



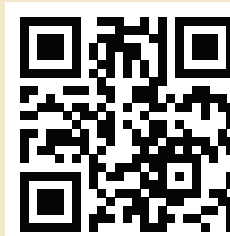
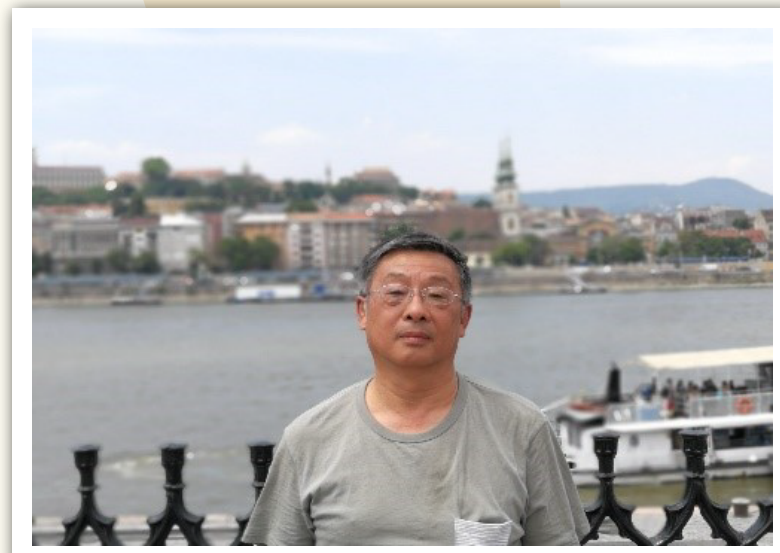
Department of
Linguistics and Modern Languages
語言學及現代語言系

Word Stress Placement in Wakhi

Prof. Bing LI
Nankai University

Date: September 14, 2021 (Tuesday)
Time: 4:30pm - 6:15pm (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)
***Seminar will be conducted via ZOOM**

Registration Deadline:
12:00nn of 12 September 2021 (Sunday) – Hong Kong Time
The Zoom Meeting details will be provided on 13 September 2021



Prior registration is required

Abstract

This talk presents a description about the word stress placement in Wakhi, an Eastern Iranian language, the Pamir Group, spoken in the areas around the Wakhan Corridor shared by Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and China. In Wakhi, the word stress would be otherwise regular in location at the phonetic level if morphological factors and other phonological factors were excluded. The analysis given shows that the word stress placement is morphologically sensitive, and that the irregularities in word stress placement observed at the phonetic level can be assumed to be derived by phonological rules the operations of which are triggered by syllabification. At the level of abstract lexical representation, the stress assignment is regular.

From cross-language perspectives, the description and analysis of the word stress in Wakhi as presented would be of theoretic significance, as stated:

1. Word stress may be introduced into morphemes and complex words by some word stress assignment rule.
2. Word stress assignment rule may operate at some abstract level of representation, rather than at the phonetic level.
3. The location of word stress is unpredictable at the level of observation, but at the abstract level of representation, the stress location is predictable; the surface irregularity can be assumed to be derived by a set of ordered phonological rules.
4. The domain of word stress assignment may be morphologically defined.
5. The vowels, rather than the syllable, can be the stress-bearing unit.

Speaker

Li Bing (李兵), Ph. D. in Linguistics (UvA, Netherlands), Professor at the Linguistics Program, College of Foreign Languages and Literature, Nankai University. His academic interest includes phonology, morphology, historical linguistics, Altaic languages and Wakhi. He is the author of the books *Tungusic Vowel Harmony: Description and Analysis*, *The Language of Oroqen* (co-authored with others), and *Vowel Harmony in Altaic Languages* and several dozens of research articles. Language fieldwork is one of his favourites. Currently he works on China's Wakhi, an Eastern Iranian language.

All are Welcome

Enquiries
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