

**Force dynamics and adpositional constructions:
The case of Finnish *läpi* 'through'**

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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 relative 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.