

# THE IDEA OF A MULTILINGUAL CONCEPT-BASED COLLECTION OF DIALECT VOCABULARY (EXAMPLE: BODY PARTS IN ESTONIAN AND VOTIC DIALECTS)

Vilja Oja  
Institute of the Estonian Language, Tallinn

It is particularly important to study vocabulary on dialect level, where some archaic linguistic phenomena may still have survived, or some innovations emerged, even if in quite a limited area. Also, dialect material is the traditional object of geolinguistics. The cultural diversity with its regional peculiarities of material culture (e.g. tools and utensils, way of living) as well as of language (dialects and dialect groups), let alone the influences of ethnic minorities and ruling nations can well be followed in linguistic atlases.

The lexical maps of the dialect atlas of European languages, *Atlas Linguarum Europae* (ALE), give us an idea of the areal distribution of word stems in Europe, enabling conclusions about language contacts and about the true origin of word stems. In addition, comparison of naming motives should help identify translation loans. Dialect vocabulary for the gigantic ALE project was collected by linguists of European countries in 2631 localities in the European territory. In the ALE lexical questionnaire (ALEQ) there are 546 concepts. However, under the circumstances only about a quarter of the collected material will be included in the atlas.

I suggest that research access could still be provided to the whole collected language material by presenting the dialect words left out of the ALE in ENeL web portal, preferably in a common database. Maybe the members of WG4 could help make the existing dialect data of their languages available to all?

In my opinion it would be reasonable to systematize the material by concept groups, presenting the dialect vocabulary on an onomasiological basis and in parallel from different languages. Often onomasiological researches contribute to etymologization. For example, analysis of concept-based vocabulary in Estonian and cognate languages and comparison of the words with their equivalents in contact languages have shown us the way to several etymologies. Onomasiological research is also unavoidable for compilers of linguistic atlases.

As an example I compiled a list of body part names, parallel in Estonian and Votic dialects, using ALE collections with some additions. Why did I choose the concept group of body parts? (1) These concepts are not (and will not) published in ALE. (2) The concepts of the group are well known for all peoples everywhere. Therefore it is possible to complete similar list of equivalents in whatever language pair. (3) Body parts are as old as the humankind.

The order of concepts in my list follows the numbers in the ALE Questionnaire. The meaning is written in Standard English and German. The next field gives the numbers of drawings in the ALE questionnaire. The Estonian and Votic dialect equivalents are written using standard fonts here. Only some diacritics are used to mark palatalization of consonants, like *l̄ n̄ r̄ š̄*. Besides the ALE collections my list includes some additional material, part of which has been published in the *Atlas Linguarum Fennicarum* (ALFE). Due to apocope of Estonian words the quality of the stem-final vowel occurring in oblique cases has been added. In some cases, variants originating from different loan sources can be recognized by the stem vowels.

ALFE is the 3-volume Finnic atlas, published in the years 2004–2010. This atlas includes maps and commentaries on dialect vocabulary for over 300 concepts from all Finnic languages. Among them the equivalents for nine human body parts are treated in the second

volume (ALFE 2, maps No 174–182). Most of the Estonian dialect material has been drawn from the collections of the Lexical Archive of Estonian Dialects in the Institute of the Estonian Language, Tallinn (EMSUKA), and supplemented by relevant information. Many Estonian dialect words have been categorized in conceptual groups in the Conceptual Dictionary of the Estonian Language compiled by Andrus Saareste (1958–1963).

The studies on the diachronic and areal relations of the Estonian word stems have been supported by the Estonian Science Foundation (Grant ETF9367).

## BODY PARTS IN ESTONIAN AND VOTIC DIALECTS

ALE Q I No.	Concept in English	Concept in German	ALE Q II No.	Words in Estonian dialects	Words in Votic dialects	Some references/ comments
144	skin	Kopf	87	nahk G naha ihu	nahka, nahkõ G nahгаа	ALFE 175; Oja 2009
145	head	Haut		pea, pää	pää, peä	
146	hair	Haare	88	juuksed G juuste pl. juused, juusse (hiused, hiusse)	ivu(h)sõd hiusõd juuhsõd	
150	beard	Bart		habe G habeme habe G (h)abena abena pl. tant. pard	parta g parraa	
151	moustache	Schnurrbart		vuntsid pl. mundsi pl. vurrud pl. vurrid pl. pard kihvad pl. porsa pl. moka habe moku habe tuts parrad pl. tuts perid pl. tuts paari pl. tuts paruk tuts pärk	uusad uusõd uussa	
152	temple	Schläfe	89	meele koht G -koha meele kotuss S-E mõistuse koht elu koht oimu koht oheme koht uimed	viska	ALFE 177; Neetar 2012
153	face	Gesicht	90	nägu (nägõ) G nāo silm nägu silma nägu silm(ä) nägõ pale	nāko loomad jumõ haaʹa liitsa	Est. pale and Vot. liitsa also ‘cheek’

