The Linguistic Heritage of Industry: Case Studies from the Industrial Community of Varkaus

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The goal of this article is to introduce the notion of industrial linguistic heritage into the study of industrial heritage. The linguistic heritage of industry is investigated in the light of two case studies from selected linguistic landscapes of Varkaus, a small industrial community in eastern Finland. The case studies illuminate both multilingualism of the industrial community as industrial linguistic heritage and language as a means to verbalize and commemorate the industrial past of the community. The examination of the linguistic landscape data shows that language is an important strategic means to verbalize the past, to restore shared histories and participatory experiences, and to carry out commemorative identity work in the industrial heritage community.

1. Introduction

Industrial heritage is a relatively new branch of cultural heritage, which began growing in the 1960s. Before the 1960s, the remnants of industrial culture were generally not considered as cultural heritage, and industrial communities were not considered to be cultural heritage communities. The entire industrial heritage is socially constructed from certain selected, valued, and conserved tangible or intangible remnants of industrial culture. This demands the social action of remembering the past in order to construct and maintain industrial heritage, which in turn demands a heritage community that elaborates the identities of its members.3

The study of industrial cultural heritages is rooted in various academic disciplines, especially industrial archaeology, social and cultural history, and history of technology, ethnology and art history. The research interests of industrial heritage have varied according to the academic discipline. The objects of research range from the very intangible skills, e.g. memories, or even emotions of the industrial workers4 and historical values as defined by

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the owners of the industry, to the industrial landscapes, buildings, machines, technologies and different skills, manners, customs, roles, oral histories, cultural symbols and representations, altogether research objects, whose intangible elements are not clearly demarcated from the tangible ones.

The historical and archaeological stratum of the study of the material traces of the industrial age derives from the tradition of industrial archeology of the 19th century in Britain. The representatives of this stratum were not interested in intangible heritage, but historians, for example, have been interested in the formation of the values of the tangible industrial cultural heritage, that is, the heritagization of old factories and other industrial monuments. Folklore researchers and oral historians were, in turn, interested in the culture of industrial work, as well as in documenting, interpreting, storing, and preserving data sources that describe the lifestyle and habitats of the industrial working population or the developed industrial cultural environment. Their focus was mostly on the laborer and working-class culture, while the heritages of industrial enterprises have merely been studied by historians and art historians.

In a multidisciplinary field of research, there are always blind spots, until a new discipline enters the field. One of the heritological blind spots are the languages and the linguistic heritage of industry that represent both the tangible and intangible side of the heritage. Languages have rarely been the main subject in studies on industrial heritage and industrial history, although they are one of the resources inherent within the industrial community. Multinational and global industries influence the languages of the local community and the linguistic repertoire of its members. In industrial communities, the industry gives rise to the emergence of new linguistic neighborhoods. When the local business or manufacture ends in a bankruptcy or merger of a company, languages continue their being in the local industrial community. Perceptions and knowledge of languages continue to live in the members’ cultural memory, which influences the ways how they interpret the past and present. Languages are one element that determines how the members of the industrial community identify themselves and how others see them.

The goal of this article is to introduce the notion of industrial linguistic heritage into the study of industrial heritage and to illustrate some possible ways to approach it. By combining viewpoints of cultural heritage research and language studies, we seek to open new insights into the identities and cultural resources of industrial communities. A key element in the multilingualism of industrial communities is labor migration, which industry draws in varying volumes from near and far to its production sites. The industrial...
experts and workers, along with their families, carry with them their languages and dialects when they move to a new location. Under these circumstances, the industrial communities develop into new kinds of language communities that stand out from their environment as multilingual industrial islands. Their linguistic repertoire often differs from the linguistic repertoire of the surrounding society. In addition to the presence of multiple languages, the industry leaves traces in the language itself, in the public names of the community and in the language varieties and specialized terminology known by the community members.

In this article, we explore the linguistic heritage of industry in the light of two selected case studies from Varkaus, a small industrial community in eastern Finland. The city of Varkaus emerged in the 19th century around the industrial plants, and due to its history marked by industry, Varkaus forms a “test laboratory” par excellence for a study that is interested in the linguistic effects of industry. In addition, the city is located in an originally Finnish-speaking region in eastern Finland, where the presence of other languages than Finnish in the past is explained by the industrial history. Nevertheless, Varkaus is naturally not completely unique, but can be seen as a representative of many other small industrial sites in Finland whose history has similarly been shaped by industry. The case studies on Varkaus can thus be applied to other Finnish industrial communities.

The two case studies to be discussed in this article exemplify what industrial linguistic heritage can refer to, where it can be found, and how it can be approached in research. The two case studies were selected because they highlight different perspectives on the linguistic industrial heritage. The first case study illuminates the multilingualism of the industrial community as industrial linguistic heritage. It relates to the linguistic diversity which emerged in the community due to industry, and to the linguistic traces that past multilingualism has left in a contemporary linguistic landscape of the city. The particular linguistic landscape to be investigated comprises the oldest cemeteries of Varkaus and the inscriptions on the grave-stones in these cemeteries. In the second case study, the focus is not on the multilingualism, but on language as a means to verbalize and commemorate the industrial past of the community. The data of this case study comprises proper names that have been given to streets and buildings in the public space or for commercial purposes in Varkaus.

