ‘devil’ or ‘disease’), originally *kole-ja ‘the one who lets die’.

Since Saami contains loans from Pre-Proto-Germanic – such as N muošmi ‘meat between the thigh and ribs (of a reindeer)’ < Pre-PGmc.*moms-mo- ( > PGmc. *mamma- > Gothic mammo ‘flesh’; Hyllested 2014, pace Aikio 2012) – we may also expect to find Saami loanwords in Pre-Proto-Germanic predating the sound shift and vocalic changes. PGmc. *harunda/-ō- ‘flesh’ (> e.g. ON hǫrund ‘human flesh; skin’, OSw. harund ‘flesh; skin’, Early Mod.Da. harend ‘body’) is usually etymologized as a derivative of PIE *kH-ōn- ‘meat; flesh’ (Lat.
carō), but seems even closer to Proto-Saami *korōntē ‘butchered meat; carrion, carcass’ (> S ĝårrodh, N gorut, Inari koorood); it is already known to have been borrowed into N Fi.dial. as kurento ‘carcass’, and, remarkably, it belongs to the same narrow semantic field as muošmi which may instigate a discussion about whether such an argument is relevant for two reverse loan directions.

In my paper I sketch out a stratigraphic treatment of my earlier etymological proposals in both directions between Uralic and Indo-European/Germanic, and further present new etymological suggestions.

References


