

# Reflection of contacts in the Evenki grammar

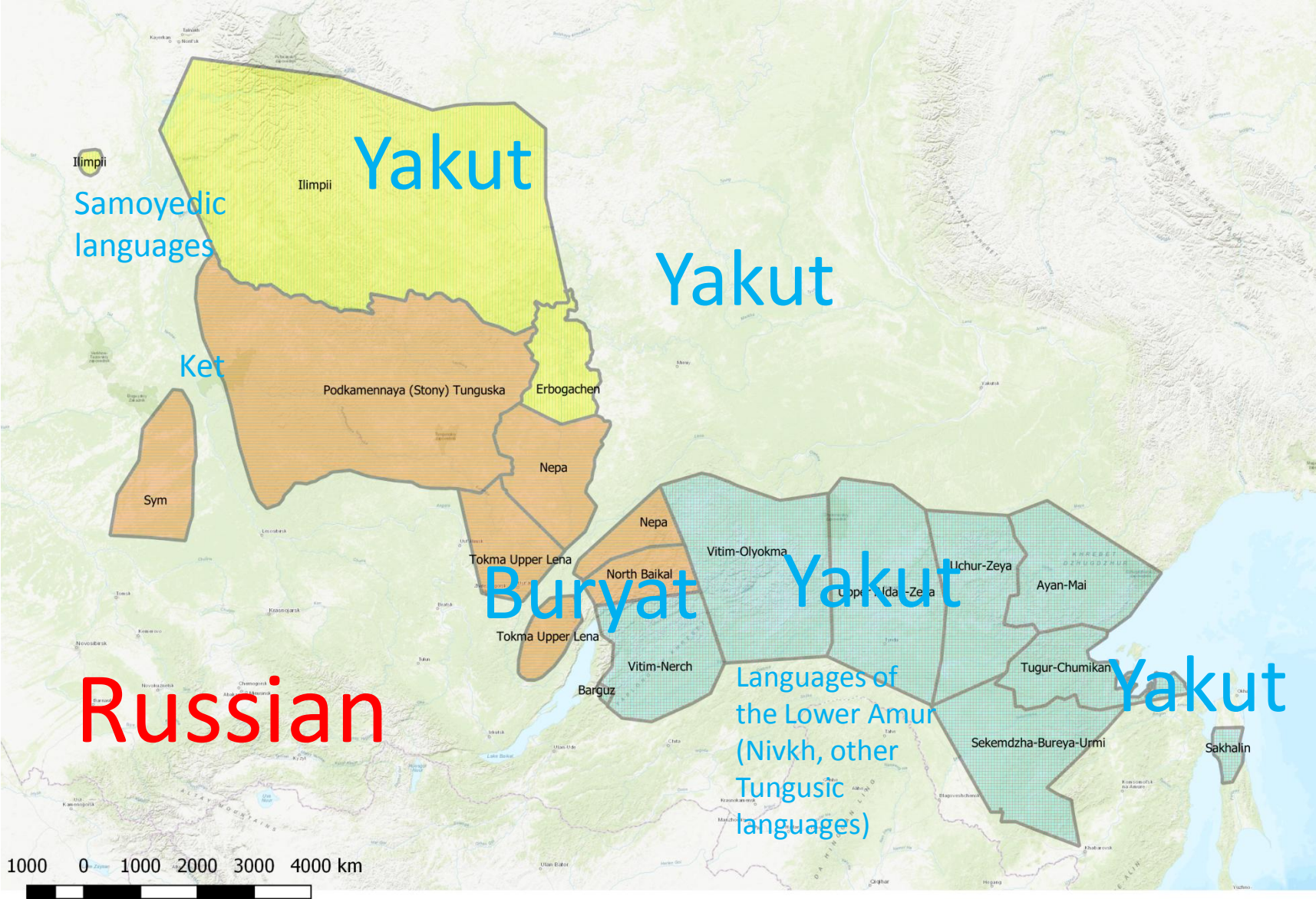


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# Contact areas for the Evenki dialects



# The effects of contacts

- Phonological
- Lexical
- Grammatical
- Jargons
  - Russian-Evenki jargon (G. M. Vasilevich)
  - Buryat-Evenki jargon (S. M. Shirokogoroff)
- Language shift

# Typical issues for contact studies in the Evenki grammar

- paradigm copying
- relative clause structure
- subordinate / coordinate clauses vs participial and converbial clauses
- imperative forms in non-imperative contexts
- word order (VO vs OV)

# Word order

- VO vs OV

ərdəlōn huru-p-śo-l tar **bəjə-wə**  
Totally go-TR-PTCP.ANT-PL that man-ACC

‘They carried that man away at all’

vs

**bəjə-wə** hərəkə-t o-wki:  
man-ACC separate-ADVZ make-PTCP.HAB

‘(God) made the man separately’

# Using corpus data for grammatical studies

- Modern texts
  - recorded during fieldwork in 1996—2019 in MSU expeditions
  - morphologically annotated and available at <http://gisly.net/corpus>
  - sociolinguistic profiles of the speakers and of the settlements
- Historical texts (20<sup>th</sup> century)
  - published texts (Poppe 1927, Vasilevich 1936, Vasilevich 1966), theses by T. Z. Pukshanskaya (1956), L. M. Brodskaya (1967) →
  - manual annotation
  - (gradually) OCR and semi-automatic annotation
  - sociolinguistic data in corresponding descriptions
    - sometimes contacts are mentioned directly
    - otherwise: languages which the narrator speaks, their education level etc

Collection	(modern) region	Date	Estimated language contact intensity
Vasilevich 1936	Sym	1930	Yeloguy and Dubches: <b>low</b> West: <b>high</b> (Selkup) Chulym: <b>high</b> (Russian, Chulym)
Poppe 1927	Barguzin	1926	<b>high</b> (Russian, Buryat)
Vasilevich 1966	Sakha Republic, Amur oblast	1948	<b>high</b> (Yakut) <b>medium</b> (Russian)
Vasilevich 1966	Khabarovsk krai	1948	<b>high</b> (Yakut) <b>medium</b> (Russian)

# Word order

- % of VO: from 5 to 40% of all verb + object structures
- larger percentage of VO in the areas with greater contact with Russian

but

- VO is frequent even in low-contact zones:
  - for pronouns
  - for participial clauses
  - in double-accusative constructions



# To sum up

- The corpus can help us to better distinguish between contact-induced and “original” features / to date contact-induced features
- VO in Evenki: not always contact-induced

# Further plans

- Larger corpus for more precise conclusions
- Include various genres, not only folklore
- Get more detailed descriptions of the area