**Force dynamics and adpositional constructions:**

*The case of Finnish läpi ‘through’*

Csenge Fekete, Tuomas Huumo, & Kersten Lehismets

*Babes-Boyai University, University of Turku, & University of Tartu*

Our paper is a study on the force-dynamic features of three different near-synonymous adpositional constructions in Finnish where the path (route) adposition läpi ‘through’ is used. Läpi, like all Finnish adpositions indicating a path, is a biposition – an adposition that can be used both as a preposition and as a postposition, with a complement in the genitive case. In addition, it can be used as a quasi-adposition with a (semi-)complement in the elative case. Actual usage shows that the quasi-adpositional construction correlates with a strong force-dynamic meaning, followed by the postpositional construction, while the weakest force-dynamic meaning associates with the prepositional construction. This can be seen in the trajectors (subjects), verbs and complements used in these constructions: the hierarchy preposition < postposition < quasi-adposition reflects 1) an increasing proportion (from left to right) of agentive subjects (Agonists) and verbs that indicate the exertion of a force against an opposing force (such as ‘push’, ‘break through’, ‘penetrate’), and 2) an increasing proportion of obstacle-like (as opposed to medium-like) complements (Antagonists), which need to be overcome by the Agonist. We argue that force dynamics is a relevant factor that may distinguish near-synonymous constructions from each other.

**Keywords:** Finnish, preposition, postposition, adposition, cognitive linguistics, force dynamics.