2. Previous language studies on industrial communities

Industrial communities are also language communities. In previous language studies, their language situation has been investigated, but mainly from other viewpoints than industrial culture heritage. The following overview of previous research summarizes central perspectives from which industrial communities have been approached in language studies, and what kind of methodologies have been applied.

Work-based migration, induced by industry in Finland, is not linguistically and culturally as diverse as the labor migration that took place from the 1950s onwards from South and East Europe to Central Europe. For example, in Germany and in the Netherlands, South and East European industrial Gastarbeiter and their offspring have been studied from a sociolinguistic viewpoint. In migration settings, the own-languages of migrants, referred

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11 See e.g. Ad Backus, J. Normann Jørgensen and Carol Pfaff, “Linguistic effects of immigration: language choice, codeswitching, and change in Western European Turkish.” Language and linguistic compass 4/7
to as heritage languages, often compete with the other languages that exist in the multilingual environment; moreover, it is not self-evident that the heritage language of migrants is transmitted to the next generation. The possibilities of maintaining the heritage language, the circumstances leading to language shift, the possible multilingual repertoire of the next generation of speakers, and the socio-economic impact of migrants’ linguistic resources are a few of the issues that have been investigated in contexts of labor migration. In addition, as shown by the articles in a recent special issue on languages in mines, the multilingual situation often leads to language contact between industrial migrants’ languages and the languages of the surrounding area.

Another approach, which has been utilized in recent studies on industrial labor migration, is linguistic landscape research. It is applied, for example, in Evelyn Ziegler's et al. study (2018) on the industrial metropolitan area Ruhr in Germany. The term linguistic landscape, which was originally introduced by Rodrigue Landry and Richard Y. Bourhis (1997), refers to the visible presence of languages in signs of public places. Thus, it is possible to study the linguistic traces industry leaves in the contemporary scenery of a place, or the traces it has left in the historical documents of a language community. By analyzing the languages of street name signs, building signs, shop and restaurant signs, billboards, public advertisements, protest messages such as graffiti and others in the linguistic landscape, Ziegler et al. (2018) ask whether the languages of the multilingual population of the industrial Ruhr area are represented in the linguistic landscape.

In Finland, in turn, the multilingualism in an industrial context has often been approached from the perspective of needs analyses of language skills, with a focus on the language and communication skills required by industry experts. Surveying the languages used at the workplace has provided important information for language education and training planning. In addition to needs analyses, there is research on the multilingualism of the Finnish “Manchester,” the industrial city of Tampere. The language profile of this city, which is located in an originally Finnish-speaking inland area, has been diversified by labor migration related to local iron, textile and paper industries. The articles in Lönnroth's (2009a) edited volume on Tampere as a language community look at the role of different languages in different phases and contexts in the history of this city. Lönnroth's own research, in turn, investigates the Swedish language in the history of Tampere from different perspectives.
Multilingual language services and language policies in institutions and families, in turn, are viewpoints in Koskinen’s (2014) and Kingelin-Orrenmaa’s (2019) studies on Tampere. By rereading the history of Tampere, Koskinen provides an overview of patterns of translational activities in 19th century Tampere. In her recent study, she investigates the archives of the Tampere city council for the translation policy of the local municipal government in the 19th century. Other multilingual services are brought up in Kingelin-Orrenmaa’s (2019) study on present-day Tampere. She investigates, on the one hand, the institutional level of language policy of the Swedish school and the Swedish congregation in Tampere. On the other hand, the author examines the use of different languages in families using these services. With regard to present-day Tampere, the study by Koskinen (2013) on the linguistic landscape of Hervanta, Tampere’s most multilingual neighborhood, should also be mentioned.18

The issue of language attitudes emerges in several of the above-mentioned studies. The community members’ language choices and use of languages in different domains is guided by language attitudes and values that community members associate with different languages and their speakers. As shown e.g. by Kingelin-Orrenmaa (2019) and Ziegler et al. (2018), language attitudes affect the prestige of languages, or conversely, their stigmatization in industrial communities.19 These attitudes affect the visibility of languages in the public space. They influence the emergence of new mixed language varieties, and they contribute to the formation of social groups, hierarchies, and borders in the language community. The attitudes play a crucial role for language maintenance, speakers’ possible language shift, and the intergenerational transmission of languages. It is not only languages that may be transmitted to next generation speakers but also language attitudes.

