

# The Chukchi influence on Chaplinski Yupik: a case study of personal names

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Chaplinski (Siberian) Yupik, a critically endangered Eskimo language spoken in south-eastern Chukotka, shows numerous traces of language contact with Chukchi (de Reuse 1994). A striking example is Chaplinski Yupik personal names, more than half of which have Chukchi origin (Menovshchikov 1987, de Reuse 1995, see also Schweitzer & Golovko for Naukan). In this paper I present a study of Chaplinski Yupik personal names systems based on the genealogies of Chaplinski Yupik people collected by Mikhail Chlenov in 1970-1980s and recently published online at <https://www.chaplino.ru/>. In addition, several interviews on Yupik naming practices have been conducted by the author in the village Novoje Chaplino in June 2022.

Chlenov's genealogical trees contain names having typical Yupik suffixes, names having typical Chukchi suffixes, and names apparently representing pure stems, cf. (1a)-(1c). The stems of the names usually correspond to some Yupik or Chukchi roots or are not synchronically transparent. Upon a closer look we see that Chukchi names are often adapted to the Chaplinski Yupik phonological system according to regular rules. However, even fully phonologically adapted Chukchi names do not show expected morphophonological alternations in some of the oblique cases, cf. (2a)-(2b), thus producing a separate declension type.

Interestingly, none of these features can be recognized by modern Chaplinski Yupik speakers, the majority of whom do not understand Chukchi. They are unable to distinguish Yupik and Chukchi names, and, according to their judgments, all the names widespread among Chaplinski Yupik speakers are genuine Yupik. In the talk I will present a reconstruction of the personal names repertoire in Chaplinski Yupik villages throughout the 20th century and suggest a putative scenario of the reanalysis of Chukchi names in Chaplinski Yupik caused by the loss of Chukchi-Yupik bilingualism.

- (1) a. *Tayi-ka-q* come-PTCP-3SG.ABS ‘the one who has come’,  
*Ayja-lək* boat-HAVE.SG.ABS ‘the one how has a boat’.  
b. *Jatəlin* (← Chuk. *Jetə-1'-ə-n* come-PTCP-E-3SG.ABS ‘the one who has come’),  
*Yəryulγawən* (← Chuk. *Yəryol-γawət* above-woman ‘the woman from above’).  
c. *Apa* Yup. ‘grandfather’, *Umka* Chuk. ‘polar bear’, *Asuja* ‘?’.
- (2) a. regular alternation *n* → *t* : *manan* (fishing\_rod.ABS), *manat-mun* (fishing\_rod-DAT)  
b. alternations in Chukchi names: *Təγayawən* (ABS), *Təγayawə-mun* (DAT)

## References

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