

**The Finnish comitative case  
-*ine* and the postpositional  
*kanssa* construction  
– how synonymous are they?**

Maija Sirola-Belliard

University of Tampere

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# Structure of presentation

1. About *-ine* and *kanssa*
2. Data: HS2000 corpus
3. Assumptions from literature
4. Functional domains of *-ine* & *kanssa*
5. Main differences in usage
6. Conclusions

# Comitative

- NP + NP
- Asymmetric relation
  - Accompanee ← Companion
- Core meaning Accompaniment
  - means of encoding, e.g.:
    - Case affix
    - Adposition
    - Serial construction

# Accompaniment in Finnish

- Comitative case *-ine<sup>x</sup>*

Anne Nordlund **laps-ine-en** on palannut Suomeen. (HS 1 578 563)

Anne Nordlund **child-COM-POSS.3** has returned to Finland  
'Anne Nordlund has returned to Finland **with her child(ren).**'

- N-GEN + Postp (*kanssa*)

Äiti oli **lapse-nsa kanssa** matkalla uimarannalle. (HS 443 214)

mother was **child-GEN+POSS.3 with** on.way to.beach  
'Mother was on her way to the beach **with her child.**'

# Data: HS2000 corpus

- *Helsingin Sanomat* 2000 and 2001
- 31 million words
- FDG-analyzed
- Context Mill
- Corpus sample:
  - 2000 phrases with the *-ine* comitative
  - 1000 phrases with the *kanssa* construction

# Literature:

“-*ine* ~ *kanssa* synonymous”

## ■ Implicit

– -*ine* has the ‘*kanssa*’ meaning

(e.g. Karlsson 1982; partly also Hakulinen et al. 2004)

– *poikansa kanssa* = ‘*poikineen*’

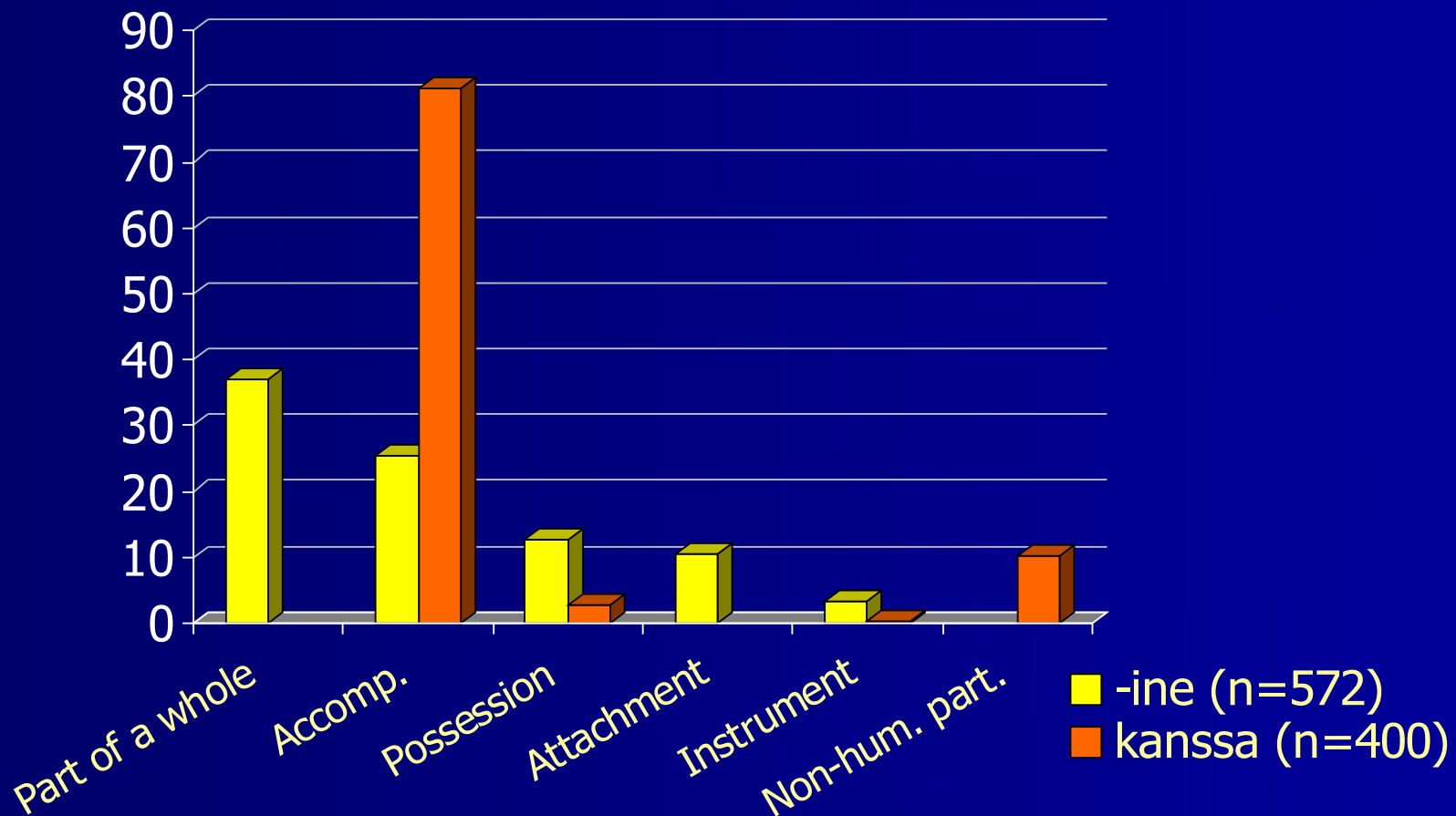
(Haarala et al. 1990-1994: *Finnish basic dictionary*)

