

**Elena L. Rudnitskaya**  
**Institute of Oriental Studies**  
**Moscow, Russian Federation**  
erudnitskaya@gmail.com

## Interrogative pronouns as verb bases in Evenki

### Abstract

The paper considers the problems related to the part-of-speech homonymy based on the data of interrogative pronouns and verbs. Questions consisting of the interrogative verb  $\partial^-$  ‘to do what’ are identified; their use is described. Such a question is classified as rhetorical or non-intrusive question (when the answer is irrelevant in the current situation). Also, traditional and formal approaches to the problem of part-of-speech homonymy are viewed; the incorporation mechanism is considered in detail. The results indicate that incorporation along with conversion and word-formation are conceptually less adequate than A. Marantz’s theory of roots<sup>1</sup> that are categorically undifferentiated. This is because incorporation assumes that the noun base is primary, whereas the verb base is secondary. At the same time, certain facts of word-formation and use of the verb  $\partial^-$  can be accounted for by incorporation. Other shortcomings of the incorporation theory applied to the current data are discussed.

**Keywords:** base, homonymy, part of speech, rhetorical, question, Evenki

© Rudnitskaya E. L. 2023

**For citation:** Rudnitskaya, E. L. (2023). Voprositel'nye mestoimeniya kak glagol'nye osnovy v evenkiyskom yazyke [Interrogative pronouns as verb bases in Evenki]. *Teoreticheskaya i prikladnaya lingvistika* [Theoretical and Applied Linguistics], 9 (4), 115–123. [https://doi.org/10.22250/24107190\\_2023\\_9\\_4\\_115](https://doi.org/10.22250/24107190_2023_9_4_115)

---

<sup>1</sup> По нашему мнению термин *base* является более точным.