

The Main Phonetic and Morphological Features in the Deep Tamian (*Tāmnieki*) Subdialects of the Livonianized Dialect Nowadays¹

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Introduction

The deep Tamian (here and henceforth – *Tamian*) subdialects are spoken in Northern Kurzeme (as shown on the map – see Figure 1), and these subdialects belong to the Livonianized dialect, which is one of the three Latvian regional dialects. Seven subdialects of the Livonianized dialect are studied in the paper: the subdialects of Pope₂, Ziras₆, Piltene₇, Zlēkas₈, Ance₆₂, Dundaga₆₃, and Ugāle₆₉. A language analysis is based on the speech materials gathered by interviewing the speakers (middle and older generation) of these subdialects. All examples shown in the paper are obtained during the expeditions carried out by the author (2008–2017; see a list at the end of the paper). A speech of 26 respondents (17 women, 9 men) is analyzed in the paper. Data have been gathered in the way of conversational interviews in which the informants give authentic speech material for a research. To elucidate main phonetic and morphological features in the deep Tamian subdialects a descriptive research method is used in the paper. A description of the phonetic and morphological features is a traditional approach in the research of the subdialects of Latvian. In this paper the author uses the phonetic transcription what is appropriate for a notation of the Latvian dialectal features. The author also pays attention to the sociolinguistic observations to determine the viability of the deep Tamian subdialects.

The Livonianized dialect has been evolving, influenced by Livonians and Curonians (R u d z ī t e 1964, 34, 149). One of the most typical features of the Livonianized dialect is a use of the masculine gender forms instead of the feminine gender what is a result of the contacts of Livonians and Latvians resp. Curonians (see also E n d z e l ī n s 1951, 10–11). There are also peculiarities in the Livonianized dialect which are common to the non-deep Tamian subdialects

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(for example, the reduction of long vowels and diphthongs in word endings and suffixes), the Vidzeme's Livonianized dialect (for example, labialization) and the Curonian subdialects of the Middle dialect (for example, the lengthening of the vowel in the tautosyllabic position). The author describes mainly the most typical phonetic and morphological features which are specific to the Livonianized dialect (including non-deep Tamian subdialects and Vidzeme's subdialects) and those which are characteristic exactly to the deep Tamian subdialects of the Livonianized dialect.

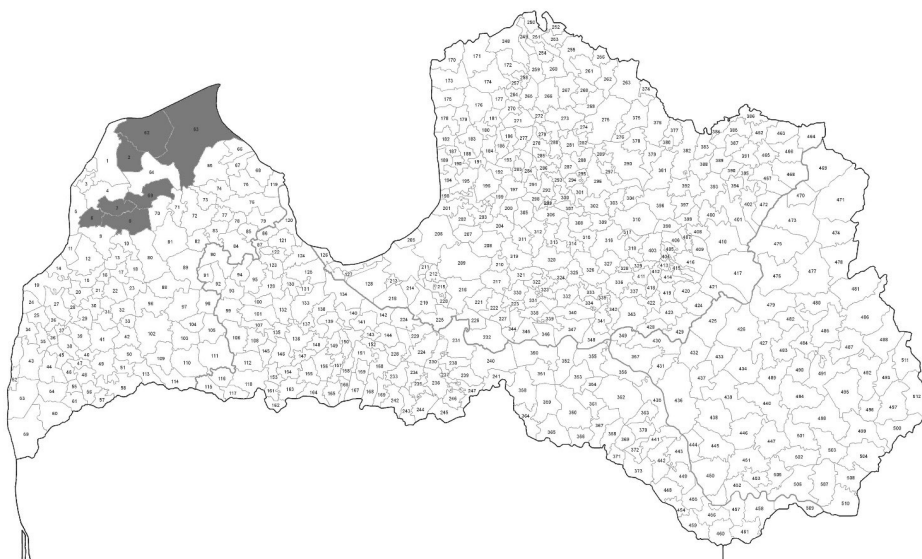


Fig. 1. Researched deep Tamian subdialects

Phonetics

In phonetics, the most characteristic feature of the Livonianized dialect is the loss of short vowels, especially in final syllables, e. g., *māi* (< *māja*) 'house', *saūl* (< *saule*) 'sun', *uṗ* (< *upe*) 'river', *lāb* (< *labi*) 'good (adv.)', *atmiņs* (< *atmiņas*) 'memories'. It is seen in the mentioned examples that the loss of short vowels in the endings can influence a quantity of the vowels and consonants in the root, i.e., if the vowel is lost after voiced consonant, the vowel is lengthened in the root, but if the vowel is lost after unvoiced consonant, this consonant is lengthened. Although this peculiarity is common to the entire Livonianized dialect, this phenomenon has a tendency to change nowadays even in the deep Tamian subdialects.

