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The adessive occurring with the
mast-form: a 20th-century
innovation in Estonian?

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- A change in the grammar of a language is not a simple event that can be described as 'X changed into Y at such-and-such a time', but rather it is a composite process in which a number of factors interact intricately over a certain period of time.
- An appropriately selected set of corpora can be a very efficient source of data for the substantiation and dating of syntactic changes in a language.

Standard Grammar

Eesti keele grammatika I. Morfoloogia. Sõnamoodustus.
Tallinn. 1995.

Eesti keele grammatika II. Süntaks. Lisa: Kiri. Tallinn. 1993.

RÄTSEP, Huno: *Eesti keele lihtlausetete tüübid.* Tallinn. 1978.

TAULI, Valter: *Eesti grammatika II. Lauseõpetus.* Uppsala.
1980.

TAULI, Valter: *Standard Estonian grammar. Part II. Syntax.*
Uppsala. 1983.

Infinitive Constructions

- (1) a. Mees **keelas** **sõbral** külla **tulemast.**
man.NOM forbid.PAST.3sg friend.ADE on_visit come.MAST
- b. Mees **keelas** **sõpra** külla **tulemast.**
man.NOM forbid.PAST.3sg friend.PAR on_visit come.MAST
- c. Mees **keelas** **sõbral** külla **tulla.**
man.NOM forbid.PAST.3sg friend.ADE on_visit come.DA
- d. Mees **keelas** **sõpra** külla **tulla.**
man.NOM forbid.PAST.3sg friend.PAR on_visit come.DA

‘The man forbid a friend from coming for a visit.’

[Rätsep 1978: 196, 200]

Abbreviations

- (1a) **MAde**: *mast*-construction with the **adessive**
- (1b) **MPart**: *mast*-construction with the **partitive**
- (1c) **DAde**: *da*-infinitive construction with the **adessive**
- (1d) **DPart**: *da*-infinitive construction with the **partitive**

TABLE 1.
Distribution of the infinitive constructions
(Standard Grammar)

		MAST		DA	
		ADE	PART	ADE	PART
keelama	<i>forbid</i>				
takistama	<i>hinder</i>				
segama	<i>disturb</i>				
hoidma	<i>hold</i>				
hoiatama	<i>warn</i>				
pidurdama	<i>restrain</i>				
võõrutama	<i>alienate</i>				
aitama	<i>help</i>				
käskima	<i>command</i>				
laskma	<i>allow</i>				
lubama	<i>permit</i>				
paluma	<i>beg</i>				
soovitama	<i>suggest</i>				
võimaldama	<i>enable</i>				

The Corpora

1990s corpus: [Tasakaalus korpus](#) (Balanced Corpus of the Estonian): a total of **15 million** words consisting of 5 million words each of newspaper, literary and scientific texts from the late 1990s.

<http://www.cl.ut.ee/korpused/grammatikakorpus/>.

1920s corpus: [Asutawa Kogu protokollid](#) (Minutes of the Constitutional Assembly): **1.93 million** words of text from the years 1919 and 1920.

<http://www.cl.ut.ee/korpused/baaskorpus/akp/>.

TABLE 2-A.
 Infinitive constructions in the 1990s

		MAST		DA	
		ADE	PART	ADE	PART
keelama	<i>forbid</i>	24	15	151	4
takistama	<i>hinder</i>	51	94	31	4
segama	<i>disturb</i>	10	17	13	
hoidma	<i>hold</i>		34		
hoiatama	<i>warn</i>		5		
pidurdama	<i>restrain</i>		1		
võõrutama	<i>alienate</i>		2		
aitama*	<i>help</i>			894	58
käskima*	<i>command</i>			280	31
laskma*	<i>allow</i>			2003	407
lubama*	<i>permit</i>			919	27
paluma*	<i>beg</i>			497	124
soovitama*	<i>suggest</i>			509	
võimaldama*	<i>enable</i>			584	7

TABLE 2-B.
 Infinitive constructions in the 1990s

		MAST		DA	
		ADE	PART	ADE	PART
päästma	<i>save</i>		4		
säästma	<i>spare</i>		3		
kaitsma	<i>defend</i>		2		
peatama	<i>stop</i>		1		
sundima	<i>compel</i>		1		
tirima	<i>drag</i>		1		
varjama	<i>shade</i>		1		
välistama	<i>exclude</i>		1		

The *mast-* and *da-*constructions: 1990s

DAde (5900) > DPart (650)

MAde (85) < **MPart** (182)

MAST (MAde+MPart: 267) < **DA** (DAde+Dpart: 6500)

keelama: MAST (39) < **DA** (155)

takistama: **MAST** (148) > DA (35)

segama: MAST (27) ≈ DA (13)

takistama / segama with DAde: 1990s

(2) a. Kohene tagasiside **takistab** **õppijatel**
immediate.NOM feedback.NOM prevent.3sg learner.pl.ADE
õppida vigade avastamisest [...]
learn.DA error.pl.GEN discovery.ELA

‘An immediate feedback prevents the learner from learning through finding mistakes ...’

b. Sa **segad** **mul** **magada** [...]
2sg.NOM disturb.2sg 1sg.ADE sleep.DA

‘You disturb my sleep ...’

