

Iron age Finnish / Finnic personal names

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Introduction

Finnish and its relatives

- Finnic language
 - ▶ Close relative to Estonian and Karelian
 - ▶ Somewhat more distantly to Sámi languages
 - ▶ All these spoken in North-Eastern Europe

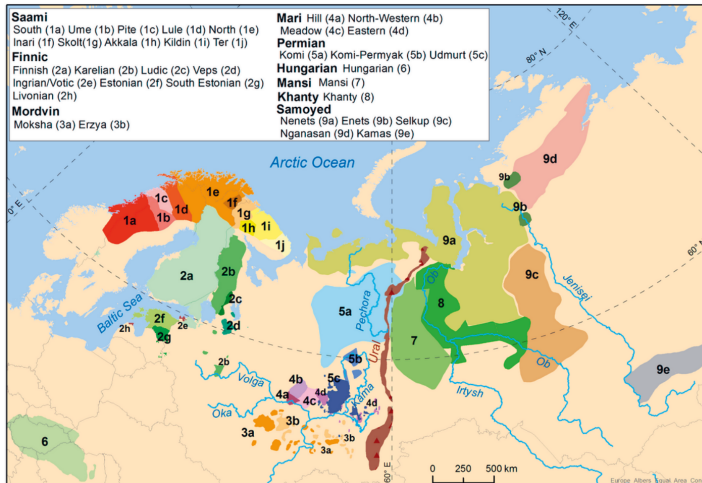
- One of the Uralic languages
 - ▶ Related to Hungarian about as closely as English is to Sanskrit
 - ▶ Also to small languages spoken in Russia

- In SCA terms, part of the Scandinavian language group
 - ▶ Not related as a language
 - ▶ Finland part of Sweden –1809
 - ▶ Close Scandinavian contacts since late iron age
 - ▶ Close Germanic contacts before migration



Introduction

Finnish and its relatives



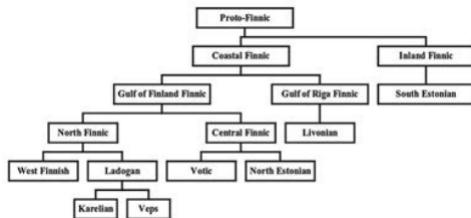


Introduction

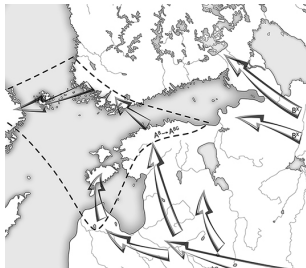
How did we get to Finnish?

- Proto-Uralic c. –2000 BCE (dating: Kallio 2006)
- West Uralic c. 2000–1000 BCE (Lang 2020)
 - ▶ Too early to concern us
- Proto-Finnic c. 1000–0 BCE (Lang 2020)
 - ▶ Still a bit early for us
 - ▶ Difference between Finnic vs. Sámi, Mordvin and Mari
- North Finnic c. 300–700 CE (Kallio 2014) → Finnish, Karelian
 - ▶ Inland Finnic c. 500–0 BCE → S Estonian
 - ▶ Gulf of Riga Finnic c. 0 → Livonian
 - ▶ Central Finnic c. 300–1000 CE → N Estonian, Votic
- Early Finnish c. 700–1200 CE (Kallio 2017) → W Finnish
 - ▶ Ladogan c. 700–1000 CE → Karelian, Veps, E Finnish

Introduction



– Kallio 2014



– Lang 2020

Introduction

So?