In sum, these previous studies on industrial contexts and industrial language communities highlight different possibilities to approach languages as industrial culture heritage. First, the influence of industry affects the languages of the industrial community. Due to industry, new linguistic diversity emerges in the community so that the community stands out from its immediate surroundings by virtue of its language repertoire. Second, the influence is on the language use of the individuals in the community. Speakers of the original language of the area encounter a new language or new languages that have arrived in the community. Speakers of the new languages, in turn, arrive in an environment where their heritage language often becomes a minority language. New mixed styles and varieties may emerge due to language contact both at the workplace and in free-time activities, and strategies for overcoming linguistic and cultural barriers are also invented. The new languages that arrive in the community can attract new learners and speakers. In multilingual settings, the question arises whether it is possible for speakers of the new language to maintain their own heritage language. Some languages may be abandoned and forgotten due to language


shift, and some languages may become invisible and only be used in the private sphere. Third, the new linguistic diversity also manifests itself in the languages for special purposes and new special terminology that are needed in the industry. Some of this new vocabulary spreads to contexts outside the factory gates. Fourth, the influence permeates the language services provided for the multilingual population by different institutions such as schools, congregations and local municipal governance.

In a similar way as other forms of cultural heritage, language is also a dynamic and changing heritage. It is preserved and protected, but it may also be forgotten, abandoned and exchanged for another language. It is shaped in the interaction and in contact with speakers of other languages. It is affected by the values community members attach to it. The studies cited in this section illustrate different methodological possibilities to approach languages in an industrial context. Their range extends from questionnaires and interviews to the analysis of (written or oral) language products of language speakers of different ages, from archives to representations of languages in fiction or in press, and from close reading of previous historical research to the linguistic landscape research. The possibilities of this final method will be applied in the case studies of this article (see Section 4).

3. Varkaus: A Swedish-speaking language island in a monolingual Finnish environment

In Finland, the multilingualism of industrial sites had already begun evolving in the pre-industrial period in the seventeenth century. Our example town Varkaus represents a younger industrial development. It is an industrial community that emerged in 1815 in a historical situation when Sweden had just recently lost the war (1809) and had ceded its eastern territories (Finland) to Russia. In the multilingual Russian empire, Finland formed an autonomous Grand Duchy until it became independent (1809-1917). In Varkaus, after the initial stage of ironworks industry, other industries emerged, such as shipbuilding, engineering, and wood-processing industries. The growth of industry led to the growth of the community, which eventually became an independent municipality in 1929. Today, there are around 21,000 inhabitants in Varkaus.

In the 19th century, industrial production was still relatively modest, and, as Figure 1 below shows, the population was very small. Until 1930, the data in Figure 1 refer to the Varkaus mill, not the entire area of present-day Varkaus. In the early 20th century, Varkaus began to grow when the Ahlström family purchased the industrial plants in 1909 and began to invest heavily in them. These industrial investments are reflected in the demographic trends: The population increased until the 1980s, when it peaked, at around 26,700 inhabitants (see Figure 1 below). According to Soikkanen’s and Nevala’s studies, birth rates

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21 The central milestones of the industrial history of Varkaus are described in Hannu Soikkanen, Varkauden historia (Helsinki 1963) and in English in Hannu Itkonen: Varkaus and Its People (Helsinki: SKS, 2005). The latest population data on Varkaus is based on information from Statistics Finland 2018.

were not the primary cause for the population growth. It was caused by the expansion of industrial production and the resulting labor migration and urbanization.

In 1987, Ahlström’s family-owned industrial plants were sold to a multinational company. These sales marked the arrival of globalization in the community,\textsuperscript{23} which together with the decreasing demand for labor, turned the population growth into a decline beginning in the 1990s. Industrial sectors have disappeared and plant owners have changed. Some of the material resources left over from industry are reused for post-industrial purposes, and some industrial buildings have become industrial cultural heritage. For example, the factory hotel is today a museum building, and the local industry headquarters has been redesigned into a privately owned café-restaurant.

In Soikkanen’s comprehensive history of Varkaus, the city is described as a “melting pot on a Finnish scale”.\textsuperscript{24} This characterization refers to labor migration, a phenomenon which resulted in a large proportion of the population having their roots elsewhere. According to Soikkanen’s detailed surveys, new industrial workers moved to Varkaus particularly from the surrounding Finnish speaking area in the 19th and early 20th centuries. From the 1910s onwards, Varkaus attracted an increasing number of people both from eastern Finland and the rest of Finland, from both the Finnish and Swedish-speaking areas. In addition to Swedish, Soikkanen explicitly mentions the Finnish dialects that arrived in Varkaus. According to Soikkanen, migration from abroad has been more modest: Industrial employees, both white- and blue-collar workers, moved to Varkaus mainly from Sweden, Russia (especially St. Petersburg) and Germany. The German move to Varkaus is explained by the large investments in industrial machinery and the accompanying construction and commissioning staff and, in some cases, family members. Soikkanen explicitly mentions the German installers of the two first paper machines built in the 1920s. They remained in Varkaus, but were forced to return to Germany for military service when World War II broke out.\textsuperscript{25} Some of them returned to Varkaus after the war.