TABLE 3.
 Infinitive constructions in the 1920s

		MAST		DA	
		ADE	PART	ADE	PART
keelama	<i>forbid</i>		7	5	8
takistama	<i>hinder</i>		26	1	8
segama	<i>disturb</i>		1		
hoidma	<i>hold</i>		2		
aitama	<i>help</i>			7	13
käskima	<i>command</i>			3	9
laskma	<i>allow</i>			11	193
lubama	<i>permit</i>			44	22
paluma	<i>beg</i>			2	308
soovitama	<i>suggest</i>			1	
wõimaldama	<i>enable</i>			7	1

The *mast-* and *da-*constructions: 1920s

DAde (81) > DPart (562)

MAde (0) > MPart (182)

MAST (MPart: 36) < DA (DAde + DPart: 643)

No instances of MAST + Adessive

1920s vs 1990s

Adessive: increase ↗ — Partitive: decline ↘

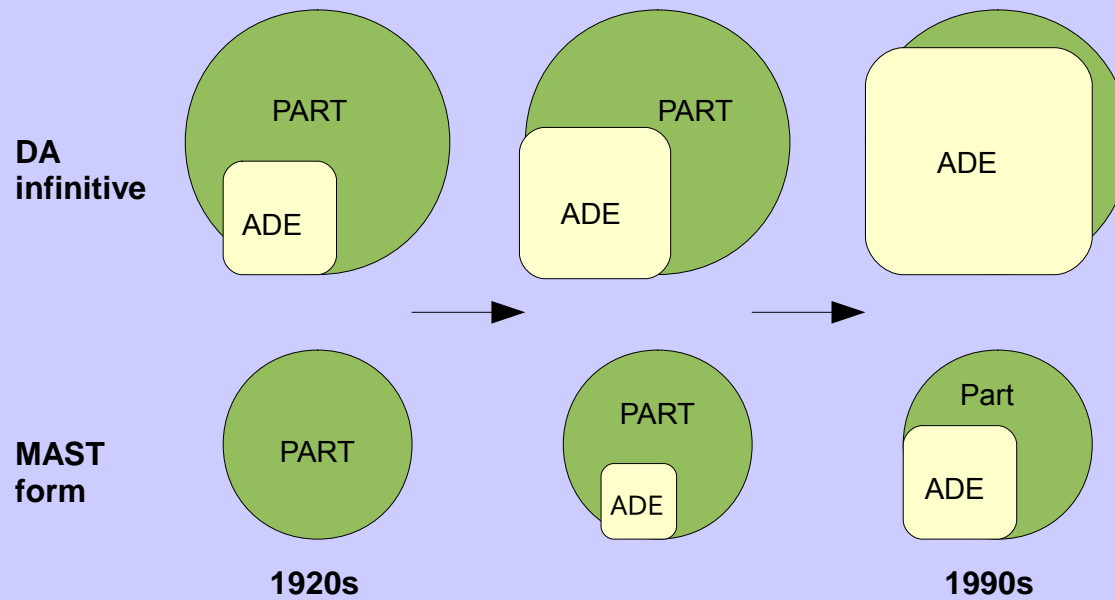
DA: Partitive is predominant in 1920s
Adessive is predominant in 1990s

MAST: Partitive only in 1920s
Partitive and Adessive in 1990s

MAde construction emerged after 1920s

FIGURE 1.

What happened in the 20th Century



The Corpora (2)

Historical corpus: [Eesti Kirjakeele Korpus 1890–1990](#)
(Corpus of Estonian Literary Language):

Five subcorpora were chosen from this corpus for the present study: **1890s**, **1900s**, **1910s**, **1930s** and **1950s corpora**. Each subcorpus contains newspaper articles and literary texts. These corpora are relatively small in size (117–243 thousand).

<http://www.cl.ut.ee/korpused/baaskorpus/>.

TABLE 4.
The *mast*-construction in 1890s–1950s

	1890s		1900s		1910s		1930s		1950s	
	ADE	PAR	ADE	PAR	ADE	PAR	ADE	PAR	ADE	PAR
keelama		9		1		8	1			1
takistama		1		1		6		5	2	3
hoidma		1		2		6		1		

TABLE 5.
The *da*-construction in 1890s–1950s

	1890s		1900s		1910s		1930s		1950s	
	ADE	PAR	ADE	PAR	ADE	PAR	ADE	PAR	ADE	PAR
keelama	1	3		2	2	1	2	1	2	2
aitama	1	3	3	1	3	5	5	2	20	4
käskima	3	18	2	17	4	14	5	8	3	3
laskma	3	121	6	56	8	99	30	43	22	11
lubama	2	6	2	12	6	14	7	2	18	2
paluma		37		11		54		8	1	21
soovitama							5		12	
võimaldama							2		21	
Total	10	188	13	99	23	187	56	64	99	43

DAde construction: 1890s

(3) [...] seal oma jalga ja peaad **tohtril** läbikatsuda
there own leg.PAR and head.PAR doctor.ADE examine.DA
ja **rawitseda laske.** (1890s)
and treat.DA let.IMP.2pl

‘... get the doctor examine and cure your leg and head there.’

FIGURE 2:
Partitive vs Adessive in the *da*-construction

