

# Lengthened adpositions in Sater Frisian

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# Sater Frisian

- One of the three Frisian languages, with West Frisian and North Frisian
- Settled 11-12<sup>th</sup> 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)

West Germanic / 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 oan-e.*  
he has no jacket to-E  
'He doesn't wear a jacket.'

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.'



## R-construction *uut/ute*

### (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

<i>Wan</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>deer</i>	<b><i>ape</i></b>	<i>sit.</i>
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

<i>Ik</i>	<i>kuud</i>	<i>him</i>
I	could	him

<i>fon sien Meläsje</i>	<b><i>ou</i></b> - <i>hâlpe.</i>
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

<i>Ju Bjorenge</i>	<i>geen</i>
the party	went
<i>ap n Haueräi</i>	<b><i>uut.</i></b>
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

(18) Permanence:

*Sunt jie äuwelg*

are you tonight

*inne?*

in.E (at home)

(19) 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

(20) Permanence:

*Aal, wät in dät Skäin*  
all what in the barn

*oane waas, ...*  
in.E was

# Realization of IN inside PP + Adposition construction

Change:

(21) *Hie geen tou t Huus ien.*  
He went to the house in

(22) *Do Rotten frieten sik*  
the rats ate themselves  
*in dän Oukomer oun.*  
in the storage room in

‘The rats 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.