

# Language change and maintenance in the Permian languages

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# Permian languages: Komi, Komi-Permyak and Udmurt



# Permian people:

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>1989</b>
Udmurts	552,300 (62%)	637,000 (67,5%)	747,000 (75,7%)
Komi (Zyrjans)	228,000 (60%)	293,000	345,000 (70%)
Komi-Permyaks	94,000 (61%)	125,000	152,000 (70,1%)

<http://www.perepis-2010.ru/>

# Objective:

To demonstrate how particular “linguistic culture” (the term of Shiffman) and language ideology can influence on peoples’ attitudes toward their languages’ change.

# Theoretical framework

- Contact-induced change occurs when a borrowed item is used permanently and by the majority of speakers (M. Yaron 2009).
- (Russian) language interference is regarded as a continuum of borrowing and codeswitching (M. Yaron 2009).
- In the present study one example of externally motivated language change will be demonstrated (language planning).
- Language planning in the Soviet Union (Crisp 1989; Kirkwood 1989; Kreindler 1989).
- Linguistic culture (Schiffman 1996), Russian linguistic culture (Edygarova 2016)
- Standard language cultures (Milroy 2001), Standard language cultures and minority languages (Edygarova 2016)

# Example

Russian suffix *-yj* (*-ij*), *-aja*, and *-oje*:

*sovetsk-ij*, *sovetsk-aja*, *sovetsk-oje*

## Komi variant

-öj (-ij, -yj)

sövetsk-**öj**

## Udmurt variant

-oj (-ij, -yj)

sovetsk-**oj**

(anglijsk-**ij** kyl 'English language',  
muzykl'n-**yj** *kružok* 'Musical circle')

# History of the use of Komi –öj and Udmurt -oj

- Before 1950: variation of suffixes, the use of proper suffixes as well, e.g. **sa-** in Komi language

Сöвет-**са** or сöветск-**öй**, *Сöветск-öй Союз-са Герой* "Герой советского Союза" (Baraksanov 1964: 51)

- After 1950: **-öj** in Komi and **-oj** in Udmurt were officially established as a standard variant.
- After Perestroika: The suffixes had register shift and became a vernacular style. Proper suffixes were used in the standard language, e.g. **-sa** in Komi, and several in Udmurt (nominative, adverbial etc.)

Udm. Sovet-**o** Sojuz 'Soviet Union'

Komi: Sövet-**sa** Sojuz



# The use of suffixes by modern speakers

## Data:

- 26 Udmurt informants and 29 Komi informants;
- Translating test
- The same category of the informants: male-female, age category, 2 dialect groups and mixed dialect group (in the capital city),
- The knowledge of language varieties:  
  
a) high b) medium and c) low knowledge of the standard variety

Example sentence in Russian (from the Translating Test):