In the deep Tamian subdialects the long suffix vowels and diphthongs have been lost, e.g., in substantives *ābliš* < *ābuōliš* (< *ābuoliņš*) 'clover', *kūmliņ tēj* (< *kumeliņu tēja*) 'chamomile tea'; in verbs *redzt* < *redzet* (< *redzēt*) 'to see', *dziřdt* < *dzirdet* (< *dzirdēt*) 'to hear', *dāpt* < *dabut* (< *dabūt*) 'to get', *dzūt* (< *dzīvuot*)

‘to live’, *prečēš* < *prececiēs* (< *precēties*) ‘to get married’. This dialectal feature is widespread in all deep Tamian subdialects (see K r a u t m a n e - L o h m a t k i n a 2002, 35–36), but in the speech of the older generation only.

Another typical phonetic feature of the Livonianized dialect is the reduction of long vowels in word endings or in suffixes, e.g., *dārza* (< *dārzā*) ‘in the garden’, *vakara* (< *vakarā*) ‘in the evening’, *krāsni* (< *krāsni*) ‘in stove’, *pēdejašs* (< *pēdējais*) ‘the last one’. This phenomenon exists in all subdialects of the Livonianized dialect, but in the deep Tamian subdialects deeper differences from the Standard Latvian are observable – it is the reduction of monophthongs and diphthongs with a different quality of the vowels, e.g., *dārze* < *dārza* (< *dārzā*) ‘in the garden’, *vakre* < *vakare* < *vakara* (< *vakarā*) ‘in the evening’, *vakres* < *vakares* (< *vakaruos*) ‘in the evenings’, *krāsna* (< *krāsni*) ‘in stove’, *ganes* // *ganas* (< *ganuos*) ‘to put out to pasture’. Last example shows that parallel forms are used in some Tamian subdialects.

The reduction of the long vowels can be also observed in the verbs not only in the substantives. For example, long final vowel can be shortened in such verb forms as *strāde* < *strāda* (< *strādā*) ‘works’, *duōme* // *duōmē* < *duoma* (< *duomā*) ‘thinks’, *rune* // *runē* < *runa* (< *runā*) ‘speaks’. Differences from the Standard Latvian are observed also in the past tense – *dzīve* < *dzīvej* < *dzīvuoj* (< *dzīvuoja*) ‘lived’, *strāde* < *strādej* < *strādaj* < *strādāj* (< *strādāja*) ‘worked’, *zine* < *zinej* < *zinaj* < *zināj* (< *zināja*) ‘knew’. These examples show that whole syllables are lost. Unfortunately, this feature is levelling off nowadays – more often people say: *dzīvuoj*, *strādaj*, *zinaj*, which are more similar forms to the non-deep subdialects of the Livonianized dialect. Sometimes it is possible to hear such forms as *dzīvej*, *strādej*, *zinej*, but only in the speech of the older generation. Shortened forms *dzīve*, *strāde*, *zine* have been registered very rarely.

The reduction of monophthongs and diphthongs has been observed also in adjectives, e.g., *maze* // *maza* < *maza* (< *mazā*) ‘little’, *vēce* < *vēca* (< *vēcā*) ‘old’, *jaunē* < *jauna* (< *jaunā*) ‘new’. This feature has been registered in the subdialects of Ance and Dundaga only (see also K r a u t m a n e - L o h m a t k i n a 2002, 44).

It should be emphasized that in the subdialect of Ance the lengthening of the final vowel was fixed, e.g., *duōmē* < *duomā* (< *duomāju*) ‘[I] think’, *runē* < *runā* (< *runāju*) ‘[I] speak’, *svinē* (< *svinēja*) ‘celebrated (past)’. Such verb forms have been heard in Ance used only by the speakers of the older generation.