154	forehead	Stirn	91	ots G otsa otsa esine, -esi ots(a) edine otsa edune õtsa eesik	õttsa loba	stand. Est. also: laup
155	cheek	Wange	92	põsk G põse pale G palge palges asu	põski	palges asu us. pl.; also 'sideburns'
156	mouth	Mund	93	suu	suu	
157	lip (lips)	Lippe		huul, pl. huuled mokk, pl. mokad	uuli	
158	jaw	Kinnbacke	94	lõug G lõua, lõvva koon G -u	lõuka, louka	koon, also 'muzzle'
159	tooth	Zahn		(h)ammas(s) G amba pl. hambad, hammad	ammõz ammas G ampaa	
160	molar	Backenzahn		puri hammas, purimine hammas purimane hammas puremane hammas purimise hammas tagumine hammas	poro ammaz taku ammaz leipä ammaz	
162	neck	Hals	95	kael (kaul, kaal) G -a	kagl(a), kagle	
163	shoulder	Schulter	96	õlg (olg.), pl. õlad õla arde piht G piha abud pl.	pihta	piht, abud also 'scruff, nape'
164	armpit	Achselhöhle	97	kaen(d)la auk G -augu kain(d)lu auk kaen(d)la alune kain(d)lu alune kaindla alus kain(d)la aluse auk kain(d)la lohk, kaendl abu kañdla alune kañdli alune kañdlalohk kañgla alune kañgla alutse lohk kañla tsomp kaindliku alune kaindliku auk	kainalo aluz kainolo aluz kainon aluz kainõn aluz kainan(n) aluz	
165	arm	Arm	98	käsi G kae, kää käsi vars kæ vars	tšäsi, käsi	

166	hand	Hand	99	käsi G kää, kää laba käsi kää laba (kää-) kämmal, kämmäl kämmel G käm(b)le kämbe	tšäsi russo tšäsi kiista tšäe ripsi	kämmal etc. also 'palm'
168	fist	Faust	100	rusik, ruńk G -u, -a rusikas rüsikas kulak(as) G kulaka kulak G kulaku S-E nürk	kulak kulakka	
169	finger	Finger	101	sõrm G -e näpp G näpu	sõrmi näppi	
170	wrist	Handgelenk	102	(kää) ranne (kää)rande (kää)rannes (kää)ranmes (kää)rammes (kää)randme (kää)ramme (kää)ramne (kää)jakk rusk (kää)rusu ruse (kää)ruhtu	rüssüz ruššo tšäe ripsi vohimõ	
171	leg	Bein	103	jalg G jala	jalka, jalga	
172	knee	Knie	104	põlv, põlv	põlvi	
173	thigh	Obver- schenkel	105	reis G reie kints (kint) G -u kinnar G kindra põtk, põkk G -a	reisi lobatka pakara laška, láška	
174	calf	Wade	106	sääre mari G -marja seere mari S-E jala mari jala kõht sääre tumm	sääri marja	ALFE 178; Neetar 2012
175	foot	Fuss	107	jalg G jala laba jalg jala laba jala põid	jalka, jalga jalka laba	
176	back	Rücken	108	selg, G selja, sellä (selgä G seljä) sälg S-E, G sällä, sälä	seltšä, seltš G sellää, sellää	

	eye	Auge	109	silml G -a	silmlä, silml	
184	eyes	Augen	110	silmlad (silmlä)	silmläd	
185	eyebrows	Augenbrauen		pl.silml kulmlud silml kolmlu S-E	kulmla brova	
186	eyelid	Augenlid	111	silml laud silml lau silml laug silml lakk ümlber nahk	laki pl. silml lagöd kansi katto	ALFE 182; Neetar 2012
187	eyelash	Wimper	112	silml ripsid silml ripsed silml ripsäd silml ripsmed ripsi karvad silml karvad	silmlä ripsi ripsa ripsu rüpsü silml karva	
192	ear	Ohr		körv G -a, korva	körva, körvö	
196	nose	Nase		nina nenä, nõna	nenä	
	blood	Blut		veri G vere	veri	ALFE 174; Oja 2006
	crown	Scheitel		pea lagi, pää- G -lae lagi pää lagi paik G -paiga	pää laki (pää)kukkula	alfe 179; Neetar 2012
	nostril	Nasenloch, Nüster		nina södöre nina södöres nina södöra nina södörm nina södörme nina södörmes nina södörmas nina södörmeh nina auk G -augu	(nenää)södörmöt (nenää)seermet (nenää)aukko pl. aukot hookum pl. hookumat, hookumöt, hookomat, hookomöt	ALFE 181; Neetar 2012
	gum	Zahnfleisch		ige, igem pl. igemed igi, igim ide, idem	ikemet itšemet	ALFE 176; Neetar 2012
	body	Körper, Rumpf		keha kere	ruumiz, ruumöz G ruumõ(õ) ruuma teela, tiela	
	thumb	Daumen		pöi al, pei al G -la peigal päss päkk	peukalo	Saareste 1924: 99–100

