

Ovi ei tahdo aueta—'the Door Won't Open'

Many Faces of the Finnish Verb 'tahtoa' and its Usage

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Introduction

- Finnish verb *tahtoa* carries the meaning 'to want', and, in some contexts, also the meanings 'to tend' among others
- In Early Literary Finnish *tahtoa* was used also as an auxiliary verb in a future construction; this usage is now obsolete (Ikola 1949)

Aim, Materials and Methods

- The aim of this research is to map all the different ways *tahtoa* has been used from the dawn of written Finnish in 16th century up until the present day
- The research is carried out using corpora of Old Literary Finnish, Early Modern Finnish that have been made available at <https://www.kielipankki.fi/korp/>
- In my research I locate attestations of the finite forms of the verb *tahtoa* in the corpora, and analyze them and their collocations

Related Languages

- Both Karelian and Estonian, two of the most closely related languages to Finnish, have a cognate with similar usage
- The Estonian cognate *tahtma* has gone through process of grammaticalization (Habicht et al. 2010: 146)

Contact Languages

- Earliest text written in Finnish are translations of biblical text, other spiritual and educational texts, as well as of law of the Swedish Realm
- Contact languages with strongest influence on Finnish up until late 19th Century, Early 20th Century are Swedish and German

Languages of The World

- Desire is a common semantic source for future modals in the worlds languages, and Bybee, Perkins, and Pagliuca (1994: 256) have suggested following grammaticalization path:

DESIRE > WILLINGNESS >
INTENTION > PREDICTION

Some Preliminary Results and Findings

- The nature of the earliest texts written in Finnish doesn't seem to lend itself for non-volative uses of the verb *tahtoa*
- In the subcorpus consisting of educational texts printed on the ends of almanacs from 1705 to 1809 the tendency conveying usage of *tahtoa* surfaces in contexts where natural phenomena are being discussed

This poster online in PDF form:

References and Literature

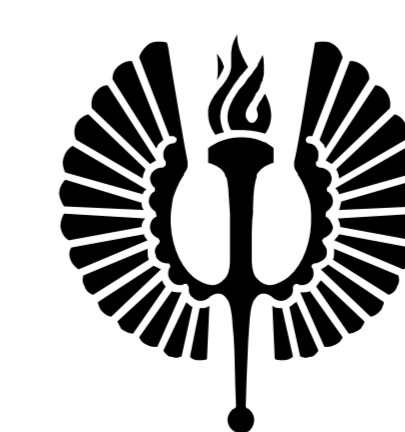
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Acknowledgements

- This research is part of the research project *Finnish Relations: Changes in Finnish relational predicates from the 16th century to the present (FiRe)*, 2022–2026, funded by the Funding Council of Finland (Funding decision number 348899)
- I want to thank both the University of Turku, and my current employer the University of Greifswald for supporting my work



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