Relativization, nominalization, and main clause use of the attributive/nominalized forms of verbs in Kolyma Yukaghir

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Kolyma Yukaghir (Paleosiberian) is an agglutinating (partially fusional), suffix-dominant, and head-final (SOV) language. Besides conclusive (finite) and converbial forms, it has four different verbal forms commonly used in noun modification, i.e., in relative clauses. At the same time, all these forms (here referred to as the JE-form, ME-form, L-form, and OOL-form) are polyfunctional: in addition to relative clauses, they can be used to form nominalizations (both action/state nominalizations and argument nominalizations) and can also serve as conclusive or matrix form of the verb in main clauses. This paper aims to account for all of the functions of these forms, including non-productive or fossilized functions. It also discusses the degree of decategorization (deverbalization) and recategorization (substantivization) reflected in their syntax and morphology, as well as their semantic-pragmatic characteristics. Finally, the paper discusses the likely diachronic development of some of these varied functions.