

## **Predicative Possession in the Circum-Baltic area: a focus on Belarusian and Lithuanian**

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The aim of this poster is to present the results of a research about the topic of the expression of predicative Possession in two languages of the Circum-Baltic area, Belarusian (Slavic) and Lithuanian (Baltic).

A Belarusian and a Lithuanian corpus have been searched, in order to individuate the possessive constructions, defined according to the model proposed in Heine (1997), these two languages dispose of. Then, the semantic constraints that favour/disfavour the use of one or the other construction have been analysed.

The evidence gained from the corpus has shown that Belarusian and Lithuanian dispose of a rich system of predicative possessive constructions, some of which can express several possessive meanings, including prototypical Possession (ownership), whereas others are specialised for the expression of more peripheral possessive notions, such as abstract or social Possession. In some cases, along with the semantic factors, syntax may play a role, too: some constructions, such as the Belarusian locative *u* 'at' + Gen., cannot be used with non-finite verbal forms (participles, gerunds), and are systematically replaced by other strategies (in the case of *u* + Gen. with the Bel. verb *mec'* 'have').

The analysis has demonstrated, that Lithuanian and Belarusian should be considered as "transitional languages" between the two groups of *have* – and *be*-languages (individuated in Isačenko 1974): both these languages dispose of a 'have'-verb (Belarusian *mec'*, Lithuanian *turėti*), but they also have other possessive constructions, based on an existential predication (i.e. the verb 'be').

Finally, a small presentation of a work-in-progress project will be made: the extension of the analysis led on Belarusian and Lithuanian to other languages of the Circum-Baltic area (namely, Latvian, Finnish, Estonian and Polish), with the goal of gaining a clear overview of the situation in this region, as far as the topic of predicative Possession is concerned.

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