There is plenty of previous research on Varkaus,\textsuperscript{26} but not from a linguistic point of view. In language studies, Varkaus has been characterized as one of the Swedish-speaking language islands (alongside the other industrial communities of Kotka, Pori, Tampere, Oulu, Kauttua, Kuusankoski and Hyvinkää). The term refers to a municipality with a Swedish-speaking minority which provides or has provided its community members with services in Swedish, even though the municipality is officially monolingually Finnish-speaking and located outside Finland’s actual Swedish-speaking area.\textsuperscript{27}

\textsuperscript{24} Soikkanen 1963, 298.
\textsuperscript{25} Soikkanen 1963, 163, 299–300, 304, 343.
\textsuperscript{26} For an overview of previous research, see Hannu Itkonen, Varkauden tutkimukset ja tulkinnat – Mitä ja miten paikallisuudesta on kirjoitettu? Karjalan tutkimuslaitoksen raportteja 1/2008 (Joensuu: University of Joensuu, 2008).
Figure 1 illustrates the language situation in Varkaus over different decades. Official language statistics have been available for Varkaus since the 1880s. According to the statistics, Varkaus had its largest number of Swedish speakers in the 1950s and 1960s. Because other languages than Finnish and Swedish have only been recorded in Finland since the 1980s, the language statistics mirror only a part of the labor migration to Varkaus. Until the 1980s, for example, German and Russian remain hidden, although they helped shape the language situation in Varkaus. Since the 21st century, the turns in the linguistic situation are influenced mostly by other global mobility factors than industry. The statistics, of course, reflect not only industrial labor migration but urbanization and other migration to Varkaus as well. The statistics do not distinguish between industrially and non-industrially motivated stays in the locality. In addition, it is important to remember that it is possible for a person to register only one language in Finland. Due to this fact, many languages inevitably remain hidden in language statistics.

In comparison to Tampere (see Section 2), much less research has been done into the language situation of Varkaus. The needs of the multilingual population have been met by a variety of services although today, the continuity of Swedish has become fragile. For example, the Lutheran congregation of Varkaus was officially bilingual (Finnish and Swedish) until the 1990s, after which it became monolingually Finnish. The Swedish school, in turn, which was founded in 1919, was closed in 2019. Central milestones of the school’s history and activities are described by Riitta Ropponen (1995) and Asta Olli (2017).

In addition to the Swedish school, there is research on the place names of Varkaus by Jenny Rimpeläinen (2011). Her insightful study highlights how the local residents remember languages of the past and rely on the local industrial history when interpreting current place names. By combining viewpoints of folk linguistics and onomastics, the author asks how the “ordinary” people of Varkaus, without a scholarly linguistic background, explain the origin of a selected group of commonly-known place names in their home town and its immediate surroundings and what kind of interpretations they rely on. For the present study, of particular interest is an explanation model in which the informants rely on their linguistic and cultural memory when searching for a motivation for the etymology of a particular name. As described by Rimpeläinen, the informants explicitly relate some place names to the Swedish language and to the phase in history when the locality was more Swedish-speaking than today. Alternatively, they link the suspected origin of the name to the industrial history or industrial landscape of Varkaus. Their explanations do not, of course, correspond to the scholarly etymology of the names, but they are important indicators of a process in which the members of the community exploit their linguistic and cultural memory as a resource when interpreting the present.


**Figure 1.** The population and languages of Varkaus according to the official statistics 1882–2018. Until 1930, the data refer to the Varkaus mill, not the entire area of present-day Varkaus.³⁰

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³⁰ *Suomenmaan tilastollinen vuosikirja 1879–*, *Suomen tilastollinen vuosikirja 1910–1972* and *Statistics Finland 2018.*
4. Two case studies on industrial linguistic heritage

Industry shapes the landscape in many ways. Typical features of a landscape of an industrial community include landmarks such as tall chimneys and other industrial buildings, which are surrounded by the industrial community. The term *industrial landscape* became established in Finnish studies on industrial heritage during the 1990s. The concept brought up a new perspective in research, shifting the focus from individual industrial buildings to cultural environments and larger surroundings.\(^{31}\) As highlighted in the linguistic landscape studies cited in Section 2, languages can be included as one detail of this landscape in the concept. In the following sections, we discuss the “footprints” that both industry and its actors have left in the linguistic landscape of the industrial community of Varkaus.

4.1. Linguistic landscape as industrial linguistic heritage

The focus of our first case study is on a special part of the contemporary linguistic landscape in Varkaus, on its three oldest cemeteries. The study is based on photo material that was made available for the researchers by the Lutheran congregation of Varkaus. The data consist of approximately 3,400 photos of all the gravestones in the three oldest cemeteries of Varkaus: the Pirtinniemi, Ala-Kankku and Ylä-Kankku cemeteries, which were established in the second half of the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th. The photos were taken during the years 2009–2011 by the Lutheran congregation. According to the records of the congregation, at least 1,700 deceased are buried in these three cemeteries. The languages of the gravestone inscriptions and their content were analyzed according to the principles of linguistic landscape research. The same cemetery data has been utilized in two previous Finnish-language articles by Wessman and Kolehmainen (2019) and Kolehmainen (forthcoming), where the linguistic landscape of the cemeteries is, however, viewed from a perspective other than the linguistic heritage of industry.\(^{32}\)

Cemeteries are commemorative spaces that are especially designed for acts of remembrance. They are places not only for the deceased but also for the living who commemorate the deceased at the funeral monuments erected for them.\(^{33}\) For the present article, cemeteries are, on one the hand, places that preserve voices and languages of different actors from the industrial past. On the other hand, they are places that remind the passers-by of the past of the industrial community and which pass their traces of this heritage to subsequent generations.

