

Structural changes in the code-switching variety of Erzya

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In my paper, I analyze code-switched numeral phrases in the speech of Erzya–Russian bilinguals. These code-switched forms include mixed NumPs which might indicate an ongoing change in the numeral constructions in Erzya. I apply a grammatical approach using Myers-Scotton's (2002) and Muysken's theoretical framework (2000).

Mixed structures occur when the Russian number is followed by an Erzya complement or vice versa. There are phrases in which the Erzya head has a Russian complement, and its form follows the rules of the Russian language as in *kilometra kavto* 'kilometer-SING.GEN two'.

My preliminary results show that in colloquial Erzya numbers are used in their Russian or in a mixed form, especially when the number is bigger than ten or it is compound. Mixed numeral phrases form one facet of an ongoing change leading towards a composite matrix and a mixed language mode.

References

- Muysken, Pieter. 2000. *Bilingual Speech: A Typology of Code-mixing*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Myers-Scotton, Carol. 2002. *Contact Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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