



DATING AND LOCATING THE CONTACTS BETWEEN BALTIC AND PROTO-FINNIC

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Year	The Swedish timeline		The Finnish timeline		The North Baltic timeline	The Finnish periodization
2000		→	Modern Finnish			Modern Age
1900	Modern Swedish	many loan words	Early Mod. Finnish			
1800			Old Finnish			Middle Age
1700	Early Modern Swedish					
1600			Middle Age Finnish			Crusade Age
1500	Old Swedish	→				
1400		→				Viking Age
1300		→				
1200		→	Proto-West Finnish & Old Carelian			Merovingian Age
1100	Old East Scandinavian	few loan words				
1000			Early Northern Finnic			Migration Age
900	Early East Scandinavian	→				
800		→	Finnic			Roman Iron Age
700	Proto-Scandinavian	many loan words			NBa speakers shift to Proto-Finnic	
600		→	Coastal Late Proto-Finnic			Pre-Roman Iron Age
500	North Germanic	→				
400		→	Middle Proto-Finnic			Bronze Age
300	West Germanic	→				
200		→	Early Proto-Finnic			Proto-Balto-Slavic
100	Proto-Germanic	→				
0		→	Proto-Finnic			Proto-Finno-Permian
-100		→				
-200		→	Proto-Finnic			Proto-Finno-Permian
-300	Palaeo-Germanic	→				
-400		→	Proto-Finnic			Proto-Finno-Permian
-500		→				
-600		→	Proto-Finnic			Proto-Finno-Permian
-700	Palaeo-Germanic	→				
-800		→	Proto-Finnic			Proto-Finno-Permian
-900		→				
-1000		→	Proto-Finnic			Proto-Finno-Permian
-1100		→				
-1200		→	Proto-Finnic			Proto-Finno-Permian
-1300	Pre-Germanic	→				
-1400		→	Proto-Finnic			Proto-Finno-Permian
-1500		→				
-1600	Northern IE dialect	→	Proto-Uralic		Northern IE dialect	Neolithic Stone Age
-1700		→				
-1800		→				

The numerous (200–300) Baltic loanwords of Proto-Finnic are only datable with the help of the chronology of Finnic sound changes, since the written history of the Balto-Slavic languages is too short to build upon. The Finnic literary tradition that started with the Reformation, is not much longer, but the vast amount (500–1000) of Germanic loanwords from the period between 1000 BC and 500 AD allows us to use the better documented Germanic chronology as the starting point. The few but certain ancient Iranian loanwords in Finno-Permian give us a *terminus post quem* to the movement westwards that cut the contact with Iranian.

The table and the maps illustrate the latest attempts to date the spread of Uralic to the Baltic Sea region and the resulting emergence of the the westernmost Uralic branches, Saami and Finnic.

Middle Proto-Finnic (500 BC to 200 AD) is characterized by fundamental sound changes and extensive borrowing from both (Proto to NW) Germanic and a (North) Baltic language which did not survive to any historical sources. The contemporary Pre-Proto-Saami acquired an equally strong Germanic influence but only a few Baltic loans, mediated by Finnic. Proto-Finnic was spoken in present Estonia and Proto-Saami in present Southern Finland. The presence of Germanic speakers in the adjacent areas is undeniable.