*Ja l'ub-lju sidet' v škol'noj bibl'iot'ek-e.*

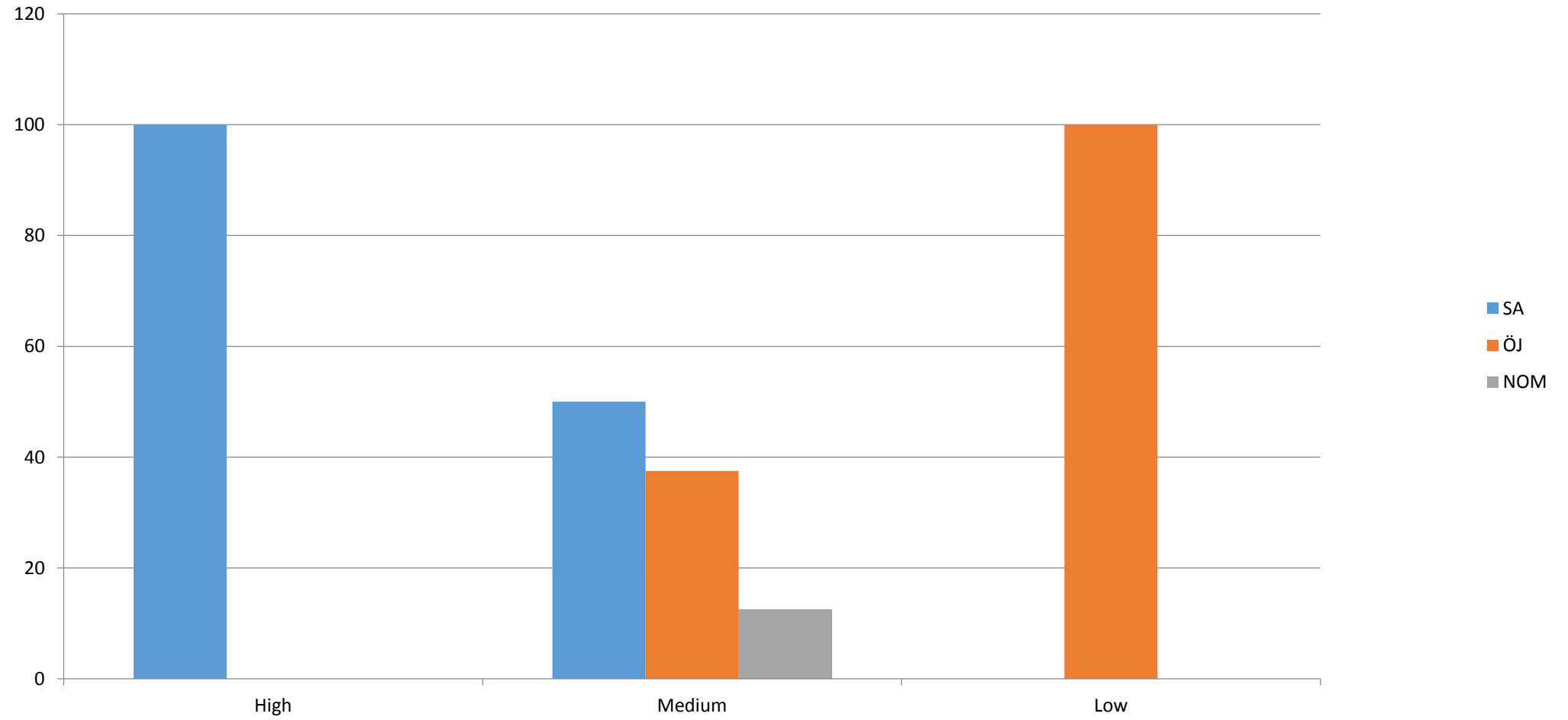
1SG like-PRS.1SG sit.INF in school.ADJ.F.PREP library-PREP

'I like to sit in school library.'

## Results of Komi informants:

- 1) школьн-öй библиотекаын (17)**
- 2) школа-са библиотекаын (11)**
- 3) школа библиотекаын (1)**

