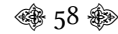


- 203 They are placed at the end of the subordinate sentence and they lack stress.
- 204 *ke* is actually the case ending of the comitative (not presented as a case in EGT) and has the meaning ‘with, and’.
- 205 *älgecä* is the uninflected auxiliary used for expressing the conditional mood, which has by now become almost obsolete (Alhoniemi 1993: 116–118). See § 37.
- 206 *äljə* is originally the first preterite of the verb *alam* ‘to be’. This fossil form is used as an auxiliary in expressing, e.g., compound tenses and moods (not included in EGT).
- 207 The enclitic *ok* has an emphatic function, whereas *at*, *ät* means ‘and’.



VII Conjunctions

§ 49 Like all other Finnish languages, Cheremis also has very few conjunctions. Most of them have been borrowed from the Russian language, e.g., *štə* (что) ‘that’, *ali* or *äli* (или) ‘or’, *li* (ли) ‘if, whether’, *i* (и) ‘and’, *atnakə* (однако) ‘nevertheless’, *indželi* (ежели) ‘if’; *žə*, *vet* (ведь) ‘after all’; *da*, *dä* (да) ‘and’; *xotj* (хоть) ‘although’, etc. The conjunctions characteristic of the Cheremis language are mostly enclitic²⁰³: *ke* (Fi. *ki*) ‘and’;²⁰⁴ *känj* ‘if’; *älgec* ‘if’;²⁰⁵ *äljə* (sign of the conjunctive) ‘if only’;²⁰⁶ *gänjät* ‘although’; *ok*, *at*, *ät* ‘and’;²⁰⁷ etc.

VIII **Interjections**

§ 50 The most often used interjections in Chermis are the following:

Pain: *oi, ai ai ai, öi öi* 'ow!'

Amazement: *oo, aa* 'ooh!'

Showing: *tebe* 'look!'

Fear: *ai, ai* 'oh!'

Silence: *šš* 'shh!'

Addressing: *ei* 'hey!'

Exhortatory: *nu* 'well!'

Laughter: *xa xa, xi xi*.