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| Southern (Middle Ob) Selkup | <i>pi:r-</i> + ACC.poss | <i>on-</i> + OBL.poss <i>on-</i> + <i>pi:r-</i> + OBL.poss |
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One way to analyze these data is to view the rise of *pi:r*-based forms as an example of a Jespersen’s cycle, with different Selkup lects displaying different stages of the process. Based on the fact that the pronoun *on-* performs the double duty as a reflexive and an intensifier, we argue that, at first, a complex form with a second stem appeared in order to differentiate between a strictly reflexive and an intensified reflexive uses of the pronoun; later, some speakers reanalyzed the double construction and grammaticalized *pi:r-* to a new reflexive – that is, the change follows the outline of a classical Jespersen’s cycle. Additional evidence in favor of such an interpretation may be found in Chaya Selkup materials, where *on- pi:r-* forms of the reflexive were used only in early 20th century texts, and by mid-century gave way to *pi:r-* forms. As one may see on the table above, there is a difference between accusative and oblique forms of the reflexive: the cycle leading to the grammaticalization of *pi:r-* diachronically produces different results for these case forms so that it would be more correct to view them as two separate sub-cycles.

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