## ■ Explicit

– “The **functional domains** of the comitative suffix and the postposition [*kanssa*] **overlap** considerably [--].”

(Stolz et al. 2006: *On comitatives and related categories.*)

# Proportions (%) of the main functions of *-ine* and *kanssa*



# ***kanssa vs. -ine***

***kanssa:***

**Accompaniment**

- Symmetric
- No bond between the participants

***-ine:***

**derived functions**

- Asymmetric
- Possessive suffix → binds the participants together



# ***kanssa: Accompaniment***

1. Symmetric, independent participants  
→ **reciprocal action** (55 %)

Tuomioja ei **kollego-ine-en** aio neuvotella **sissien kanssa** Filippiinien hallituksen ohi.  
(HS 986 799)

'**Accompanied by** his colleague(s), Tuomioja doesn't intend to negotiate **with the guerillas** past the government of the Philippines.'

# *kanssa*: Accompaniment

## 2. Animacy hierarchy (e.g. Croft 1990: 111ff)

	<i>kanssa</i>	<i>-ine</i>
1st, 2nd pronoun		
3rd pronoun		
proper names		
human common noun		
nonhuman animate common noun		
inanimate common noun		

e.g. proper names: *-ine* (0,5%), *kanssa* (37%)

# -*ine*: derived functions

- Possessive suffix → **meronymic** and **hyponymic** relations

Myrsky riuhtoi puita **juur-ine-en** ylös maasta. (HS 10 174 092)

'The storm pulled trees **with** their root(s) up from the ground.'

Myös baarihyillykköjä **värikkä-ine** **pullorivistö-ine-en** näkee ikkunasta. (HS 13 133 220)

'Also bar shelves **with** (their) battery(/-ies) of colourful bottles are visible from the window.'

# -*ine*: derived functions

- Possessive suffix → meronymic and **hyponymic** relations

Pahuuden arkkityypit ovat näyttämöllä **gestapo-ine-en, paholais-ine-en ja diktaattore-ine-en** [...]. (HS 1 184 989)

'The archetypes of evil are on the scene **including** gestapos, devils and dictators (lit. **with** [their] gestapos, devils and dictators).'

# Conclusions

- Functional domains differ:
  - *kanssa*: concentrates on Accompaniment
    - e.g. reciprocity, high-animacy nominals
  - *-ine*: more functions, more equal
    - e.g. meronymic & hyponymic relations
- → synonymy is questionable

# Conclusive doughnut

(inspired by Kemmer 1993 and Dahl 2000)