- Iron age around the Eastern Baltic
 - ▶ Early iron age c. 500 BCE–400 CE:
Proto-Finnic in its various stages
 - ▶ Middle iron age c. 400–800 CE (incl. Vendel period in Scandinavia): North / Central Finnic
 - ▶ Late iron age c. 800–1200 CE (Viking age):
Early Finnish / Estonian / Ladogan
- All documentary evidence is later than this
 - ▶ Names from this system appear until mid-14th C
 - ▶ Remnants in medieval bynames and place names
 - ▶ Historical linguistics
- Here, language reconstructed as Late Proto-Finnic
 - ▶ Asterisk (*) used to mark older reconstructions
 - ▶ Lexemes checked against Junttila et al. where possible
 - ▶ In North Finnic, the distinction between *e* and *ë* (Modern Estonian *e* ~ *õ*, IPA *e* ~ *ɤ*) disappeared
 - ▶ In Early Finnish, *ee/oo/öö* > *ie/uo/üö* and *b/d/g* > *β/δ/γ*

North Finnic name system

Overall construction



- Not too much known for certain
 - ▶ Only few attested names from the very end
 - ▶ Commonalities in later Finnic name systems
- Given name and byname(s)
 - ▶ In medieval Finland, bynames often used independently of the given name (Raunamaa 2021)
 - ▶ Place names based on what likely were bynames
- Expected order byname + given name (Joalaid 2016)
 - ▶ This is traditional in all Finnic cultures
 - ▶ May be even much older (cf. Hungarian)
 - ▶ Possibly other types too but this one cannot be explained by foreign influence via medieval scribes



North Finnic name system

Given names

- Three main types
 - ▶ Base lexeme: *Meeli*
 - ▶ Base lexeme + derivational suffix: *Meeli|ttü*
 - ▶ Compound name: *Kauka|meeli*
- Compound names possibly a late type
 - ▶ Possibly a structural loan from Scandinavian after the split of North Finnic, ie. 700– CE (Nissilä 1965)
 - ▶ Possibly already in Proto-Finnic, c. 1st C CE, either as indigenous innovation (Stoebke 1964) or Germanic or Baltic loan (Raunamaa 2021)
- Unknown how strictly (or even whether) the names were gendered



North Finnic name system

Suffixes in given names

- *-oi* (< **-j*)
- *-ttu* / *-ttü*
- *-kka* / *-kkä*
- *-kki* (< **-kkA* + *-j*)
- *-mas* / *-mäš*
- *-ri* (< **-ra* + *-j*)
- *-s* (< **-kse*)
- *-va* / *-vä*

- As common noun suffixes, all except *-ttU* (which is only known to be Proto-Finnic) date from Proto-Uralic (assuming that *-mAš*, not used to form common nouns, is a combination of *-mA* and *-s*)

- Vowel harmony: a word has either front (*äöü* and Proto-Finnic *e*) or back (*aou* and Proto-Finnic *ë*) vowels (*i* and North Finnic & later *e* neutral)

North Finnic name system

Bynames



■ Patronymics

- ▶ father's name in genitive (Joalaid 2016)
Ilmovaldan Meeles 'Meeles of Ilmovalta'
- ▶ Adjective derived from father's name with *-(i)nen*
*Ilmovalta(i)nen Meeles*¹

A number of modern surnames trace back to this construction, such as *Toivanen* (< *Toiva*), attested in late medieval records

■ Locative bynames

- ▶ Place name in genitive
*Ruskonlahden Hyväri*²

■ These are reasonably unproblematic

¹cf. Finnish *viha* 'hate' ~ *vihainen* 'angry'

²Based on the rate of post-glacial rebound, topography, and language change, Pitkänen (1985) traces the modern Swedish-language village name *Rosklax* back to a Proto-Finnic *Ruskonlaksi* c. 1st C CE

North Finnic name system

Bynames



- Descriptive bynames
 - ▶ Adjectives: *Korho Lempoi* 'Deaf Lempoi'
 - ▶ Nouns: *Kettu Ilmakka* 'Ilmakka the Fox'
- These (especially nouns) are slightly less straightforward
 - ▶ Evidence in medieval documents not quite as clear
 - ▶ Not always easy to distinguish from main names
- However, both types still in use
 - ▶ In Modern Finnish these would be spelled as compounded with the given: *Kuuro-Lempo*,³ *Kettu-Ilmakka*
 - ▶ Also used to form patronymics or place names
Both *Korhonen* and *Kettunen* attested as surnames in late period and still in use, *Korhonen* currently the most common in Finland

