

## **The archaic distribution of *-k* ‘3sg’ in East Cree**

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The grammatical morphology of Algonquian languages and of Proto-Algonquian, its ancestor, is one of the best-known topics in Algonquian linguistics, and has been the focus of many studies, past and recent. Since almost all early descriptions made by missionaries contain pages of inflectional paradigms, exhibiting inflections in modes and tenses that are now long gone, we can say that the grammatical morphology of Algonquian languages has been more securely described than the its lexicon, a domain that requires a certain command of the language. Nevertheless, there are still some grey areas and questions left unanswered, even for the most basic inflections. In this talk I analyse the distribution of the grammatical suffix *-k* ‘3<sup>rd</sup> singular’ in East Cree, and show that it is conditioned by specific morphophonemic properties of the stem that have been levelled out in neighboring dialects of Cree. My analysis indicates that this archaic distribution was more widespread in the past since it occurs in Old Innu and Old Algonquin as well.