In the subdialect of Ance the lengthening of syllable in the root is registered, too, e.g., *vēd* (< *vēd*) ‘carries’, *piēdēr* (< *piēdēr*) ‘belongs’, *māz* (< *maz*) ‘few’, *nezîn* < *nezîņ* (< *nezînu*) ‘[I] do not know’, *atmîņ* < *atmîņ* (< *atmîņa*) ‘memory’, *uṗmāle* < *uṗmale* < *uṗmala* (< *uṗmalā*) ‘at the river’s edge’, *aprūnatiēs* < *aprūnatiēs* (< *aprūnāties*) ‘to talk’. This peculiarity has been registered in the subdialect of Pope, too (see K r a u t m a n e - L o h m a t k i n a 2002, 75–76).

Another feature common to the subdialects of Ance and Dundaga is the shortening of diphthongs *ie* in front of a tautosyllabic *n*, e.g., *vēns* // *vēñc* (< *viens*)

‘single’, *seņš* // *seņc* (< *siens*) ‘hay’, *vilceņš* (< *vilciens*) ‘train’, *veņreiz* (< *vienreiz*) ‘once’. This is one of the peculiarities of the Tamian subdialects which can be heard only in some subdialects nowadays.

A typical phonetic feature of the deep Tamian subdialects is the monophthongization, when in diphthongs *ei* and *ou* < *au* the first component is lengthened and the second is shortened or lost, e.g., *lēš* < *leiš* (< *leiši*) ‘Lithuanians’, *nôd* < *noûd* (< *nauda*) ‘money’, *sôl* < *soûl* (< *sauļe*) ‘sun’ (see also Grauds - Graudevics 1927, 16; Ēvalde 1940, 38). Nowadays this feature is almost lost in the deep Tamian subdialects, although it was fixed previously almost everywhere in Northern Kurzeme (see Rudzīte 1964, 166).

The opposite process of the monophthongization is the diphthongization, when a monophthong *ē* becomes a diphthong *ei*, e.g., *peīc* (< *pēc*) ‘after’, *kapeīc* (< *kāpēc*) ‘why’, *tapeīc* (< *tāpēc*) ‘therefore’, *seīž* (< *sēž*) ‘[he] sits’, *bleīns* < *blēns* (< *blēnas*) ‘nonsense’, *eīšaņ* (< *ešana*) ‘eating’ (see also Grauds - Graudevics 1927, 15; Ēvalde 1940, 38). This feature is still characteristic to the deep Tamian subdialects, but only in the speech of the older generation.

In the deep Tamian subdialects the labialization, when a diphthong *au* shifts to diphthong *ou*, is a typical, but endangered feature, e.g., *soûl* < *saûl* (< *sauļe*) ‘sun’, *broûkt* (< *braukt*) ‘to go, to drive’, *doûdz* (< *dau dz*) ‘much’, *šoûsmig* < *šau smig* (< *šausmīgi*) ‘awfully’ (see also Grauds - Graudevics 1927, 16; Ēvalde 1940, 38), which nowadays exists only in the speech of the older generation.

The shortening of the long vowels *ē*, *ē*, if they are in one syllable with the consonant *l*, *ļ*, is widespread in the all area of the Tamian subdialects, e.g., *dēļs* (< *dēļs*) ‘son’, *veļ* // *vēļ* (< *vēļ*) ‘more’, *nedeļ* < *nedēļ* (< *nedēļa*) ‘week’ (see also Ēvalde 1940, 39; Rudzīte 1964, 168); however, nowadays this feature can be heard mostly in the speech of the older and middle generation.

A linguistic change is not the same everywhere in the area of the deep Livonianized subdialects: in the northern part of the deep Tamian subdialects, especially around Dundaga and Ance, it was fixed that there are preserved more characteristic features of the deep Livonianized subdialects.

A typical peculiarity of the deep Tamian subdialects observed only in the subdialects of Ance and Dundaga is the use of the broad sound *ē* instead of literary *ī*: *labēb* ‘corn’, *barēb* ‘food’, *taīsnēb* ‘truth’. In the other Tamian subdialects the long vowel *ī* in suffixes is shortened into *i*, what is a newer form: *labīb* < *labīb* (< *labība*), *barīb* < *barīb* (< *barība*), *taīsnīb* < *taīsnīb* (< *taīsnība*). It was already noted by Milda Graudiņa almost half a century ago that ending *-īb* is used quite frequently than *-ēb* in the deep Tamian subdialects (Graudiņa 1972, 154), and it proves that this feature has become closer to the standard language.

