

AN ATTEMPT TO SEGMENT A NENETS' MELODY: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE VIEW

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Background

The report will discuss different principles in segmenting the Forest Nenets' melodies. The Forest Nenets live in Siberia, they are representatives of the circumpolar culture. My own background for the perception of folk music comes from old Estonian runic tunes. If I analyzed Forest Nenets' music by using this experience, I would come to conclusions that would be considered wrong by the representatives of the Nenets culture.

Aims

The report aims at showing how the musical thinking of Forest Nenets differs from those structural patterns that correspond to European music.

Method

Experiments and interviews with Forest Nenets' informants were used.

Results

My informant and I tried to segment the song with irregular structure, proceeding from both the music and the text. It appeared that the identification of the melody line as a structural unit in the Forest Nenets' song might pose a problem. It is often difficult to find the place where one melody line ends and the next one begins. As we used different principles of segmentation we also got different results.

Conclusions

It seems that it is important for the representatives of the Forest Nenets' culture what the singer wants to say and not how he is going to shape it into a song. In my own (Estonian) traditional culture it is rather vice versa.