

Snow Time in Sami (Rositsa Dekova, Ivan Derzhanski & Anastasia Puchkova (2017)



 The Sami languages are a group of Uralic languages spoken by the indigenous people of the same name in parts of northern Finland, Norway, Sweden and extreme northwestern Russia.

 Sami languages have some official status in Finland, Norway, and Sweden, though not in Russia.



Snow Time in Sami



- The following clock times are written in Sami:
- 3.40 diibmu lea logi badjel beal njeallje
- 4.50 diibmu lea logi váile vihtta
- 1.10 diibmu lea logi badjel okta
- 9.25 diibmu lea vihtta váile beal logi
- 7.05 diibmu lea vihtta badjel čieža
- 12.30 diibmu lea beal okta
- How do you say in Sami (a) 3.55 (b) 4.20 (c) 6.35 (d) 10.10 ?



How we tackle Sami time?



- The following clock times are written in Sami:
- 3.40 diibmu lea logi badjel beal njeallje
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- 12.30 diibmu lea beal okta

The time is

Write down everything you know about Sami systematically.

How do you say in Sami (a) 3.55 (b) 4.20 (c) 6.35 (d) 10.10 ?



How to tackle Sami Time



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- 12.30 diibmu lea beal okta

In what way could the same word "okta" appear in both 1.10 and 12:30?

How do you say in Sami (a) 3.55 (b) 4.20 (c) 6.35 (d) 10.10 ?



How to tackle Sami Time



- So the same number word can appear in both 'ten past one' and 'half past twelve'
- It appears that in Sami instead of half **past** the last hour they count half to the next hour (something you may be familiar with if you know German or remember 'Telling the time in Tallinn' a few years ago!).
- So let's assume *okta* is 'one', which means *logi badjel* is 'ten past/after' and *beal* is 'half-before'.
- 1.10 diibmu lea logi badjel okta the time is ten past/after one
- 12:30 diibmu lea beal okta the time is half-before one



Sami time – what we have:



3.40	diibmu l	lea l	ogi	badjel	beal	njeallje	the time is	ten after	half-bet	fore <i>njeallje</i>
		_	_		_					

4.50 diibmu lea logi váile vihtta	the time is <i>logi váile vihtta</i>
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1.10 dibilia ica logi badjel okta — tile tille is teli attel o	1.10	diibmu lea log	gi badjel okta	the time is ten after or
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9.25	diibmu lea vihtta váile beal logi	the time is <i>vihtta váile</i> half-before <i>logi</i>
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7.05	diibmu lea vihtta bo	adjel čieža	the time is vihtta badje	l čieža
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12.30 diibmu lea beal ok the time is half-before one



Sami time – what we have:



3.40	diibmu lea logi badjel beal njeallje	the time is ten after half-before njeallje
4.50	diibmu lea logi váile vihtta	the time is <i>logi váile vihtta</i>

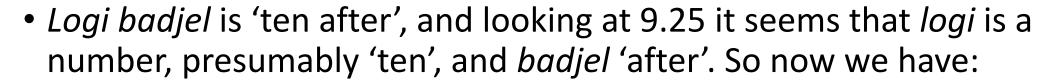
1.10 diibmu lea logi badjel okta the time is ten after one

9.25 diibmu lea vihtta váile beal logi the time is vihtta váile half-before logi

7.05 diibmu lea vihtta badjel čieža the time is vihtta badjel čieža

12.30 diibmu lea beal ok the time is half-before one





- 3.40 the time is ten after half-before *njeallje*
- 4.50 the time is ten *váile vihtta*
- 1.10 the time is ten after one
- 9.25 the time is *vihtta váile* half-before ten
- 7.05 the time is *vihtta* after *čieža*
- 12.30 the time is half-before one



- 3.40 is ten minutes after 3.30, which would be 'half-before four' counting forwards, so *njeallje* must be 'four'. The word *vihtta* appears three times, in 'ten to five', 9.25 and 7.05, so looks a good candidate for 'five'.
- 3.40 the time is ten after half-before four
- 4.50 the time is ten *váile* five
- 1.10 the time is ten after one
- 9.25 the time is five váile half-before ten
- 7.05 the time is five after *čieža*
- 12.30 the time is half-before one





- 3.40 the time is ten past half-before four
- 4.50 the time is ten to five
- 1.10 the time is ten past one
- 9.25 the time is five to half-before ten
- 7.05 the time is five past seven
- 12.30 the time is half-before one



What we know so far



- Diebmu lea = 'The time is'
- Numbers
 - 1 *okta*
 - 4 njeallje
 - 5 vihtta
 - 7 čieža
 - 10 *logi*
- badjel = 'past'
- *váile* = 'to'
- beal = 'half-before'



So now here are the answers:



3.55	tive to four diibmu lea vihtta váile njeallje
4.20	we don't know how to say 20, so we have to compose something based on what we do know: 4.20 is ten minutes before 4.30, i.e. ten to half-before five
	diibmu lea logi váile beal vihtta
6.35	based on 9.25, this is probably five past half-before seven diibmu lea vihtta badjel beal čieža
10.10	ten past ten <i>diibmu lea logi badjel logi</i>









