



**LANGUAGE CONTACT IN THE  
CIRCUMPOLAR WORLD  
MOSCOW, 27–29TH OCTOBER 2017**

**URALIC LANGUAGES OF THE YAMALO-  
NENETS AUTONOMOUS AREA: A  
CHALLENGING CASE OF LANGUAGE  
CONTACT**



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## SUBJECT & POINT

- Four Uralic languages in the Yamalo-Nenets autonomous area.
- Nenets, Khanty, Selkup: variation between local dialects + centuries-long interaction.
  - + Izhma Komi from the XIX century => even more complicated interaction.
  - + Russian: constantly growing influence.
  - + Sociolinguistic variation.
  - + What is exactly borrowed?





## MAIN CONTACT AREAS

- North-West: Nenets, Khanty, Komi.
- West: Khanty, Komi.
- North-East (some villages): Nenets, Komi.
- East: Nenets, Selkup.
- South-East: Selkup, Khanty (not very active nowadays).

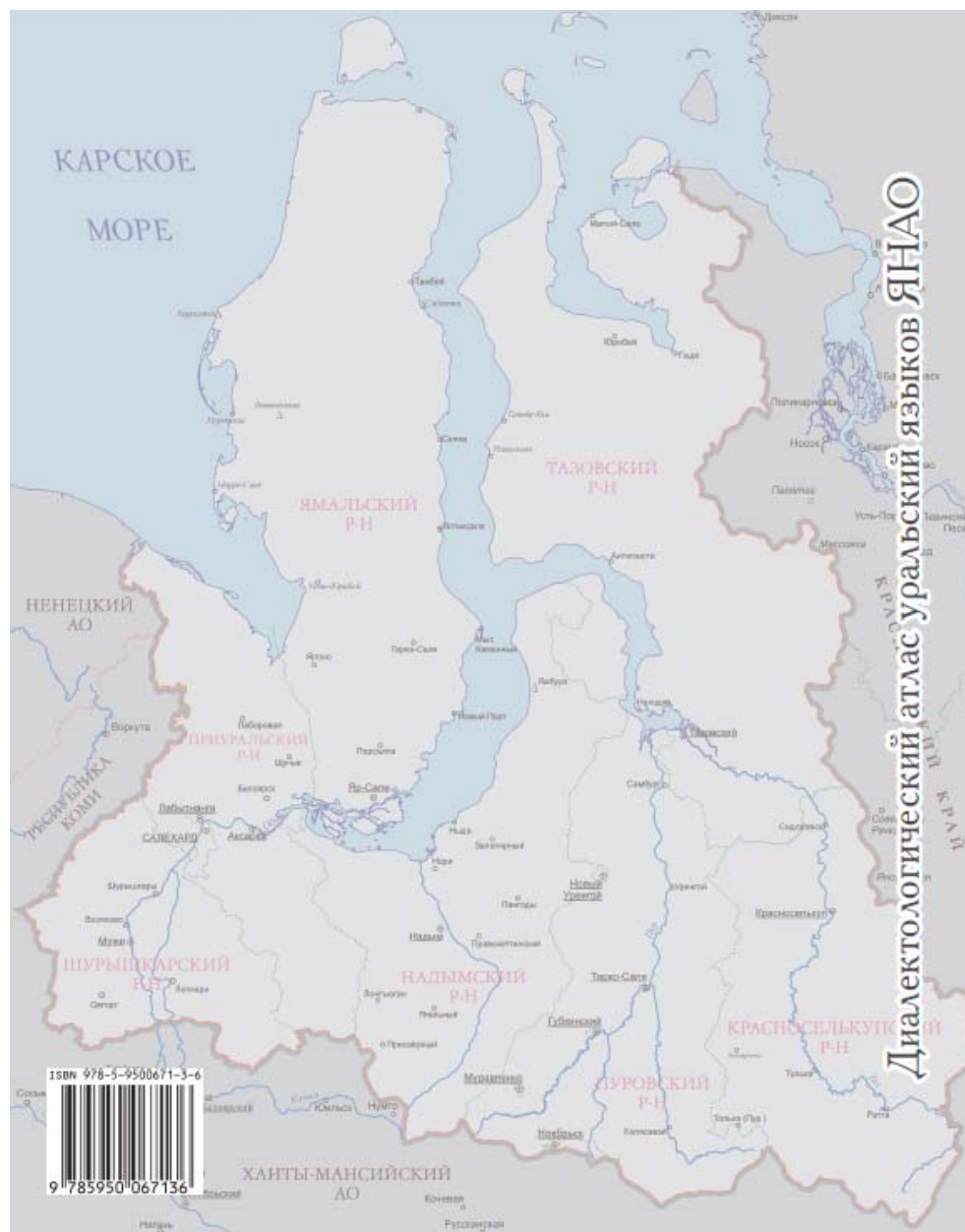