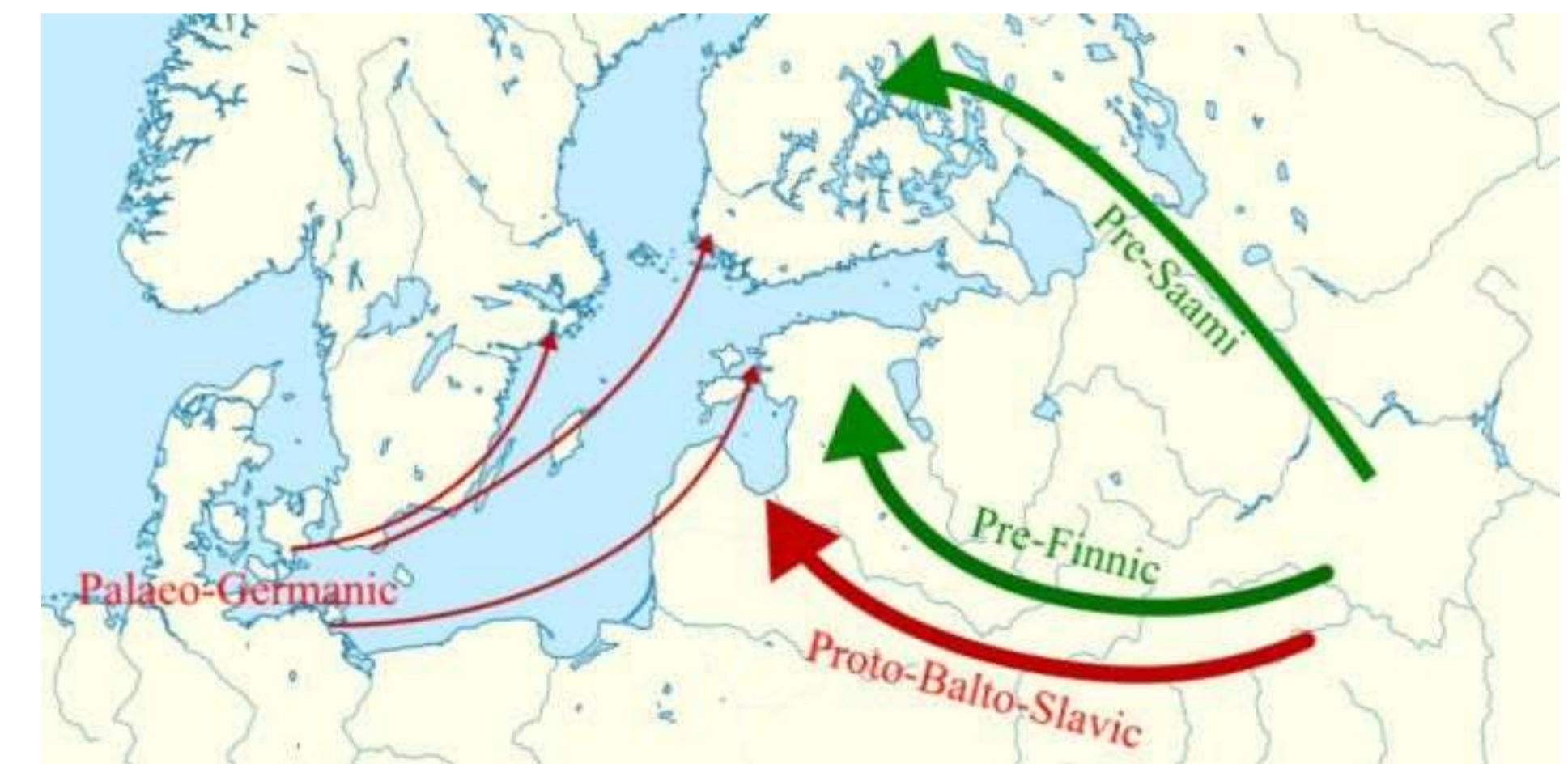
A smaller part of the loanwords must be older, acquired by Early Proto-Finnic (800 to 500 BC) from Palaeo-Germanic and Proto-Balto-Slavic. No phonological differences between Pre-Finnic, Pre-Saami and Pre-Mordvin can be traced to this period, which indicates that their geographical split was still recent. It is dated to the end of the Proto-West Uralic period (1300 to 800 BC) as the result of the spread of Western Uralic both westwards and northwestwards.

Some Pre-Balto-Slavic loanwords are widely distributed among all Finno-Permian languages, which proves them contemporary with the Proto-Iranian loans. Proto-Finno-Permian has also borrowed from a *kentum* dialect of PIE, often mentioned as Pre-Germanic. For geographical reasons it is rather identifiable with the extinct IE language that has given the well known *kentum* words of Balto-Slavic.

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1. The westernmost Uralic branches in their IE surroundings at 400 BC



2. The archaeologically traceable migrations from Mid-Volga region westwards between 1100 and 800 BC are connected to the spread of Western Uralic to the Baltic Sea region by Lang (2015, 2016). The southern migrational community was probably bilingual and brought both Proto-Balto-Slavic and Pre-Finnic to the Baltic region.



3. Western Uralic i.e. Proto-Finno-Permian and its contacts at 1500 BC