The use of vowels *a*, *e*, *ē* instead of vowel *u* in some positions is characteristic to the deep Tamian subdialects in such words as *ugeņš* (< *uguns*) ‘electricity’, *cepeņ* < *cepu* (< *cepure*) ‘cap, hat’, *dzegež* < *dzegeuz* (< *dzegeuze*) ‘cuckoo’, *nuô sâkeņm* < *nuo sâku m* (< *nuo sâkuma*) ‘from the beginning’, *vēļlukteš* < *vēļluktuš* (< *vēļluktušis*) ‘wind lantern’.

Analogical to the above described feature when vowels *a*, *e*, *ɛ* is used instead of vowel *u* in certain positions, the vowel *a* is observable instead of Standard Latvian diphthong *uo*, e.g., *âbaĻs* < *âbuôĻs* ‘apple’, *sîpaĻs* < *sîpuôĻs* ‘onion’, *valad* < *valuôd* < *valuôda* ‘language’ (see also R u d z ī t e 1964, 171).

In the deep Livonianized subdialects the vowel *a* can be used instead of Standard Latvian diphthong *ie*, e.g., *pêraĻs* (< *pēriens*) ‘flogging’, *eîdaĻs* (< *ēdiens*) ‘food’ (more on this see R u d z ī t e 1964, 172; LVDA 2013, 49–50, map No. 22).

In the deep Tamian subdialects the insertions of vowels *a*, *ɛ* are observable for the elimination of syllabic liquids and nasals, e. g., *puĻar* < *putr* (< *putra*) ‘porridge’, *egĻ* < *egl* (< *egle*) ‘spruce tree’, *puĻaĻs* < *putņs* (< *putns*) ‘bird’, *dziēsam* < *dziēsṃ* (< *dziesma*) ‘song’, *vētar* < *vētr* (< *vētra*) ‘storm’, *stipars* // *stipers* < *stiprs* (< *stiprs*) ‘strong’. This peculiarity is still often used in Dundaga, but in the speech of the older generation (see also Ā b e l e 1926, 25–26). This feature also has been registered in Ance (see E n d z e l i n 1922, 56).

It is registered that in the subdialect of Ance between two consonants has been inserted vowel *a* and redoubled consonant *l*, e.g., *saĻlaĻm* < *saĻm* (< *salmi*) ‘straw’, *piĻskallaĻs* (< *pilskalns*) ‘hill fort’ (for comparison see K r a u t m a n e - L o h m a t k i n a 2002, 54).

The shortening of the prefix *šuo-* > *šo-* is a typical feature of the deep Livonianized subdialects, e.g., *šorīt* (< *šuořit*) ‘this morning’, *šodiēn* (< *šuo dien*) ‘today’, *šovakar* (< *šuo vakar*) ‘this evening’, *šonakt* (< *šuo nakt*) ‘tonight’, *šogād* (< *šuo gad*) ‘this year’ (on this see R u d z ī t e 1964, 168; K r a u t m a n e - L o h m a t k i n a 2002, 73). This peculiarity is still prominent in the deep Tamian subdialects of the Livonianized dialect.

The feature common to the subdialects of Ance and Pope is shortened prefix *par* < *pār*: *paĻiēt* (< *pāriet*) ‘to cross’, *paĻnākt* (< *pārnākt*) ‘to come back’, *paĻguleit* (< *pārgulēt*) ‘to pass the night’, *paĻciŗst* (< *pārciŗst*) ‘cleave’, *paĻdēu* (< *pārdeva*) ‘sold (past)’, *paĻbaudīj* (< *pārbaudīja*) ‘verified (past)’ (see also K r a u t m a n e - L o h m a t k i n a 2002, 70).

Some phonetic features are characteristic only to the subdialect of Dundaga (see Ā b e l e 1926, 22; R u d z ī t e 1964, 194–195), for example, unvoiced consonants become voiced in the definite positions at the end of the word or prefix, e.g., *tīrid* < *tīrit* (< *tīrit*) ‘to clean’, *krīd* (< *krīt*) ‘falls down’, *nāg* (< *nāk*) ‘comes’, *vēlag* (< *vēlāk*) ‘later’, *abraĻ* (< *apraka*) ‘buried’ (see also A d a m o v i ċ s 1926, 64). Nowadays this feature is used only by few older generation’s speakers in Dundaga.