# DATA

- Fieldwork: more than 50 villages in 2006–2017.
  - + previous field data
  - + existing publications and archival materials
- Wordlist (1500-3000 items) for each local idiom.
- ~300 words from the list studied in a more detail (semantics, collocations, cultural connotations etc.).



# MONOGRAPH (IN PRESS)



Н. Б. Кошкарева,  
Е. В. Кашкин, Ю. Б. Коряков,  
О. А. Казакевич, С. И. Буркова,  
Н. А. Муравьев, Е. М. Будянская

## ДИАЛЕКТОЛОГИЧЕСКИЙ АТЛАС УРАЛЬСКИХ ЯЗЫКОВ, РАСПРОСТРАНЕННЫХ НА ТЕРРИТОРИИ ЯМАЛО-НЕНЕЦКОГО АВТОНОМНОГО ОКРУГА

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травя

Ямало-Ненецкий автономный округ



**К** коми  
**Х** хантыйский  
**Н** ненецкий  
**С** селькупский

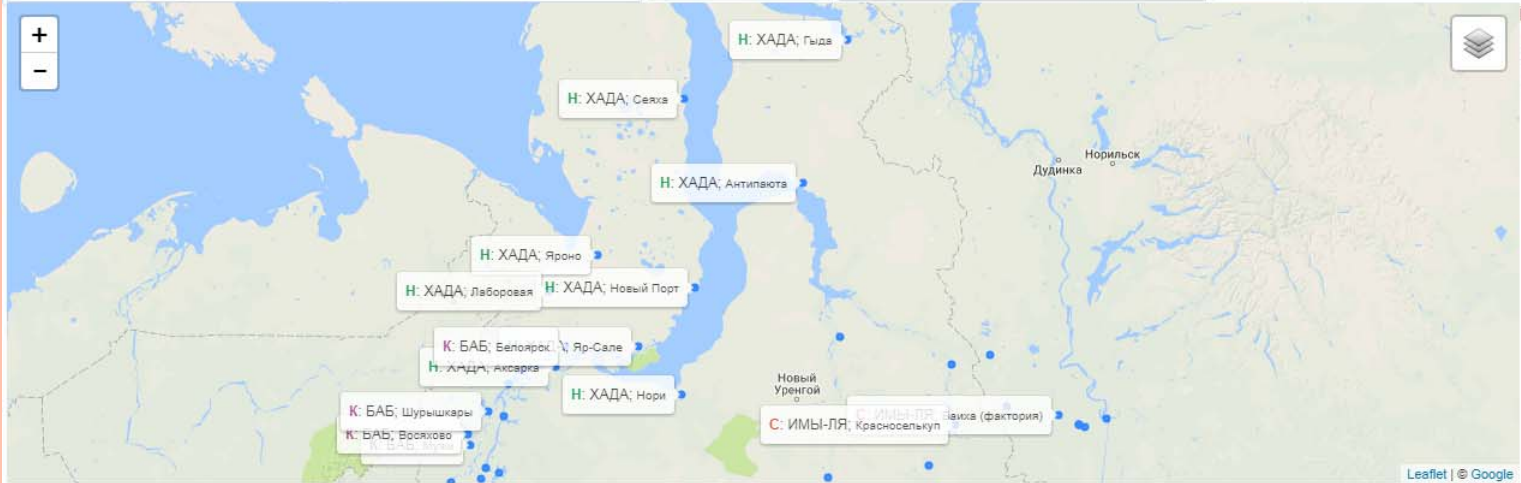


# ONLINE DATABASE

- <http://atlas.philology.nsc.ru/>
- Dictionaries + search + interactive online maps.
- Much more data to be added!







