

## The Question of Tune Types in the Improvisations of Taarka

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### Abstract

In this article, the author attempts to provide an overview of the tune types used by the Seto singer Hilana Taarka in her song improvisations. This research is based on phonograph recordings made by the Finnish folklorist Armas Otto Väisänen in the years 1913, 1921 and 1922. The materials from the year 1913 lie in the funds of the Estonian Folklore Archives and songs and texts from 1921/1922 in the Finnish Literature Society. In Taarka's repertoire we find seven improvisations, which can be divided into two categories.

These tunes have been analysed using Žanna Pärtlas's method, which is based on the rhythmic form of the songs. It can be said that Taarka, who was a fine improviser of words, worked within the musical framework of traditional Seto tunes. In her improvisations she used a small number of well-known tunes. In songs addressed to men a connection between choice of the tune and the text content can be found.