The inscriptions on the funeral monuments, on the gravestones, -plates and -crosses, form a multilingual linguistic landscape which entails different temporal layers. The most visually dominating part of a cemetery linguistic landscape are personal names, the names

of the deceased. In particular, the youngest gravestone layers may contain only the name of
the deceased and his/her time of birth and death. Personal names in the oldest cemeteries
of Varkaus were analyzed by Wessman and Kolehmainen (2019). They show that personal
names can be classified by language and that they form a multilingual landscape. In addition,
the personal names reflect the migration history to Varkaus and tell about the cultural back-
ground of the deceased or their family. In a similar way as in the industrial metropolis Ruhr
in Germany, personal names give the multilingual landscape a special flavour. However,
personal names are not reliable indicators of the languages of the deceased. Because of this
lack of certainty, they will not be discussed in more detail in this article.

The other inscriptions on the gravestones are more reliable clues for an analysis of
language resources. Unlike engraving the name of the deceased on the gravestone, which
does not involve a language choice, engraving other information and messages means
choosing a language. The languages of the titles and occupations of the deceased, their
death causes, quotes such as bible verses, and diverse messages by the gravestone erecto-
to the deceased or to the passers-by reflect the language(s) of the deceased, the gravestone
erector or other actors. In Varkaus, the Finnish language dominates in these inscriptions, but
besides it, there are inscriptions in Swedish, German, Russian and Latin, i.e. languages that
are originally not spoken by the population in this part of Finland. In Varkaus, these other
languages appear mainly in the oldest gravestone layer. Their appearance in the Varkaus
cemetery linguistic landscape is mainly an effect of the industrial labor-migration.

For example, the following two Swedish inscriptions in the Pirtinniemi cemetery remind
the cemetery visitors of past Swedish-speaking actors in the Varkaus industry:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingeniören JOHAN EDVARD STRÖMBERG *4.2.1827 † 15.2.1886. Christus är mitt lif och döden är min winning. Phil. ep 1:21 (Pirtinniemi)</th>
<th>[Translation:] Engineer Johan Edvard Strömberg *4 February 1827 † 15 February 1886 Christ is my life and death is my gain. Philippians 1:21.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Här hvilar Kontoristen GEORG WASASTJERNA född i Wasa 11.7.1816 död 15.2.1876 (Pirtinniemi)</td>
<td>Here rests Clerk Georg Wasastjerna born in Vaasa 11 July 1816 died 15 February 1876</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following German-language tombstone in the Ylä-Kankku cemetery is, in turn, a
memorial to the 19-year-old Kurt Zeuner, who was accidentally killed at work in the factory.
According to his death notice in the local newspaper *Warkauden lehti* (5 April 1924), he was
born in Kriebethal, Saxony. Zeuner was one of the installers of the first paper machine in
Varkaus (1921). His death was also reported in the Newspaper *Deutsch-finnische Nachrichten*
(‘German-Finnish News’, 6 June 1924).

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34 Wessmann and Kolehmainen 2019.
36 *Warkauden lehti*, 5 April 1924; *Deutsch-finnische Nachrichten*, ‘German-Finnish News’, 6 June 1924.
In the end, of course, we cannot be sure whose language appears in the inscriptions. In the previous examples, we are presumably dealing with the languages of the deceased and their family members, who have probably erected the gravestones. In some gravestones, like the one of Kurt Zeuner, the erector has been explicitly announced. The languages of these inscriptions remind the passers-by of past multiculturalism and multilingualism in the industrial community of Varkaus.

However, languages of other actors have also left traces in the gravestones, such as the gravestone manufacturer and his environment. This is illustrated by the following example, the gravestone of Paul August Wahl, the son of the owner of the industrial plants in Varkaus in the 19th century. The Wahl family, who came to Varkaus from Vyborg, was originally from Weimar, Germany.37 The family’s heritage language German is represented in Paul August Wahl’s gravestone, on which his date of birth and death are given in German. On the other side of the gravestone, there is Russian: Maderni and Ruggia are the family names of two Swiss-born gravestone manufacturers based in St. Petersburg. Gorohovaja (’Pea Street’) is their address in Russian. This Russian text on the gravestone is a business card-like inscription, which refers to the working environment of the two sculptors. In Ziegler’s et al. study (2018) on the German Ruhr area, the researchers point out that the linguistic landscape is not a copy of the languages of the population and that minority languages typically remain invisible. The Russian inscription in the Varkaus data highlights that the linguistic landscape may also contain voices and languages of other actors than the local population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ruhe sanft!</th>
<th>Kurt Zeuner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>geb. 3. IV. 1904. gest. 17. III. 1924</td>
<td>[Translation:]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gew. von Deinem Bruder u. mitarbeitern</td>
<td>Rest in peace!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warkaus</td>
<td>Kurt Zeuner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Ylä-Kankku)</td>
<td>born 3 April 1904 died 17 March 1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dedicated by your brother and colleagues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warkaus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAUL AUGUST WAHL</th>
<th>[Translation:]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>geb. den 13ten October 1830</td>
<td>Paul August Wahl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gest. den 27ten February 1875</td>
<td>born 13 October 1830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADERNI &amp; RUGGIA</td>
<td>died 27 February 1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOROHOVAYA N° 38</td>
<td>Maderni &amp; Ruggia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST. PETERSBURG</td>
<td>Pea Street 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Pirtinniemi)</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the presence of multiple languages, the cemetery linguistic landscape also preserves other information of industrial history. Soikkanen (1963) and Nevala (2003) state that the social structure of Varkaus differs from that of the surrounding agrarian communities. Industrial occupations, which do not exist in the surrounding agricultural municipalities, have left their mark on the cemetery landscape. The examples in Table 1