## Abbreviations

Est. = Estonian

G = genitive case

pl. = plural

pl. tant. = *plurale tantum*, plural

S-E = South-Estonian dialects

Vot. = Votic

## References

- ALEQ = *Atlas Linguarum Europae: Premier Questionnaire, I. Texte, II. Livre de Dessins*. Eds: Antonius Angelus Weijnen, et al. Nimègue 1973: Secrétariat de la Rédaction de l'A.L.E.
- ALFE = *Atlas Linguarum Fennicarum*. Itämerensuomalainen kielikartasto. Läänemerresoome keeleatlas. Ostseefinnischer Sprachatlas. ALFE 1.–3. Compilers and editors: Anneli Hänninen, Raimo Jussila, Arvo Laanest, Heikki Leskinen, Helmi Neetar, Vilja Oja, Vladimir Rjagojev (resp. ed. Vol. 3), Seppo Suhonen (resp. ed. Vol. 1), Tuomo Tuomi (ed. in chief), Tiit-Rein Viitso (resp. ed. Vol. 2), Nina Zaitseva. (Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seuran Toimituksia 800/1295. Kotimaisten kielten tutkimuskeskuksen julkaisuja 118/159.) Helsinki: Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, Kotimaisten kielten tutkimuskeskus 2004–2010.
- Neetar, Helmi 2012. Kehaosade nimetustest läänemerresoome keeleatlases. Summary: Names of body parts in the Atlas of Finnic Languages. In: *Emakeele Seltsi Aastaraamat 57* (2011). Tallinn: Teaduste Akadeemia Kirjastus 103–116.
- Oja, Vilja 2006. Terms for blood in the Finnic Atlas: cognates and contacts. In: Agris Timuška (ed), *Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Dialectologists and Geolinguists*. Riga: Latvian Language Institute, University of Latvia, 374–381.
- Oja, Vilja 2009. On the semantics of the noun *nahka* in Finnic languages. In: Kallasmaa, Marja and Vilja Oja (eds), *Kodukeel ja keele kodu /Home language and the home of a language*. (Eesti Keele Instituudi Toimetised 13.) Tallinn: Eesti Keele Sihtasutus, 141–159.
- Saareste, Albert (Andrus) 1924. *Leksikaalseist vahekordadest eesti murretes I*. Analüüs. Résumé: Du sectionnement lexicologique dans les patois estoniens I. Analyse. (Acta et Commentationes Universitatis Dorpatensis B, VI 1.) Tartu.
- Saareste, Andrus 1958–1963. *Eesti keele mõisteline sõnaraamat I–IV. Dictionnaire analogique de la langue Estonienne. Avec un index pourvu des traductions en français I–IV*. [Conceptual Dictionary of the Estonian Language.] (Eesti Teadusliku Seltsi Rootsis väljaanne, 3.) Stockholm: Vaba Eesti.

The thick dialect of the working class of Edinburgh can be heard in the movie *Trainspotting*. In the Highlands, especially the Western Islands, English is often people's second language, the first being Scottish Gaelic. Highland English is pronounced in a lilting fashion with pure vowels. Speaking of slaves, southern speech in particular was influenced by slave speech habits, which in turn were based in part on original African languages and in part on the creoles which spread from the African coast and the West Indies. When southerners say "I done lost it," they are using a slave creole construction. Dialect refers to a pattern of speech used in a particular region or area of a country. Different dialects can also be used by different classes of people. Writers often use dialects to develop setting and characters. Examples of Dialect: Examples of Use of Dialect in Literature. 1. In *My Fair Lady*, Eliza Doolittle has a specific working-class dialect, which the Professor attempts to educate out of her so that she can pass as a "lady." Lots of chocolate for me to eat! / Lots of coal makin' lots of heat / Warm face, warm hands, warm feet / Oh, wouldn't it be lovely? 2. In *H 3*. Social dialects The stereotypical dialects speaker is an elderly rural person who is all but unintelligible to modern city dwellers. But dialects are simply linguistic varieties which are distinguishable in vocabulary grammar and pronunciation. The speech of people from different social, as well as regional, groups may differ in this ways. Just as RP is a social account, so Standard English is a social dialect. It is dialect used by well-educated English speaker throughout the world. It is variety used for national news broadcast and in print, and it is variety generally through in