# Komi –SA and -ÖJ

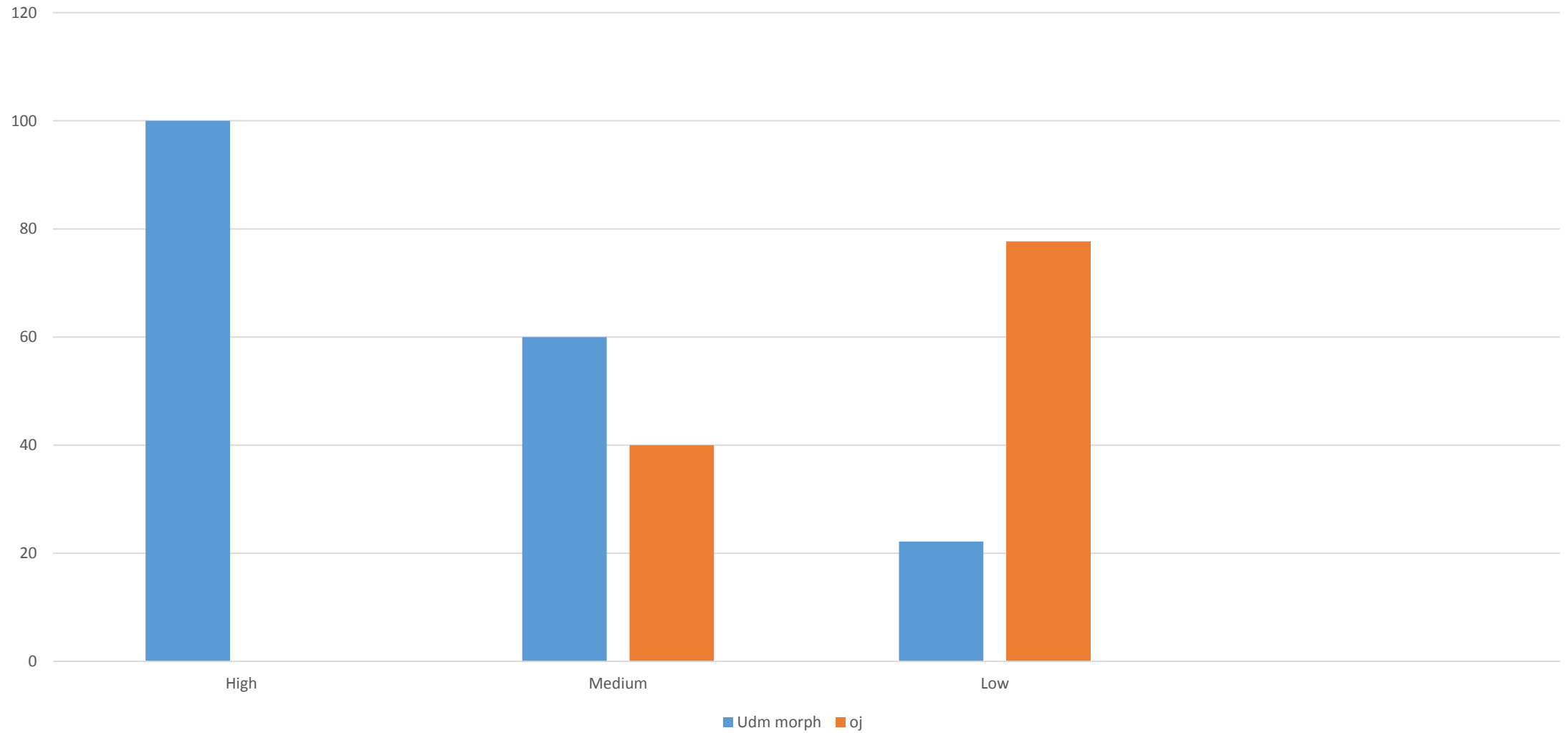


# Results of Udmurt informants:

- 1) **школьн-ой** библиотекаын (11)
- 2) **школа-лэн** библиотекаяз (GEN: 6)
- 3) **школа-ысь** библиотекаын (ELAT: 4)
- 4) **школа** библиотекаын (NOM: 4)
- 5) **школа-ын** библиотекаын (INES: 1)

# Udmurt morphology and -OJ

Chart Title



# The history of Permian languages planning

## Before-1937:

- very active creation of standard languages
- active creation of new words and forms, active borrowing, very high variation

## 1937-1950:

- downturn of the standard language development (Vahrushev 1975: 49)
- “stabilization” of the standard norms (Vahrushev 1975: 49)

## 1950-until the perestroika:

- unification of the standard language and maturation of the attitude about the “correct language”.

## After the perestroika:

- New wave of language purification
- Old attitudes about the only one “correct language”

# Standard language versus vernacular in Permian languages

- Standard language: purist tendency; artificial language; the usage is restricted; acquired in the school; recognized as a whole language; the only legitimized variety.
- Vernacular language: dialects, highly mixed with Russian; acquired as a mother tongue in families; alive language or the language of real communication; not recognized in language preservation activities.



*Всего Евгений Цыпанов зафиксировал около тридцати видов нарушений коми языка — в произношении, лексике, грамматике и синтаксисе. Например, журналисты часто нарушают порядок слов в предложениях. В последнее время коми журналисты стали писать и говорить так, как это звучит по-русски. А это нарушение.*

‘Altogether Evgeny Tsypanov counted around 30 types of mistakes in Komi language [use] – in pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and syntax. For instance, Komi journalists quite often violate word order rules in sentences. Lately, Komi journalists have started writing and speaking the way it sounds in Russian. It is an error.’

(<http://7x7-journal.ru/item/53035>)

Young Udmurt philologist: *Мыным туж возьыт, куке ми, удмуртъёс, вераськиськом суро-пожо кылын, нош кунгож сьöрын вуэмъёс тёп-тёп удмурт кылын лабырто. Мон паймисько соослы но ымме усьтыса кылзүйсько. Соосын вераськыса ик, мон аслым удмурт кыллэсь чеберзэ эшшо но эшшо усьтүйсько...*

‘I feel very shameful when we, the Udmurt people, speak mixed language, while people who come from abroad speak pure Udmurt. I am surprised at how they speak and I listen to them with my mouth open. By speaking with them I discover more and more the beauty of the Udmurt language...’

[http://vk.com/feed#/feed?section=notifications&w=wall-1966810\\_10462](http://vk.com/feed#/feed?section=notifications&w=wall-1966810_10462)

## Conclusions:

- Attitudes of Permian people to their languages' change are defined by linguistic ideology or linguistic culture.
- The modern language planning and revitalization is also defined by the linguistic culture.
- The evidence of language use is different: both language have divers variation.
- New concept about language is needed which will help to preserve and keep all the varieties, which will value all the varieties.

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