illustrate industrial titles and occupations of the deceased in the cemetery linguistic landscape in Varkaus.

In addition to the titles and occupations listed in Table 1, there are also many other titles on the gravestones (e.g. ‘baker’, ‘farmer’, ‘shopkeeper’) that are not directly related to industrial work. In earlier stages of history, the factory took care of all municipal services from birth to the retirement home. In other words, it cannot be excluded that these other title-holders were also bound to industry. In the three oldest cemeteries of Varkaus, the titles appear on the gravestones of the 19th and early 20th centuries, after which they are only seldom given in the younger layers of cemetery inscriptions. This change does not reflect a change in industrial work, but a change in the commemorative practices in the cemetery linguistic landscape. The disappearance of titles from the linguistic landscape is not only a feature of Varkaus but affects the entire Finnish funeral culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Swedish:</th>
<th>In Finnish:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ångpannmästare (‘steam boiler master’), Ingeniör (‘engineer’), Kontorist (‘clerk’), Mekaniker (‘mechanic’)</td>
<td>• Rautasorvari (‘iron turner’), Tehtaancohtaja (‘factory operator’), terehtööri (‘director’), Insinööri (‘engineer’), Ruukin isäntä (‘factory host’), Tehtaanisännoitsijä (‘factory host’), Työnjohtaja (‘foreman’), seppä (‘blacksmith’), Walaja (‘melter’), Walajan waimo (‘melter’s wife’), Walajan poika (‘melter’s son’), Waskiseppä (‘coppersmith’), Isännöitsijä (‘factory host’), Konttoristi (‘clerk’), Työmies (‘worker’), Työmiehen waimo (‘worker’s wife’), Sahanohtaja (‘sawmill manager’), Sorvari (‘turner’), Tehtaan vaakaaja (‘factory inspector’), Konemes-tari (‘master mechanic’)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Industrial titles in the cemetery linguistic landscape in Varkaus.

In sum, the examples in this section illustrate how traces of the multilingual and multicultural industrial past are still visible in a contemporary linguistic landscape. The cemetery linguistic landscape reminds the visitors of past actors and their languages in the industrial community. In addition, the occupational titles visible in this scenery represent the specialized terminology typical for the local industry in the past. Both parts of the linguistic landscape can be explained by the presence of industry in the community, and they both pass on the linguistic industrial cultural heritage to subsequent generations in a public space which is specifically dedicated to acts of remembrance. The cemeteries naturally form only a narrow window to the past languages of the community. In the Varkaus cemeteries, aspects of societal multilingualism are particularly prominent: The gravestones in different languages indicate that people of different languages have lived side-by-side in the locality. Individual multilingualism, on the contrary, remains hidden because most gravestones are monolingual. The cemetery data do not reveal what languages the persons in our examples – engineer Strömberg, clerk Wasastjerna, paper machine installer Zeuner, or factory owner Wahl – used in Varkaus. Bilingual gravestones such as the one of Paul

Wahl are an exception in the Varkaus data, but even here it was noted that the two languages on the same gravestone relate to two different actors. Research into the multilingualism of individuals would require other types of research material. The cemetery data only reflects traces that have been kept up to the present from the multilingual history of industry.

4.2. “Namescape” as an industrial linguistic heritage

The focus of our second case study is on another linguistic landscape. The examples in this section highlight proper names in two contemporary linguistic landscapes in Varkaus, hence the characterization “namescape” in the section title. We examine the street names of Varkaus and other contemporary names that commemorate industrial history. The examples are taken from the street name data stored in the public map of Varkaus (see Varkauden kaupungin karttapalvelu), as well as from our own knowledge and observations of the current linguistic landscape of Varkaus.

City names consist of different name layers. The official nomenclature covers street names, names of districts and residential areas, square names, and park names. Today, their naming in Finland is a municipal matter. Central for the purposes of the present study are the so-called commemorative names, names that have been given in memory of a person, event, or other occurrence. Commemorative names reflect power relations and ideologies of their time in society. The fact that they are symbolic expressions of power is evident, for example, from processes of rewriting the history when street names chosen by a previous regime are rejected and replaced with new names that are compatible with the ideologies of the new regime.

