

Lengthened adpositions in Sater Frisian

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Sater Frisian

- One of the three Frisian languages, with West Frisian and North Frisian
- Settled 11-12th century, by migration from Emsland (NW of Ostfriesland).
- Speakers: 1000-2000
- Gemeinde Saterland:
Kleinste Sprachinsel Europas

Smallest language island of Europe

Sater Frisian
is spoken
today in
Saterland
(Map from:
lowlands-
l.net)



<https://www.lowlands-l.net/anniversary/frysk-info.php>

Adpositions

Cover term for prepositions, postpositions and verbal particles.

Use of the term is justified, as related lexical items are found as prepositions, postpositions and verbal particles in West Germanic languages.

Lengthening of adpositions in Sater Frisian

Is sensitive to two factors:

- type of construction
- semantic distinction between permanence and change

CENTRAL CLAIM

Type of construction

1. **Bare adpositional construction (verbal particle, 'Verbzusatz')**
2. **R-construction (R pronoun + Adp)**
3. **PP + Adposition**
4. **PP construction (Prep. Phrase)**

Examples of basic constructions

1. Bare adpositional construction:

he came in
(English)

2. R-construction

R-pronoun + Adp:

deeruut
(Sater Frisian)

daraus
(Deutsch)

Especially Frisian and Dutch

3. PP + Adposition construction

PP + Adposition:

ins Blaue hinein (D)

German

4. PP construction

Preposition + NP:

in Saterland

West Germanic

Lengthening is only found in three constructions

1. Bare adpositional construction (verbal particle, 'Verbzusatz')
2. R-construction (R pronoun + Adp)
3. PP + Adposition (so: not in Prep Phrase)

Summary main body of our talk

Semantic restriction

Lengthening is only found in constructions expressing permanence (as against mutative constructions, that is, those expressing change or process).

Examples in a moment

Bare adpositional construction

Bare adpositional construction

(1a) Permanence

Nu is dät Spil ut-e.
now is the game out-E
'Now the game is over.'

Permanence and the adposition is lengthened

Bare adpositional construction

(1b) Change

*Dou dät Lucht uut. (*ute)*
put the light off

Change and the adposition is not lengthened.

Bare adpositional construction

(2a) Permanence

Wie wieren noch ap-e
we were still up-E

The construction expresses permanence => Lengthening

Bare adpositional construction

(2b) Change

*Ju Sunne kumt ap. (*appe)*
the sun comes up
'The sun rises.'

Change correlates with absence of lengthening

Bare adpositional construction

(3) Permanence

Hie häd naan Jikkel

he has no jacket

‘He doesn’t wear a jacket.’

oan-e.

to-E

TO HAVE is like TO BE a verb expressing permanence

Bare adpositional construction

(4) Permanence

*Hie häd dät maaste mäd dut Wucht **appe**.*
He has the most with this girl up.E
'He likes this girl best.'

This is an idiom, *appe* has not its literal meaning. Nonetheless ...

Bare adpositional construction

(5) Permanence

Du skääst mie ove blieuwe.

you should me off.E stay

‘You should stay off me.’

Last example

The R-construction

R-construction

A construction containing an R-pronoun and an Adposition which are construed together.

R-pronoun: *deer* 'there [da(r)]', *hier* 'here', *wier* 'wo(r)'.

R-construction

(6) Permanence

Deer is neen Jeeld oane.

R is no money in.E

‘There’s no money in it.’

R-construction

(7) Change

Du moast die deeroun reke.
you must you R.in give
'You must go into it.'

R-construction

(8) Permanence

Dät sit deeroane.

that sits R.in.E

‘That is his / her nature.’

R-construction

(9) Change

Hie is deeroun ferkemen.

he is R.in mistaken

‘He is mistaken in it.’

Observation

Normal form: *oun* 'in'

Lengthened form: *oane* 'in'

1. Here, not just lengthening, but also change in lexical form (suppletion).
2. *Oun/oane*, when meaning 'in', occurs in R-construction.