Morphology

In morphology, a typical feature of the Livonianized dialect is the use of masculine gender forms instead of feminine gender forms, for instance, feminine nouns are used with masculine ending, e.g., *maĻms* (< *mamma*) ‘mum’, *AĻns* (< *Anna*) ‘Anna’. Singular 3rd person pronoun *viņš* ‘he’ is used also talking about

a woman: *viš* < *viņš* < *viņa* ‘he and she’. Latvian dialectologist Marta Rudzīte has mentioned that this peculiarity has been influenced by Livonian language because of the lack of grammatical gender (R u d z ī t e 1964, 205). Also Latvian linguist Jānis Endzelīns wrote about this feature shedding light on the causes of that (see E n d z e l ī n s 1951, 461–464).

Feminine diminutive forms also have masculine endings, e.g., *meītiš* (< *meītiņš* (< *meitiņa*) ‘daughter (dem.)’, *vistiš* < *vistiņš* (< *vistiņa*) ‘hen (dem.)’, *kleītiš* < *kleītiņš* (< *kleitiņa*) ‘dress (dem.)’.

Feminine nouns are used with masculine predicates in the deep Tamian subdialects, e.g., *zēm i slapš* (< *zeme ir slapjš* ‘slapja’) ‘the ground (fem.) is wet (masc.)’, *ruņmaiz i garšīks* (< *rupjmaize ir garšīgs* ‘garšīga’) ‘rye-bread (fem.) is tasty (masc.)’, *siēus i gūdr* (< *sievas ir gudri* ‘gudras’) ‘women (fem.) are clever (masc.)’.

Masculine demonstrative pronouns are used with feminine referents as well, e.g., *tas viēt* (< *tas* ‘tā’ *vieta*) ‘that (masc.) place (fem.)’, *tiē mājš* (< *tie* ‘tās’ *mājas*) ‘those (masc.) houses (fem.)’, *tuōs zā:ls* (< *tuos* ‘tās’ *zāles*) ‘those (masc.) herbs (fem.)’.

The feminine substantives are transformed into masculine substantives, e.g., *taks* (< *taka*) ‘path’, *tiē liēliē talķ* < *tiē liēliē talķi* (< *tās lielās talkas*) ‘that great joint works’ (more on this peculiarity in: V ē v e r e 2016, 232–236). It should be noted that those features, which are related to the loss of feminine gender, are used inconsistently even in the speech of the older generation; it means that this peculiarity gradually disappears.

Another characteristic morphological feature of the Livonianized dialect is the generalization of the 3rd person verb forms for the 1st and 2nd person forms, e.g., *es iēt, tu iēt, viš iēt, mēs iēt, jūs iēt, viņ iēt* ‘I goes, you goes, he/she goes, we goes, you goes, they goes’ (lit.). This feature is still quite widespread in the deep Tamian subdialects; however, young people started to use the 1st and 2nd person forms, too: *es eĭ* (< *es eju*) ‘I go’, *tu eĭ* (< *tu ej*) ‘you go’, *viš // viņ iēt* (< *viņš/viņa iet*) ‘he/she goes’, and etc.

In the singular 1st person pronoun *es* ‘I, me’ broad vowel *ē* is used instead of the narrow *e*: *ēs*. In the plural 1st person pronoun *mēs* ‘we’ broad long vowel *ē* is used instead of the narrow long vowel *ē*: *mēs*. Nowadays dialectal forms of plural 1st person pronoun are used more frequently than singular 1st person pronoun. Although 1st person pronoun *ēs* is characteristic to such deep Tamian subdialects as Ance, Pope, Dundaga (see R ū ķ e 1940, 89), pronoun *ēs* has been fixed just once in the subdialect of Dundaga (in 2015), pronoun *mēs* historically is used in a wider area of the deep Tamian subdialects, but this peculiarity changes, too. A contemporary linguistic situation proves that these dialectal forms of the 1st person pronouns have almost disappeared from the deep Livonianized subdialects.

The shortening of the particles, conjunctions and prefixes has been fixed in some subdialects: particle *jau* > *ju* ‘already’, conjunction *vai* > *vo* ‘whether’,

conjunction *lai* > *lē* // *le*. Also prefix *līdz* ‘to’ can be shortened: *li*. Although these word forms are specific to the deep Tamian subdialects, the usage of them is diminished nowadays – the shortening of the particles, conjunctions and prefixes is mainly used in Ance and Dundaga in the speech of the older generation.

