Ego-Evidentiality and the right(s) to know (better)

International Workshop
25.-26.04.2024 Tübingen,
Bonatzbau, Schulungsraum
Wilhelmstr. 32, Room B004

Evidentiality is commonly described as the marking of source of information (firsthand vs. non-firsthand) or also as the discrimination between direct knowledge through sense perception, on the one hand, and indirect knowledge, namely hearsay and inference, on the other.

The modern Tibetic languages developed quite a particular type of ‘evidential’ marking. One of the key features is the subjective involvement of the epistemic origo (the speaker in statements and the addressee in questions plus the original speaker in reported speech) in the events reported. The ‘system’ is thus also known under the key terms of ‘egophoricity’ and ‘conjunct/disjunct’, both concepts often mistaken for a weird syntactic person category (ego vs. non-ego).

However, the ‘system’ is extremely flexible, allowing, in principle, most if not all forms for all persons, albeit in different frequencies and for different motivations. It further does not only deal with the source of information or the access channels (self-centred knowledge, perception, and inferences), but also with the subjective assessment of the situation and/or the socio-pragmatic situation. The pragmatic factors appear to be related to a speaker’s rights to treat a particular piece of knowledge as belonging to his or her ‘territory of information’, this also means that speaker-hearer (a)symmetries may play a crucial role.

The workshop aims at discussing the ‘unsystematic’ subjective and pragmatic aspects of ‘ego’-evidentiality or participatory knowledge marking.

Invited speakers: Ilana Mushin, Professor of Linguistics, Deputy Head of School, Linguistics Major Convener, School of Languages and Cultures, University of Queensland, Australia.

Nicolas Tournadre, Professor emeritus, Department of Linguistics and Aix-Marseille University and CNRS, France.
Program

Thursday, 25.04.2024 – Tibetic languages

09:30-10:00 Address of welcome and introduction

10:00-11:30 Nicola Tournadre & Dickey Tsang Tsering Wangdue
   The grammatical expressions of access to personal knowledge and personal experience. An illustration of the flexibility of the Tibetic evidential systems.
   break

11:45-12:30 Hiroyuki Suzuki, Towards shaping the egophoric category in Tibetic languages: Suggestions from the factual evidential expression emerging in Japanese

12:30-13:15 Rtamgrin Lhamo
   Egophoricity of Minyag
   lunch break

15:15-16:00 Wang Jiahong
   Distribution of egophoricity in Golog: An investigation of flexibility and inflexibility

16:00-16:45 Juha Yiliniemi
   Flexibility of personal and neutral forms in Denjongke
   break

17:00-18:00 Discussion

Friday, 26.04.2024 – Tibetic and beyond

09:45-10:00 Introduction to the second part

10:00-11:30 Ilana Mushin
   Managing knowledge asymmetry in grammar and interaction
   break

11:45-12:30 Henrik Bergqvist
   Revisiting the origo: a view from the Andes

12:30-13:15 Christian Huber
   Egophoricity, evidentiality and modality in Shumcho/Humcho
   lunch break

15:15-16:00 Zoe Tribur, Sangsrgyas Tshering & Rtamdrin Lhamo
   A preliminary account of “non-canonical” occurrences of epistemic markers in spontaneous speech data of Amdo Tibetan

16:00-16:45 Bettina Zeisler
   A paradigm of pragmatic flexibility: the case of the Ladakhi dialects
   break

17:00-18:00 Discussion

We warmly welcome guests. Please register with Bettina Zeisler before April 17. Registration is free of costs. For further questions, please contact Bettina Zeisler, zeis@uni-tuebingen.de.

DFG Projekt Evidentialität, epistemische Modalität und Sprecherhaltung im Ladakischen - Modalität und die Semantik-Pragmatik-Grammatik-Schnittstelle / Evidentiality, epistemic modality, and speaker attitude in Ladakhi - Modality and the interface for semantics, pragmatics, and grammar