³*Korho* not being known in most modern dialects

Name lexemes



■ Four sources, in rough order of trustworthiness

R Raunamaa (2021)

S Stobke (1964)⁴

K Kepsu (2016)⁵

F Forsman (1894)⁶

■ x = appears in source, xx (& xxx) = listed as (most) common -x = listed only as the second part of a compound name, (x) = uncertain⁷

■ Reconstructed Late Proto-Finnic forms

- Both nominative and genitive cases

⁴Slightly dated by now

⁵Reliable scholar but little information in the article on selection criteria
or geographic distribution

⁶Quite dated but not entirely useless

⁷Either listed as uncertain in the source or has been argued against by
later scholars



Name lexemes

Pronunciation and changes

- Finno-Ugric transcription as in Junttila et al.
- Most letters the same as in IPA

Written	IPA	North Finnic	Early Finnish
<i>a</i>	ɑ		
<i>ä</i>	æ		
<i>ö</i>	ø		
<i>ü</i>	y		
<i>ë</i>	ɤ	> <i>e</i>	
<i>ee</i>	eɪ		> <i>ie</i>
<i>oo</i>	oɪ		> <i>uo</i>
<i>öö</i>	øɪ		> <i>üö</i> [yø]
<i>b</i>			> <i>β</i> > <i>v</i> (except <i>mb</i> > <i>mm</i>)
<i>d</i>			> <i>δ</i> [ð] (except <i>nd</i> > <i>nn</i>)
<i>g</i>			> <i>ɣ</i> [ɣ] (except <i>ng</i> [ŋg] > [ŋj])
<i>pp / tt / kk</i>			> <i>p / t / k</i>

Name lexemes



Nominative	Genitive	R	S	K	F	Meaning
<i>Ahti</i>	<i>Ahdin</i>			(x)		later: marine god
<i>Aika</i>	<i>Aigan</i>			x	(x)	'time'
<i>Aina</i>	<i>Ainan</i>			(x)		'always'
<i>Aka</i>	<i>Agan</i>				(x)	
<i>Alka</i>	<i>Algan</i>				x	'begin'
<i>Ano</i>	<i>Anon</i>			xx		'beg'
<i>Ara</i>	<i>Aran</i>				(x)	
<i>Arpa</i>	<i>Arban</i>			x		arpo- 'to divine'
<i>Asi</i>	<i>Asin</i>			(x)		
<i>Auvo</i>	<i>Auvon</i>	x	x	x	x	'bliss'
<i>Ava</i>	<i>Avan</i>				(x)	'open'
<i>Hala</i>	<i>Halan</i>			x		halu 'desire'
<i>Hara</i>	<i>Haran</i>				(x)	
<i>Hasa</i>	<i>Hasan</i>				(x)	
<i>Hëimo</i>	<i>Hëimon</i>	x	-x	x		'tribe'
<i>Himo</i>	<i>Himon</i>			xx		'desire, lust'
<i>Hurtta</i>	<i>Hurttan</i>			x		'dog'
<i>Hürü</i>	<i>Hürün</i>			x		
<i>Hüvä</i>	<i>Hüvän</i>	x	x	x	x	'good'
<i>Iha</i>	<i>Ihan</i>	xxx	x	xx	x	'beautiful'
<i>Ikä</i>	<i>Igän</i>	x	x	x	x	'age'

