# Polysynthesis in Alutor

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Alutor is a Chukchi-Kamchatkan language, spoken in Northeastern Siberia. It is closely related to Chukchi, which is often referred to as a polysynthetic language in the literature. Alutor is a double-marking language: the agent NP of the transitive verb is marked by the ergative case and the object NP by the absolutive case; the verb includes affixes cross-referencing each argument. Thus any verbal form can stand as an independent clause. Alutor exhibits productive word formation by compounding and incorporation: NN (*aŋqa+ɣərnik sea + animal=sea mammal* ), VN (*java+ʕətʕ- use + dog = sled dog* ), VV (*oji+ʕanqav- eat + stop = stop eating* ), and NV (incorporation). A verbal stem may incorporate a nominal stem as the transitive object (*pulatka+vut- tent + tie = build a tent*), intransitive subject (*arɣiŋ-ɣala- rain + pass = the rain has passed*), location (*rattu+jp- bosom + put on = put in one's bosom* ), and instrument (*wannə+svi- tooth + cut = cut by using with teeth*). Some adjectival stems can be attached before verbal stems as adverbial modifiers (*meŋə+oji- big + eat = eat a lot*). In contrast to Chukchi and Koryak, in Alutor nouns indicating humans cannot be incorporated. Affixation is also used productively in word formation: there are aspect markers, valency changing affixes (causative and antipassive), diminutives etc. Furthermore, there is at least one 'heavy' morpheme *k-* bearing the noun-like meaning of 'child', which is attached before the verbal stem to indicate the direct object, and also some 'heavy' morphemes with verb-like meanings such as *ta-N-ŋ* 'to make **N**', *N-u-* 'to consume N', *N-ŋta-* 'to fetch N', and *N-ɣili-* 'to search for N', which are attached after nominal stems to derive intransitive verbs.