

Old and new words

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Foundations of Uralic etymology

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Excercise: which of these Finnish words are of old age?
which are not? why?

professori

muna

kana

tipu

traktori

banaani

tomaatti

leipuri

myrkky

varis

tiili

tällainen

katti

käsi

paatti

tarkka

vuori: -en

vuori: -in

samea

opettaja

ravinto

kukka

pasta

lima

silmä

mämmi

kuula

tuuli

You can also make the same exercise with Hungarian vocabulary

család

unoka

paradicsom

ebben

tojás

testvér

fér

ez

vér

apa

professzor

szív

víz

város

traktor

kéz

madár

barack

konyha

ájto

Characteristics of a new word

- new semantic fields: technology, raw materials, artefacts, religion, moral values
- word-initial consonant clusters: *krokotiili* ‘crocodile’, *strutsi* ‘ostrich’ (in literary Finnish, Southwestern dialects (lounaismurteet) and Ostrobothnian dialects (pohjalaismurteet); most Finnish dialects don’t presently have word-initial consonant clusters)
- *f*: *faarao*, *feminiini*, *filosofi*
- word-initial *b*, *g*, *d*, word-internal *d* unaffected by consonant gradation: *banaani*, *gorilla*, *data*, *lada*: *ladan* (cf. *kade*: *kateen* ‘envious’, *sade*: *sateen* ‘rain’)
- lack of vowel harmony: *tällainen* ‘like this, this kind of’, *olympialaiset* ‘Olympic games’, *parfyymi* ‘perfume’
- lack of consonant gradation (astevaihtelu in Finnish): *tipu*: *tipun* ‘chick’, *data*: *datan*

Characteristics of a new word II

- word-internal 3 consonant clusters: *myrkky* ‘poison, venom’, *myrsky* ‘storm’
- long vowels in non-initial syllables: *tomaatti*, *karpaasi* ‘big, strong man’
- long monophthongs *ee* and *oo*: *tee*, *ooppera* (Proto-Finnic **ee* and **oo* became diphthongs in Finnish, PF **tee* ‘road’ > Fi *tie*, PF **nooli* ‘arrow’ > Fi *nuoli*)
- *ti* (*tipu* ‘chick’, *tiili* ‘brick’) (in old words change **ti* > *si*, that can be seen for example in the inflected forms of *käsi* ‘hand’ (: *käden*: *kättä*, *kätenä*), *mesi* ‘mead’ (: *meden*: *mettä*, *metenä*)
- *i* stem (*lakki* ‘cap’, *kuppi* ‘cup’, *bussi* ‘bus’) (in older words *-i* alternates with *e*: cf. *kivi*: *kiven* ‘stone’, *salmi*: *salmen* ‘strait’, *lampi*: *lammen* ‘pond’)

Characteristics of slightly newer words

- geminates *-mm-*, *-nn-* (*mämmi*, *nänni*, *kämmi*), geminates *-ll-*, *-rr-* the same thing (*halli*, *pallo*, *tarra*, *narri*, *hurri*)
- a long vowel or diphthong before a consonant cluster (*paatti*, *tuoppi*, *kuoppa*, *kuokka*)
- a long vowel in the first syllable of an A stem (*kuula*, *piira*)
- long *aa*, *ää* (*määrä*, *vaari*, *saali kaara*, *saari*)
- ending in *-s* (*varis*, *rakas*)

- ending in *-e* (*kone*, *perhe*, *vene*, *lähde*) (these words still end in a consonant in some dialects: *pereh*, *veneh*), the whole group of words originally ended in a consonant

Put the words in chronological order from older to younger

kivi

data

risti

fööni

tieto

saari

taivas

pappi

ihme

lumi

rauta

kuningas

flunssa

kirkko

läävä