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Connecting siidaguobmi

How are coping skills revealed in the Sámi ways of saying things, and not saying things, directly? This kind of local, traditional interaction and knowledge embedded in the language, is depicted as an essential art to master in the life of a small community, i.e. as a way to deliver a message in a softer tone rather than saying things directly and as a way to avoid conflicts. Entertainment, humorous allusions and existential images are also part of this interaction, by expressing Sámi aesthetics as a way of living. This is a characteristic of Sámi interpersonal communication. In Sámi fiction we find this kind of embedded knowledge in dialogues, in hinting and allusions, in poetic inner monologues and in scenes that describe non-verbal communication. Playing with the language connects people. You need to understand the codes and the context of the interaction, something that is developed by people living together in a community. This connects my reading to the yoik theory, where playing with the language and allusions to the context are core parts in placing an individual within the community and as a siidaguobmi, a fellow villager. In a reading of the novel trilogy *Árbbolaččat* (1997-2005), written by the Sami novelist Jovvna-Ánde Vest, I will discuss interpersonal communication modes and how being a good siidaguobmi is a crucial part of the characters coping skills.