



II Accent and Quantity

§ 22

Accent in Zyrian, as in other languages of the same origin, falls on odd-numbered syllables, i.e. the first, third, fifth, etc. On the first syllable it falls with more force, and on others it falls much more softly and is scarcely discernible to the human ear. In some two-syllable nominals that end in vowels, the accent on the first syllable is lost due to the extremely sharp aspiration in the second syllable. These words are only distinguished from the first-person present indicative forms of verbs by the aspiration, e.g. *pemda* 'darkness', *pemda*, [1SG < *pemdyny* 'to become dark']; *jugda* 'brightness', *jugda* [1SG < *jedždyny*⁵¹ 'to clear (up)']; *sjökta* 'heaviness, weight', *sjökta* 'I get pregnant' (cf. § 2).

§ 23

In Zyrian, quantity is not as minimal and unclear as it is in Lappish but clear and distinct, as it is in Finnish. Most frequently, it appears in the first syllable, and when it is found sometimes in other syllables, it appears to be the result of a contraction. This is also the case in the Finnish language.

- 51 The verbs (given here in literary form) *jugdö* [югдö] 'it is clearing (up)', *pemdö* [пемдö] 'it is getting dark' are impersonal verbs often referring to meteorological expressions and only occur in the third-person singular.