Name lexemes



Nominative	Genitive	R	S	K	F	Meaning
<i>Ila</i>	<i>Ilan</i>				(x)	
<i>Ilma</i>	<i>Ilman</i>	x	x	x	x	'air, sky'
<i>Ilo</i>	<i>Ilon</i>			x		'joy'
<i>Jousi</i>	<i>Jousen</i>	x	-x			'bow'
<i>Kaikki</i>	<i>Kaikken</i>	x	(x)			'all'
<i>Kaipa</i>	<i>Kaiban</i>	x		x		<i>kaipaida</i> 'yearn'
<i>Kakko</i>	<i>Kakkon</i>		(x)			
<i>Kalli</i>	<i>Kallin</i>		(x)			<i>kallis</i> 'dear, expensive'
<i>Kauka</i>	<i>Kaugan</i>	x	x	xx	x	'long, far'
<i>Kilpa</i>	<i>Kilban</i>			x		
<i>Kirja</i>	<i>Kirjan</i>	xx	x	x		'decoration, writing'
<i>Kota</i>	<i>Kodan</i>				(x)	'hut, tent'
<i>Kulta</i>	<i>Kuldan</i>		(x)		(x)	'gold'
<i>Küllä</i>	<i>Küllän</i>	x	x	x	x	'plenty'
<i>Leinä</i>	<i>Leinän</i>			xx	x	'weak, sorrow'
<i>Lempi</i>	<i>Lemben</i>	xxx	x	xx	x	'love' < 'fire'
<i>Maana</i>	<i>Maanan</i>				(x)	
<i>Meeho</i>	<i>Meehon</i>			x		<i>mees</i> 'man'
<i>Meeli</i>	<i>Meelen</i>	xx	x	xx	x	'mind; pleasing'
<i>Meero</i>	<i>Meeron</i>			x		
<i>Meri</i>	<i>Meren</i>				(x)	'sea'

Name lexemes



Nominative	Genitive	R	S	K	F	Meaning
<i>Mesi</i>	<i>Meden</i>				(x)	'honey', <i>mesiäinen</i> 'bee'
<i>Monta</i>	<i>Mondan</i>			xx	(x)	<i>moni</i> 'many'
<i>Mooto</i>	<i>Moodon</i>			x		'shape'
<i>Nēuvo</i>	<i>Nēuvon</i>	x	-x	x		'advice, intent'
<i>Niha</i>	<i>Nihan</i>			x		
<i>Nousia</i>	<i>Nousian</i>			x		<i>nousē-</i> 'rise'
<i>Paha</i>	<i>Pahan</i>			x		'bad, evil', <i>pahka:pahgan</i> 'burr'
<i>Para</i>	<i>Paran</i>			xx		<i>paras</i> 'best', <i>paranta-</i> 'heal'
<i>Parka</i>	<i>Pargan</i>			x		'wretched'
<i>Pelko</i>	<i>Pelgon</i>			x		'fear'
<i>Päivä</i>	<i>Päivän</i>	x	x	x	x	'sun, day'
<i>Raha</i>	<i>Rahan</i>			x		'money'
<i>Rahko</i>	<i>Rahgon</i>			x		'marsh', <i>Rahkoi</i> mythological
<i>Raukka</i>	<i>Raukkan</i>			x		'old'
<i>Saira</i>	<i>Sairan</i>			x		
<i>Salli</i>	<i>Sallin</i>			(x)		'allow'
<i>SArA</i>	<i>SArAn</i>				(x)	'twilight, twinkle'; <i>sarka:sargan</i> 'field'
<i>Satta</i>	<i>Sāttan</i>			(x)		<i>sattu-</i> 'happen'
<i>Sota</i>	<i>Sodan</i>			x	(x)	'war'

(Finnish *sara-* vs. Estonian *sära-* suggest *Sara* as North Finnic and *Särä* as Central Finnic; Late Proto-Finnic could be either.)