The use of the ending *-am* (or *-em*) instead of the *-iem* has been observed in the dative, genitive and accusative case, e.g., *brālam* (< *brālim*) ‘for brother’, *kaķam* // *kaķem* (< *kaķim*) ‘for cat’, *viņams* // *viņems* (< *viņiems* ‘viņiem’) ‘them’, *mums visam* (< *mums visiems*) ‘for all of us’, *us suōlam* (< *uz suoliem*) ‘on benches’, *a ziřgam* (< *ar zirgiem*) ‘with horses’, *viř mēž piļl te a zvēraņ bi* (< *visi meži pilni te ar zvēriem bija*) ‘all the forests were full of the beasts here’. This morphological feature is common to all deep Tamian subdialects; however, it also tends to change nowadays, because subdialect’s speakers more often use Standard Latvian forms in these cases.

Conclusion

The analysis shows that the most characteristic phonetic and morphological features still exist in the deep subdialects of the Livonianized dialect. Many of these dialectal features are observed only in the speech of the older generation. Younger speakers increasingly avoid speaking a subdialect due to the migration, impact of the mass media, and communication with the people from other regions.

Although many of Livonianized dialect’s speakers prefer to use Standard Latvian forms, there are still several dialectal features to be observed in the speech of all generations – the loss of short vowels in the endings and the reduction of long vowels in final syllables. The speakers of the middle and older generation still use masculine gender forms instead of feminine, including features relevant to this case, and they still generalize the 3rd person verb forms for the 1st and the 2nd person. Only in the older generation’s speech the long vowels and diphthongs have been lost in suffixes not just in word endings. And mainly in the old generation’s speech the monophthongization and the diphthongization is fixed in recent years during the author’s researches.

Nowadays it is observed that many of linguistic features are used in parallel. It is a result of the linguistic change. For instance, one person may use dialectal forms and standardized forms even in one sentence. The usage of parallel forms shows that subdialects significantly converge to the standard language.

To conclude, the subdialects of Ance and Dundaga, which are located in northern part of Kurzeme, differ more from Standard Latvian and from other researched deep Tamian subdialects, because these two subdialects retain more dialectal forms than others. There are registered several features which are lost in other subdialects, for example, sound change and vowel insertion in the root and suffix of a word, the reduction of monophthongs and diphthongs in the word endings.

In comparison with other Tamian subdialects, the subdialect of Dundaga has preserved more archaic dialectal features, but it can be observed that the subdialect of Dundaga also becomes closer to the standard language. Nevertheless, the change of the dialects is an inevitable process of the language. Therefore, it is necessary to preserve the features of the subdialect before they disappear. And it can be concluded that the viability of the deep Tamian subdialects depends on the speakers' attitude towards their vernacular. Future research should therefore concentrate on the investigation of the dynamics of language change not only based on the middle and older generation's speech materials, as it has done in this paper, but also on the younger generation's speech data to determine the viability of the deep Tamian subdialects.

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 Speech material of the subdialect of Ziras (gathered in 2010).
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Pagrindiniai lyviškosios tarmės giliųjų tamniekų patarmių fonetiniai ir morfologiniai ypatumai dabartiniais laikais

S a n t r a u k a

Pagrindinės sąvokos: *fonetika, morfologija, giliosios tamniekų patarmės, lyviškoji tarmė, dabartiniai laikai.*

Straipsnio tikslas – atskleisti būdingiausių tarminių reiškinių vartoseną dabartinėse lyviškosios tarmės Kuršo giliosiose arba giliosiose tamniekų patarmėse. Pagrindinis dėmesys skiriamas tipiškomis šių patarmių fonetinėms ir morfologinėms ypatybėms bei jų sociolingvistiniams stebėjimams. Nagrinėjami vidurinės ir vyresniosios kartos Puopės, Zirų, Piltenės, Zlėkų, Ancės, Dundagos ir Ugalės šnektų vartotojų įrašai. Duomenis autorė yra surinkusi savo vykdytų ekspedicijų metu (2008–2017).