Гыда  
Ненецкий  
ХАДА  
бабушка  
Подробнее

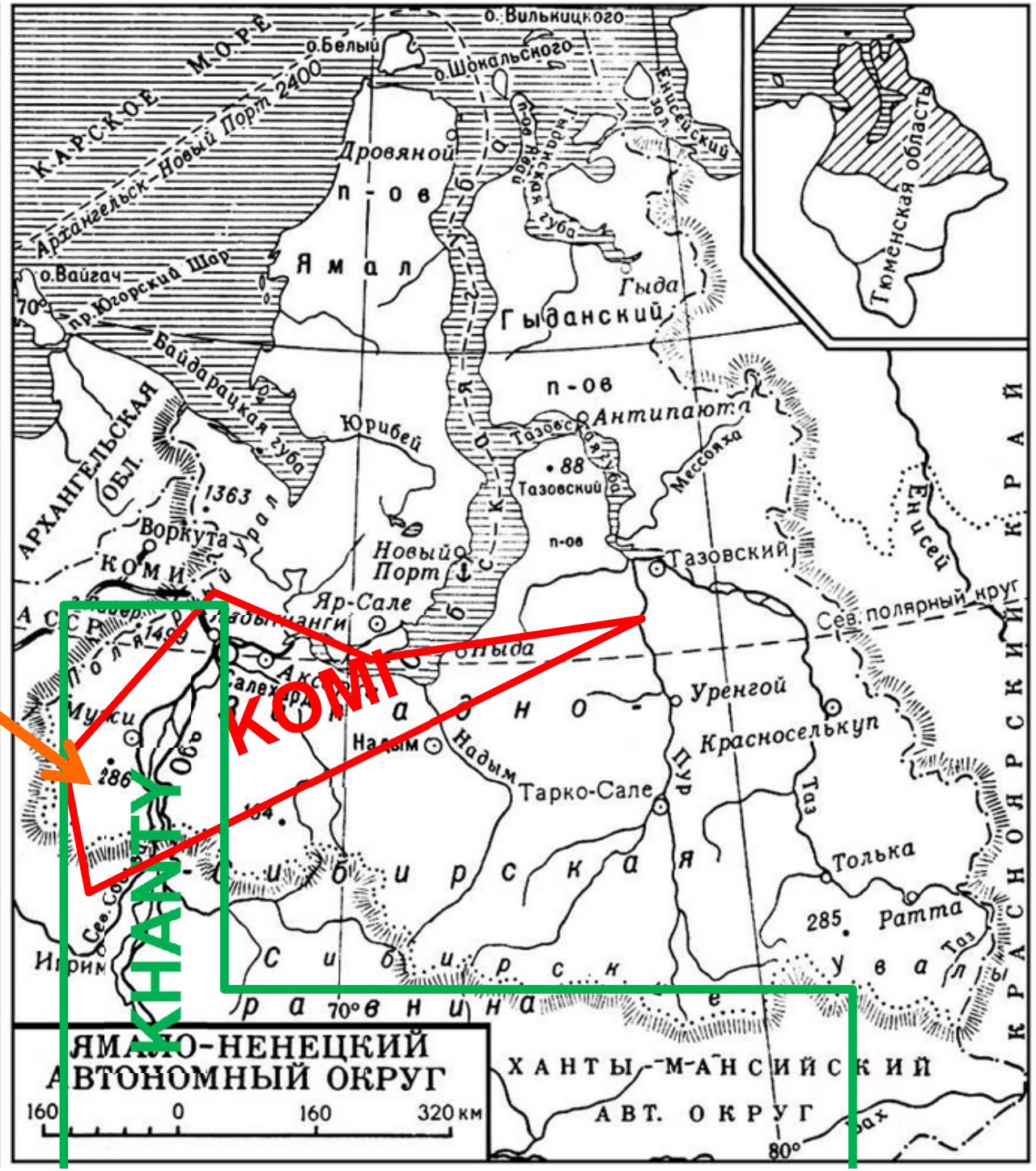


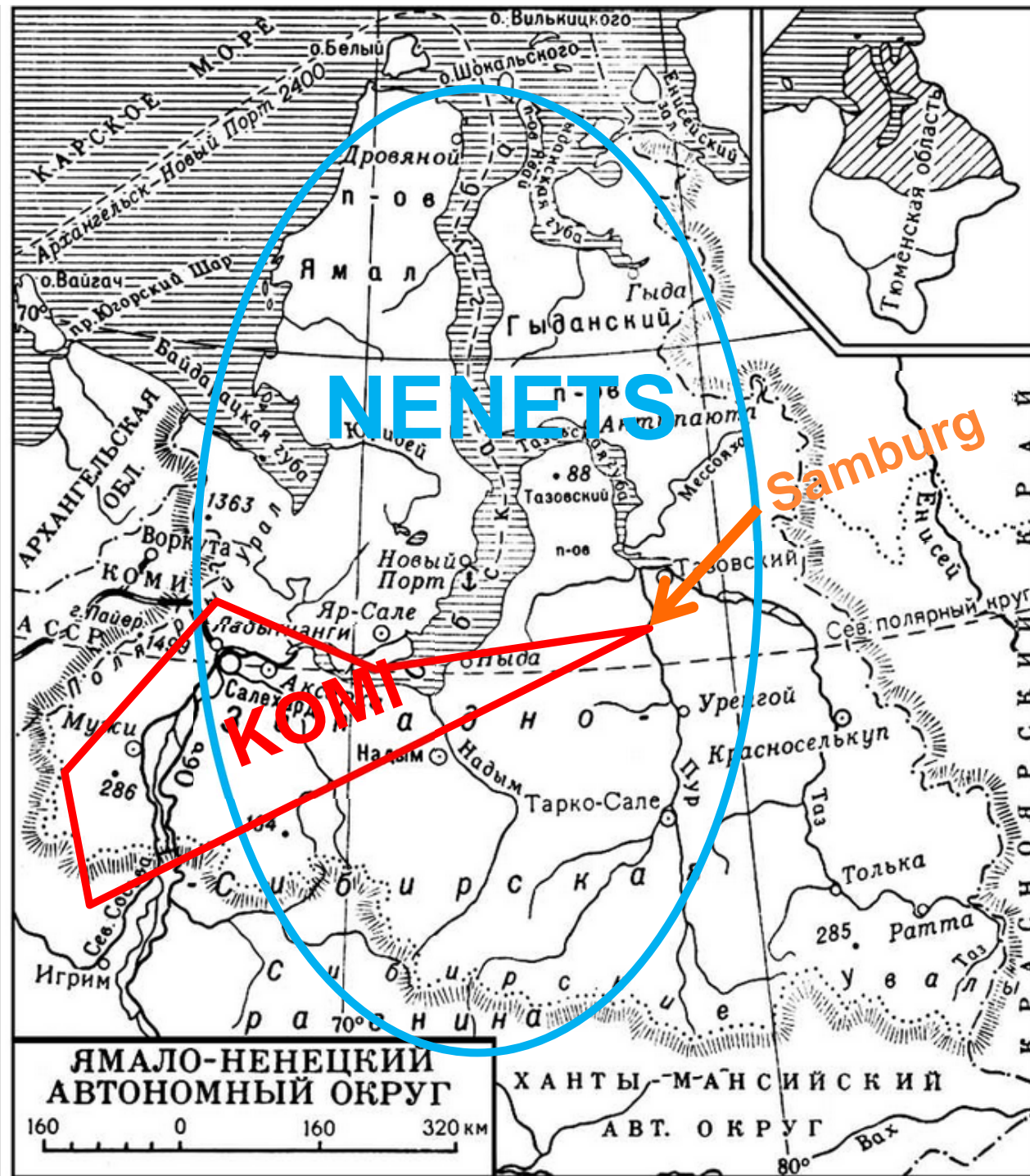
# SOCIOLINGUISTICS

- Not only geography influences the amount of contact-induced change.
- And not only the amount of speakers.
- Case study: the village of Ovgort (Khanty & Komi) vs. the village of Samburg (Khanty & Nenets).