Name lexemes



Nominative	Genitive	R	S	K	F	Meaning
<i>Suuri</i>	<i>Suuren</i>			x		'big'
<i>Tapa</i>	<i>Taban</i>			x	(x)	'custom, habit'
<i>Tenho</i>	<i>Tenhon</i>			x		
<i>Toivo</i>	<i>Toivon</i>	xx	x	xx	x	'hope'
<i>Tora</i>	<i>Toran</i>			(x)		
<i>Ulda</i>	<i>Uldan</i>			x	(x)	
<i>U(n)ni</i>	<i>Unnin / Unen</i>	x	x		x	<i>uni</i> 'sleep, dream'
<i>Unta</i>	<i>Undan</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Urja</i>	<i>Urjan</i>			x		
<i>Uska</i>	<i>Uskan</i>	x		x		<i>usko</i> 'belief, faith', <i>uskalta</i> – 'dare'
<i>Utu</i>	<i>Udun</i>		x	x	x	'mist'
<i>Vaino</i>	<i>Vainon</i>			x		'hate, oppression'
<i>Valta</i>	<i>Valdan</i>	x	x	xx		'might'
<i>Viha</i>	<i>Vihan</i>	x	x	x	x	'green; hate'
<i>Vihta</i>	<i>Vihdan</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Vilja</i>	<i>Viljan</i>	xx	x	xx	x	'grain, plenty, fruitful'
<i>Vilka</i>	<i>Vilgan</i>				(x)	
<i>Viti</i>	<i>Vidin</i>				(x)	
<i>Voipa</i>	<i>Voiban</i>			x		'prosperous', <i>voi</i> – 'be able to'
<i>Vähä</i>	<i>Vähän</i>			x		'small'
<i>Äijä</i>	<i>Äijän</i>				x	'old man, (grand)father, husband'

Name lexemes

Some caveats



- It seems likely that some of these are more bynames than given names
 - ▶ descriptive: *Hurtta* 'dog', *Suuri* 'big', *Vähä* 'small'
 - ▶ occupational: *Arp-* 'shaman'
 - ▶ locative: *Kota-* 'hut', *Meri-* 'sea', *Rahko-* 'marsh'
- Many have been suggested as later loans
 - ▶ Germanic: *Ahti*, *Asi-*, *Hara-* ?< *Harald*, *Hasa* < *Hessen*, *Kalli-* < *Karl*, *Raukko* < *Ragnvald*, *Salli* < *Salve*, *Tapa-* < *Staffan*, *Tora-* < *Porkel*, *Unni*, *Unti*, *Vilk-* < *Wilhelm* etc., *Viti-* < *Widecke*
 - ▶ Slavic: *Ahti* < *Avtonom*, *Ila-* < *Ilja*
 - ▶ Indigenous variants: *Ava-* < *Auvo-*
 - ▶ Such etymologies not conclusive – cf. *Iha-* but *Ihanus* < *Johannes*; *Kirja-* both old Finnic and < *Kyriakos*
 - ▶ *Valta* may have been borrowed as a name element as well as common noun



How far can we get?

Far enough ...

- Late iron age c. 800–1200 is no problem
 - ▶ Some names in early medieval documents
 - ▶ Dress reconstructions
 - ▶ Early Finnish (or Estonian / Ladogan / Livonian)
 - ▶ *Hyvämieli, Lempoi*
- Middle iron age c. 400–800 is still possible
 - ▶ Some archaeological evidence
 - ▶ North (or Central / Inland / Gulf of Riga) Finnic
 - ▶ *?Hüvämeeli, Lempoi*
 - ▶ Some scholars date compound names later than this
- Here, constructing SCA persona is feasible



How far can we get?

... but not much farther

- Early iron age c. 500 BCE–400 CE more hypothetical
 - ▶ Late or Middle Proto-Finnic
 - ▶ Name system much less well understood
 - ▶ ??*Hüvämee*li, *Lempoi*
- Late bronze age c. 1100–500 BCE even more so
 - ▶ Middle Proto-Finnic
 - ▶ Much of the name system later than this
 - ▶ Most of the names later than this
 - ▶ ??*Šüvämee*le, ?*Lempoj*
- Early bronze age c. 1700–1100 BCE (and late neolithic c. 3000–1700 BCE) extremely hypothetical
 - ▶ West Uralic (and Proto-Uralic)
 - ▶ Some lexemes and most suffixes old enough
 - ▶ Maybe some parts of the name system
 - ▶ ??*Lempaj*
- However, there isn't enough archaeological data to construct a persona for these periods anyway

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Thank you



- Questions?
- Comments?

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