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## **Multilingualism and correspondence mimicry in Ingria**

Ingria is one of the few areas in the Uralic world where up to four closely related Uralic languages are spoken. Bi-, tri-, quadri- and even quinquelingualism was formerly, and is to some extent even now, common among the local Finnic population. Russian was of course widely known, and e.g. Votes usually spoke, in addition to Vote, Ingrian, sometimes Finnish and occasionally Estonian; Ingrians could usually communicate in Finnish and occasionally in Vote and/or Estonian, and practically all speakers of a Finnic language could understand other Finnic speakers such that mutual communication was possible at least to some extent.

Due to the close contact between these Finnic speakers in Ingria, their languages have also influenced each other to varying degrees, but it is often problematic to establish which language has borrowed what, as the speakers were often fully aware of the differences between these closely related varieties, and borrowed forms could be reshaped to conform with known correspondences among these varieties. That such awareness occurs among speakers of Uralic languages has occasionally been mentioned in the literature (e.g. Itkonen 1961: 53) and recently Aikio (2007) dedicated an article to such ‘correspondence mimicry’ in North Saami. This presentation will look at the contacts between the Finnic languages spoken in Ingria and at the ramifications of contact between closely related varieties for the genealogy of Finnic.

### **References**

- Aikio, A. 2007: Etymological Nativization of Loanwords: A case study of Saami and Finnish. In: Toivonen, I. & Nelson, D. *Saami Linguistics* (= Current Issues in Linguistic Theory 288). Amsterdam - Philadelphia, PA: John Benjamins.
- Itkonen, E. 1961: *Suomalais-ugrilaisen kielen- ja historiantutkimuksen alalta* (= Tietolipas 20). Helsinki: Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura.