The presentation outlines possible types of discourse-pragmatic functions and kinds of propositional-semantic content associated with voice constructions in Eastern Khanty – an endangered native Finno-Ugric language spoken in the North-Western Siberia. Selected methodology includes contrastive morpho-syntactic and contextual analysis of the narrative corpus, attending to the information structure and extra-linguistic meta data, in the general cognitive-functional framework.

(i) The active-direct clause marks both verb transitivity and definiteness of the O argument by using either subjective or objective verb conjugation.

(ii) The ergative clause type displays the Loc-marked agent referent and Ø-marked target. Verbal morphology remains “active” with regular agreement patterns. It's functional motivation, differing from either NP- or TAM-split, is marking a temporary topicality shift in a low-transitivity event with the foregrounded agent demoted along volition/control axes.

(iii) The passive illustrates the promotion of the non-agent referent to the S role, demotion of the agent to the Loc-marked O-role. It exemplifies a temporary topicality shift, by altering the centrality of the referents in the proposition.

Based on discourse-narrative analysis, it is posited, that a wide cognitive faculty, facilitating the structuring of information, specifying the roles and interrelation of the participants, governs the choice of non-canonical, agent-demoting constructions, instrumentalized via grammatical resources available in the system: case, voice, agreement, constituent order. It follows from the holistic analysis of the host of the interrelated discourse-pragmatic, semantic and grammatical features of the participants in their interaction in the narrative discourse, that specific sets of the system's grammatical resources consistently identify with certain sets of pragmatic/semantic properties.

The non-canonical constructions in Eastern Khanty appear a marginal construction type, prototypically used to mark reduced transitivity events, where there can be more than one argument with competing topicality status, while actual specifics of the meaning of the constructions lies in the emphasis of the degree of agentivity and activeness/control/volition of the participants in the event.
**Data Sample:**

(i) Active-direct: 

\[ \begin{align*} 
\text{ma} & \quad \text{AMP-AM} \quad \text{tiyl-a} \quad \text{kari-mta-s-im} \\
1sg & \quad \text{dog-PX1sg/sg} \quad \text{Dem} \quad \text{Lat} \quad \text{pull-IntensPRF-1sg/sg} \\
\end{align*} \]

'I pulled my dog closer'

(ii) "Ergative": 

\[ \begin{align*} 
\text{ll} & \quad \text{sar} \quad \text{rat} \quad \text{man-no} \quad \text{oyoli-s-im} \\
\text{big} & \quad \text{pike} \quad \text{old man} \quad 1sg- \quad \text{Loc} \quad \text{get ready-} \quad \text{PRF-1sg/sg} \\
\end{align*} \]

'I got the big pike ready'

(iii) Agented passive: 

\[ \begin{align*} 
\text{aj} & \quad \text{amp-oli} \quad \text{ma-no} \quad \text{kur-xat-i} \quad \text{katil-i} \\
\text{small} & \quad \text{dog-} \quad \text{Dimin1sg-} \quad \text{Loc} \quad \text{leg-} \quad \text{Pl-} \quad \text{Lat} \quad \text{hold-} \quad \text{PS/3sg} \\
\end{align*} \]

'I held the dog by the legs'

**REFERENCES**


Comrie, B. 1975. Su and DO in Uralic languages.