Daugumoje nagrinėtų giliųjų tamniekų patarmių vis dar stebimas lyviškai tarmei būdingas trumpųjų balsių praleidimas ir ilgųjų balsių sutrumpėjimas galiniuose skiemenyse. Nors tai yra tipiškiausios lyviškosios tarmės fonetinės ypatybės, būdingos visų kartų kalbėtojams, jos linkusios kisti net giliosiose Kuršo tamniekų patarmėse ir ne tik jaunosios kartos kalbėtojų kalboje. Vidurinė ir vyresnioji karta pradeda savo kalboje jų vengti, teikia pirmenybę bendrinės kalbos formoms. Dabartinės bendrinės kalbos poveikį vis labiau patiria būtent vyresniosios kartos kalbai būdingos ypatybės, t. y. ilgųjų balsių ir dvibalsių praleidimas tiek galiniuose, tiek priesaginiuose skiemenyse, monoftongizacija, diftongizacija ir kiti fonetiniai reiškiniai, būdingi kaip tik giliosioms tamniekų patarmėms.

Vienas tipiškiausių giliųjų tamniekų patarmių morfologijos bruožų yra vyriškosios giminės formų vartojimas vietoj moteriškosios giminės. Ši ypatybė vis dar plačiai paplitusi ne tik giliosiose tamniekų patarmėse, bet ir negiliosiose Kuršo ir Vidžemės lyviškosiose tarmėse. Antra dažnai pastebima lyviškosios tarmės ypatybė yra veiksmažodžio trečiojo asmens formos vartojimas vienkaskaitos ir daugiskaitos pirmojo ir antrojo asmens formoms reikšti. Abi šios ypatybės dažniau pasitaiko vidurinės ir vyresniosios kartos vartotojų kalboje. Jaunesnioji karta ima jų vengti, savo kalboje vartoja bendrinės kalbos formas.

Kaip matyti iš nagrinėtos tarminės medžiagos, Šiaurės Kurzemėje vis dar galima išgirsti giliosioms tamniekų patarmėms būdingų fonetinių ir morfologinių ypatybių. Tačiau įvertinant tai, kad šių ypatybių vartoseną per pastarąjį šimtmetį, kai buvo atlikti išsamūs latvių tarmių tyrimai, yra gerokai pakitusi, dabartiniais laikais ypač svarbu imtis kalbos reiškinų dinamikos tyrimų.

Daira Vēvere

The Main Phonetic and Morphological Features in the Deep Tamian (Tāmnieki) Subdialects of the Livonianized Dialect Nowadays

S u m m a r y

Keywords: *phonetics, morphology, the deep Tamian (Tāmnieki) subdialects, the Livonianized dialect, nowadays.*

The present research aims at showing the usage of the most characteristic dialectal features in the deep Tamian subdialects of the Livonianized dialect nowadays. Main focus is on the typical phonetic and morphological features and the sociolinguistic observations of these subdialects. Analysis is based on the middle and older generation's speech data gathered by recording the subdialects of Pope, Ziras, Piltene, Zlēkas, Ance, Dundaga, and Ugāle. The data analyzed in this paper gathered in the expeditions carried out by the author (2008–2017).

In the majority of the researched deep Tamian subdialects the loss of short vowels and the reduction of long vowels in final syllables is still observed. Although these are the most typical phonetic peculiarities of the entire Livonianized dialect and are used by all generations' speakers, those also tend to change even in the deep subdialects of Kurzeme not only in the speech of the younger generation's speech, but also middle and older generation's speakers begin to avoid using those, preferring standard language forms. Nowadays there are also several features in the deep Tamian subdialects which are used in the speech of the older generation only and which change under the influence of the standard language, for example, the loss of long vowels and diphthongs in suffixes and endings, the monophthongization and diphthongization, and other phonetic changes which are specific to the deep Tamian subdialects.

One of the most prominent morphological features of the deep Tamian subdialects is the use of masculine gender forms instead of feminine which is still widespread and often used feature not only in the deep Tamian subdialects, but also in the Kurzeme's non-deep subdialects and Vidzeme's Livonianized subdialects. Another typical and often used morphological peculiarity is the use of the 3rd person verb forms in all persons and numbers. Both features appear more rarely in the speech of the younger generation than in the speech of the middle and older generation, because younger people are avoid using those, introducing the standard language forms instead of the dialectal forms.

As the gathered materials show, it is still possible to hear typical phonetic and morphological features in the researched deep Tamian subdialects, but as it is clear that these features have changed since the last century, when extensive dialectal researches on Latvian dialectology were made, it is particularly important to study the dynamics of dialect phenomena nowadays.

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