Udmurt dialectometry: vocabulary, syntax and language contact.

Udmurt (Permic < Uralic) is a dialectally diverse language, which has been in contact with Tatar (Kipchak < Turkic) and Russian for a long time. Based on the data from the published dialectological atlas (which mostly covers vocabulary), I perform dialectometric analysis, which clusters the 175 data collection points into dialects and subdialects. It turns out that, in a first approximation, the figures support the traditional point of view, according to which Udmurt can be roughly split into three or four supradialects. However, if we dive into details, there are more discrepancies with the traditional classification. For example, it fails to adequately convey the fact that the Northern supradialect is actually a dialectal continuum without any visible isogloss bundles. I also map the areal distribution of the influence the contact languages have exerted on Udmurt vocabulary. The second part of my study is based on the data I collected myself. I present areal distributions of several morphosyntactic phenomena (morphosyntax of postpositions, order in clitic clusters). The way these isoglosses structure the Udmurt-speaking territory differs from how phonetic and lexical isoglosses do that. In particular, the latter two mostly cut Udmurt into several latitudinal belts, while morphosyntax presents East-West divides instead. This is yet another argument against the idea that a single, all-purpose dialectal classification should or can be obtained for any language.