If you look in dictionary, you won't find particle verbs meaning 'in'.

R-construction *uut/ute*

(10) Permanence

Ju Omme is deer ute.
the breath is R out.E
'His breath has left him.'

(11) Change

Wieruum moastest du dät
why must you that

so deeruut haue?
so R.out hit

‘Why did you have to blurt it out like that?’

R-construction *ap/ape*

(12) Permanence

*Wan me deer **ape** sit.*

When one R on.E sits

R-construction *ap/ape*

(13) Change

Dan moast du *n Stuk Späk*
then must you a piece bacon

deerap *laze.*
R.on put

The PP + Adposition construction

The PP + Adposition construction *ou/ove*

(14) Permanence

*Hie is fon dän Striek **ove.***

he is of the line off.E

‘He’s lost the thread.’

The PP + Adposition construction *ou/ove*

(15) Change

Ik kuud him
I could him

fon sien Meläsje ***ou-hälpe.***
of his sadness off-help

'I could free him from his sadness.'

The PP + Adposition construction *uut/ute*

(16) Permanence

Die Spon *is*
the elasticity *is*
uut dät Hozebeend ***ute.***
out the stocking out.E

The PP + Adposition construction *uut/ute*

(17) Change

Ju Bjorenge *geen*
the party went

ap n Haueräi ***uut.***
on a fight out

'The party degenerated into a fight.'

Conclusions

1. Lengthening is found only if the construction expresses permanence (as against change / process).
2. Lengthening is found in three constructions:
 1. Bare adpositional construction
 2. R-construction
 3. PP + Adposition construction
3. Lengthening is not found inside PP.

Suppletive paradigm meaning 'IN'

We'll investigate the 'semanteme', the meaning unit 'IN' in 3 constructions:

1. Bare adpositional construction
2. R-construction
3. PP + Adposition construction

Realization of IN inside bare adpositional construction

Permanence:

Sunt jie äuwelg
are you tonight

inne?
in.E (at home)

Change:

Dät brangt nit fuul ien.
That brings not much in
'That doesn't yield much.'

Realization of IN inside R-construction

Normal form: *oun* 'in'

Lengthened form: *oane* 'in'

Examples 8,9;

Realization of IN inside PP + Adposition construction

Permanence:

Aal, wät in dät Skäin
all what in the barn

oane waas, ...
in.E was

Realization of IN inside PP + Adposition construction

Change:

1. *Hie* *geen tou t Huus* *ien.*
He went to the house in

2. *Do Rotten* *frieten* *sik*
the rats ate themselves

In *dän* *Oukomer* *oun.*
in the storage room in

‘The rates ate themselves into the storage room.’

Realization of semanteme IN in three constructions (?)

Bare adposition permanence Bare adposition change	<i>inne</i> <i>ien</i>
R-construction permanence R-construction change	<i>oane</i> <i>oun</i>
PP + Adposition permanence PP + Adposition change	<i>oane</i> <i>(ien) / oun</i>

How did this suppletive paradigm come about?

Hypo 1: derives from Old Frisian.

=> Investigate Old Frisian adpositions

Hypo 2: borrowed from Low German

=> Investigate Low German

↑ *Future research* ↑

Residual points

- Eastphalian similar phenomenon
Bölsing 2011
- Middle Dutch similar, Stoett 1977
- Expression of location / direction in
English: contrast IN – INTO
- Idem German: IN – IN ... HEREIN

English

Permanence:

“He is **in** the room.”

Change:

“He went **into** the room.”

German

Permanence:

Die Katze ist **in** dem Zimmer.

Change:

Die Katze geht **ins** Zimmer **herein**

To sum

Adpositional lengthening and similar phenomena does not just involve location vs direction, but rather permanence vs change/process.

Thank you for your attention.