Ovgort





# SOCIOLINGUISTICS

- Small groups of Komi (~100 speakers + semi-speakers) in foreign environment in both villages.
- The Nenets influence on Komi in Samburg is more prominent than the Khanty influence in Ovgort.
- Why?

	<b>Samburg</b>	<b>Ovgort</b>
Intermediary language in mixed families	Russian or Nenets	Russian
Mixed reindeer-herding communities	Yes	No
Neighbouring villages with Komi population	No	Yes

# LOAN TRANSLATIONS

- Not only borrowed words + meanings (with possible phonetic or semantic changes).
- But also loan translations (pattern borrowing).
- Two case studies:
  - ✓ Surface texture (Nenets → Khanty).
  - ✓ Cardinal directions (Nenets, Khanty → Komi).



## SURFACE TEXTURE: BACKGROUND [KASHKIN 2013]

- Visual vs. tactile perception (~ Eng. *flat, level* vs. *smooth* Rus. *ровный* vs. *гладкий*) + some further oppositions.
- ‘Slippery’: separate lexicalization, but sometimes polysemous with ‘smooth’.
- Bearing surface (e.g. a road, a floor) vs. object slipping out of one’s hands (e.g. fish, a ball).
- Sometimes separate: bearing surface covered with ice (e.g. an icy road).



# SURFACE TEXTURE: KHANTY

Contexts	Village of Tegi	Village of Shuryshkary	Village of Muzhi	Village of Beloyarsk
Icy road	wǒł'ək	wǒł'ək	wǒł'ək	wǒł'ək / násti
Slippery floor	wǒł'ək	wǒł'ək	wǒł'ək	ńăsti
Slippery sole of shoes	wǒł'ək	wǒł'ək	wǒł'ək	ńăsti
Slippery fish	wǒł'ək	wǒł'ək	–	ńăsti
Smooth skin of hands	wǒł'ək / –	–	–	pajli
Smooth wooden board	wǒł'ək / –	wǒł'ək	pajli	pajli
Level road, floor	pajli	pajli	pajli	pajli
Smooth water surface	–	–	–	pajli / –



## **SURFACE TEXTURE: NENETS**

- Special lexeme for icy bearing surface: *salət°q*
- Polysemous adjective for 'smooth' & 'level': *salmuy°*
- Dominant verbal lexeme for '(being) slippery': *nøsadør-*



# NENETS INFLUENCE?

Patterns	Khanty: Shuryshkary dialect + Tegi	Khanty: Obdorsk dialect (Beloyarsk + the same on 'slippery' from Katravozh)	Nenets
Special lexeme for icy bearing surface	No	Yes	Yes
Polysemy 'smooth' & 'level'	No or limited combinability	Yes	Yes
Dominant verbal lexeme for '(being slippery)'	No	Yes	Yes

## CARDINAL DIRECTIONS: STANDARD KOMI

- Orientation on periods of the day, cf. dictionary data from [Lytkin (ed.) 1961]:
  - ✓ North – *voj* ‘night’, *vojvyv* ‘night + top’.
  - ✓ South – *lun* ‘day’, *lunvyv* ‘day + top’.
  - ✓ West – *ryt* ‘evening’, *rytyv* (< *ryt*).
  - ✓ East – *asyv* ‘morning’, *asyvvyv* ‘morning + top’.
- Similar in European Komi dialects, see [KSK].