Street names form one way of remembering the industrial history of a place. Table 2 illustrates commemorative street names related to the industrial history of Varkaus. These names occur in the Päiviönsaari, Kosulanniemi and Kommila districts, which are the key historical areas of Varkaus industry.

In public street signs, these commemorative names remind passers-by of past industrial actors and their backgrounds. Wredenkatu, ‘Wrede Street’, refers to Carl Gustaf Wrede, founder of the first industrial plants in Varkaus. Erik Johan Längman and Paul Wahl, whose names are also kept in the namescape (Längmanninkatu, Wahlinkatu), were the next owners of the industry after Wrede in the 19th century. Ahlströminkatu ‘Ahlström Street’, in turn, refers to Walter Ahlström, who bought the industrial plants in 1909. Other names of the Ahlström family are also preserved in Varkaus: Antinpuisto, ‘Antti’s Park’ honors Antti Ahlström, father of Walter Ahlström. Walter Ahlström never moved to Varkaus, but led his industrial empire from Noormarkku, located in the Satakunta Province in western Finland. These place names in the street names (Noormarkunkuja, Satakunnankatu) memorialise his background. In addition, Sölve Thunström (Söhenkatu, Söhenkuja, ‘Sölve Street’, ‘Sölve Alley’), the local managing director of the industrial plants in 1924-1929, also features in the namescape. Moreover, the passers-by are reminded of the German experts at the factories

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by the street name Saksalankuja, ‘German Alley’. This street name entails the name of the house (Saksala ‘Germans’ house’), which was built for the German industrial experts and their families. The house itself does not exist anymore.

According to Ziegler’s et al. study (2018), in the industrial Ruhr area, commemorative street names have been given in memory of historical persons (e.g. Mozartstraße, Goethestraße), local scientists (e.g. Claubertstraße), local entrepreneurs (e.g. Heinzmannstraße) or even a fictive figure (e.g. Horst-Schimanski-Gasse). The recent migration history, on the contrary, has not yet left any traces in the street name scenery. The previous commemorative names in Varkaus, those that relate to the local industrial history, are in the same way ideologically biased. Owners and major players of the industry with their backgrounds appear, but workers, for example, remain invisible.

In this sense, the so-called thematic street names are different in Varkaus. Thematic names are names, which have been formed on the basis of a particular motive. They are given to streets of a certain area so that the names in this area form a thematically coherent whole. The thematically similar names give a particular flavor to the area and shape its image.41 In Varkaus, the street names in the Könönpelto district have been inspired by the log floating specialized terminology. These street names are illustrated in Table 3. In the same way as the above discussed commemorative street names, these thematic names remind the passers-by of the early stages of the local wood processing history. But unlike the previous names, these thematic street names represent other hierarchies of the industry than the ownership and management. They bring up ordinary log floating workers (e.g. Log Wincher’s Alley, Log Roller’s Alley) and phenomena of their working environment (e.g. Bundle Alley, Float street).

41 See e.g. Ainiala et al. 2016, 103.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic names in the Könönpelto district</th>
<th>English translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hankakuja</td>
<td>Temporary Log Barrier Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelumiehenkuja</td>
<td>Log Wincher’s Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauttatie</td>
<td>Float Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenkkikuja</td>
<td>Link Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nippukuja</td>
<td>Bundle Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otvakuja</td>
<td>Side Jam Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piestinkuja</td>
<td>Log Bond Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purokuja</td>
<td>Creek Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puomitie</td>
<td>Log Boom Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyräskuja</td>
<td>Small Log Float Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rännikuja</td>
<td>Drain Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Säiekuja</td>
<td>Fibre Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sestojankuja</td>
<td>Log Roller’s Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumakuja</td>
<td>Log Jam Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suomustie</td>
<td>Upright Log Float Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tukkitie</td>
<td>Log Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uittokuja</td>
<td>Log Floating Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varppikuja</td>
<td>Warp Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vastuumiehenkuja</td>
<td>Log Barrier Builder’s Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vierittäjänkuja</td>
<td>Log Scroller’s Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viittakuja</td>
<td>Spar Buoy Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vonkamiehenkuja</td>
<td>Log Floating Watcher’s Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vorokkikuja</td>
<td>Capstan Alley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Log floating terminology in the thematic street names in Varkaus.
Commemorative naming does not only relate to street names, but it is also used for other public naming. For example, *Waltterin koulu*, ‘Walter’s school’, is the name of a new school complex in Varkaus, which was inaugurated in 2018. The name is reminiscent of Walter Ahlström (see above). The nameplate is visible on the front of the school building.