## CARDINAL DIRECTIONS: SIBERIAN KOMI

- Accommodation of strategies to those of the indigenous languages.
- Flow of big rivers:
  - ✓ Komi (Muzhi, Vosyahovo, Ovgort, Beloyarsk): *katyd* ‘south = upper reach’, *kyytyd* ‘north = lower reach’, cf. Khanty *owəs* ‘north’ (< *ow* ‘mouth of a river’), *nŭm muw* ‘south (lit.: upper land)’.
- Ural Mountains:
  - ✓ Komi (Muzhi, Vosyahovo, Ovgort, Beloyarsk): *iz* ‘stone; Urals; West’, cf. the same for Khanty *kew*, Nenets *pæq nyangi*<sup>o</sup> (lit.: side of the stone).
- Solar cycle:
  - ✓ Komi (Samburg): *šondy leččann’in* ‘West, lit.: a location where the sun sets’; *šondy kavann’in* ‘East, lit.: a location where the sun rises’. The same patterns exist in Nenets.

# WHAT IS BORROWED

- Typological expectations: <http://wold.clld.org/> (The World Loanword Database)
- Our data: complete statistical comparison is impossible, as the wordlists were quite different.
- But some tendencies can be observed.
- NB: no data on loan translations in WOLD.



# WHAT IS BORROWED: WOLD

## Meanings

Semantic fields

All meanings

Showing 1 to 24 of 24 entries

← Pre

No.	Name	Number of meanings	Borrowed score
<input type="text" value="Search"/>	<input type="text" value="Search"/>	<input type="text" value="True"/>	<input type="text" value="Search"/>
23	Modern world	58	0.64
19	Social and political relations	76	0.64
22	Religion and belief	40	0.49
8	Agriculture and vegetation	128	0.45
24	Miscellaneous function words	29	0.44
7	The house	53	0.40
6	Clothing and grooming	68	0.40
5	Food and drink	103	0.37
18	Speech and language	53	0.36
21	Law	28	0.36
11	Possession	53	0.34
20	Warfare and hunting	48	0.34
9	Basic actions and technology	112	0.33
13	Quantity	47	0.33

## WHAT IS BORROWED: OUR DATA

Agriculture, household etc. – many loanwords, cf. reindeer herding terms, parts of traditional dwellings:

- Nenets *ngútoq* → Izhma Komi *utyča* ‘a sledge for wooden boards, fell, dishes, poles’.
- Nenets *syabu* → Izhma Komi *s’abuča* ‘a sledge for bedding’.
- Nenets *ngu* → Izhma Komi *yy* ‘a pole in a chum’.
- Nenets *súyu* → Khanty *sūjəw* ‘a calf of a reindeer’



## WHAT IS BORROWED: OUR DATA

Many loanwords (or loan translations) in the domains where borrowing is not much expected in typology.

- Cardinal directions (see above)
- Kinship
  - ✓ Komi *mužyk* ‘husband’ (< Rus.), *bab* ‘grandmother’ (< Rus.), *ded* ‘grandfather’ (< Rus.).
  - ✓ Obdorsk Khanty (Gornoknyazevsk): *xada* ‘grandmother (from either maternal or paternal line)’ (< Nenets), cf. *aŋkaŋki* ‘grandmother (maternal)’ vs. *šaši* ‘grandmother (paternal)’ common for Western Khanty.
- Body parts:
  - ✓ Komi *roža* ‘face’ (a neutral term; < Rus. pejorative)
- Some qualitative concepts
  - ✓ Khanty *nǎš* ‘blunt (about a knife etc.)’ < Komi *nyž* [Lytkin, Gulyayev 1970: 196]





## CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

- Active interaction between the Uralic languages of the area + Russian.
- Variation in sociolinguistic situations.
- Historically it was more widespread, but it still exists and at least its results can be observed.
- Loanwords + loan translations.
- Attested patterns of borrowing are not always expected typologically => the result of intense contact?
- However is it correct to expect the same semantic patterns from loanwords and loan translations?
- Variation in phonetics and grammar: some data exist, but in general it needs more research.



**Thank you for your attention!**

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