Another example is commercial naming. For example, the special menu created by the local restaurant *Amanda* in September 2019 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the city of Varkaus also relates to industrial actors from the past. The original names of the courses entail alliteration; our English translations do not do it justice:

- **Starter:** *Ahlströmin alkukeitto* ‘Ahlström’s soup’
- **Main course:** *Patruunan pihvi* ‘Factory owner’s steak’
- **Dessert:** *Laivanrakentajan loppueväs* ‘Shipbuilder’s last provision’

In sum, the examples in this section show how language is, on the one hand, a means to remember and convey memories of the industrial history. The examples illustrated how the local industrial history has been verbalized and made visually accessible in the public street name landscape where it reminds the community members of their common past. The exact formation process both of the commemorative and thematic street names – to what extent it has been a top-down or a bottom-up process (when and by whom the names were introduced) – is a topic to be followed in an upcoming article on Varkaus. On the other hand, the examples in this section illustrate that the industrial history is a common resource for the members of the community. The community members utilize their collective memory to interpret the past and present. The common industrial past is a source of inspiration to draw upon when new names, both for public institutions or for commercial purposes, are formed. At the same time, of course, other name motives are used as well.  

5. Conclusion

The goal of this article was to introduce the notion of linguistic industrial heritage into the study of industrial heritage and to illustrate some preliminary ways in which it can be approached in research. The case studies in the article highlighted both multilingualism and other traces of industrial history and actors in the contemporary linguistic landscape as industrial heritage. Both parts of the linguistic landscape preserve industrial history and pass it on to succeeding generations.

The article showed how industry creates new linguistic diversity and new types of linguistic neighborhoods in its production sites. New languages and dialects, which travel with industry workers and experts when they move to new locations, are introduced in areas where they are not spoken traditionally. The examples highlighted the Swedish language in particular. It arrived in Varkaus, an originally Finnish-speaking area, with industrial actors and their families, and with other movers who were driven to the city when it started to grow due to the expansion of industrial production. In addition to Swedish, traces of German

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42 For a recent analysis of contemporary commemorative naming in Finland, see Laura Ukskoski, *Karamzin-rannasta Aulis Rytkösen kadulle. Tutkimus 2000-luvun muistomaineisesta* (Helsinki: University of Helsinki, 2019).
that the industry introduced to the local industrial heritage community of Varkaus were also
discussed. The resulting multilingual community can be explained by the industrial migra-
tion history, which has left traces for future generations, for example in the cemetery linguis-
tic landscape discussed in this article. In the multilingual cemetery inscriptions, languages
appeared as a very physical, tangible heritage. In addition, the tombstone inscriptions wit-
ness linguistic expressions such as titles and occupations, which reflect earlier stages of the
industrial history. The cemetery linguistic landscape is, of course, based on the immaterial
side of the language, the language and writing skills of the members of the multilingual
community.

The intangible linguistic heritage an industry leaves behind concerns the cultural
memory of languages and speakers of different languages in the history of the industrial
community. The members of the community rely on their cultural memory when they
interpret past and present. As highlighted in this article, language is a means to make use of
the industrial history. The common cultural memory, in turn, is a resource for the creation
of new places of memory in the linguistic landscape when public places such as streets,
institutions and even commercial phenomena are named. These examples bear evidence of
social processes of remembering the past and remembering what is lost.

All examples in this article – the cemeteries as special commemorative spaces, the
commemorative street names and building names in the contemporary public scenery, the
thematic street names, the commemorative names of commercial products and services,
and the cultural memory – serve to pass on parts of the industrial culture heritage to future
generations. Language is an important strategic means to verbalize the past, to restore the
shared histories and participatory experiences, and to carry out commemorative identity
work in the industrial heritage community.

As highlighted by Antila and Nykänen (2000), it is important to notice that not every
study of the industrial past is an investigation of industrial heritage. The heritological
approach emphasizes the presence of the industrial past, the awareness of the technoscape
and the valuation of techno-cultural industrial traces in the present. According to the cur-
rent understanding and as emphasized e.g. by Smith (2006), cultural heritage comprises
the social process of heritagization and not of the tangible or intangible objects that the
heritage community selects to work on in the cultural heritage process. Creating indus-
trial heritage is a process of elaborating collective and individual identities with different
histories, industrial monuments, and participatory experiences and memories.43 In this ar-
ticle, multilingualism and languages were highlighted as inherent resources in the industrial
community. Past languages still exist in the cultural memory, and selected linguistic land-
scapes such as cemeteries still allow access to past multilingualism of the locality. In past
naming processes, cultural memory has been exploited to commemorate industrial history
and its actors, and today, it continues to be utilized by the community members for contem-
porary naming purposes.

The case studies in this article illustrated two selected perspectives on the linguistic
effects of industry and industrial linguistic heritage. The case studies do not of course
exhaust the possibilities, and it is the task of forthcoming research to exploit other types

of data and methods in order to gain a more thorough picture of what industrial language heritage may mean in Finnish industrial communities or internationally. It is our hope that this initial article will provide readers with new ideas and inspiration for future research on the multifaceted cultural heritage of industry.

6. References

6.1. Primary sources

Archives

The archive of the Lutheran congregation of Varkaus. Approx. 3,400 unlisted photos of the funeral monuments in the cemeteries Ala-Kankku, Pirtinniemi, and Ylä-Kankku in Varkaus during the years 2009–2011.


Statistics

Suomenmaan tilastollinen vuosikirja 1879–. Helsinki: Tilastollinen toimisto.

Maps


Newspapers


6.2. Secondary sources


