Endopathic and Egophoric Evidential Markers in the Tibetic Languages:
The Correlation with the First Person
Beware of linguistic labels!

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

The Zoom Meeting details will be provided on 8 November 2021

Abstract

In the Tibetic languages, evidential-epistemic systems are very complex and display several (macro)categories of evidentials, such as sensory, inferential, authoritative, hearsay (and quotative), which interact with epistemic markers. The sensory category includes an endopathic function and the authoritative category usually includes specific egophoric markers. There has been of number of studies about the egophoric category, which is either treated as a subcategory of evidentiality or as a distinct category from evidential (e.g. Widmer, 2020). Thus, some authors have used the term egophoricity as opposed to evidentiality. Moreover, even in recent publications (e.g Floyd et al 2018), there has been a confusion between ‘endopathic’ (or inner feeling) and egophoric (personal knowledge). We will see that: a) egophoric is fully integrated in the evidential-systems and is clearly a subcategory of evidentials and b) egophoric markers are always distinct, formally and functionally, from endopathic markers.

Speaker

Nicolas Tournadre is Professor emeritus at Aix-Marseille university and honorary member of the Institut Universitaire de France. He is a linguist, specialist of the interface between syntax and semantics. N. Tournadre conducted extensive fieldwork research in Tibet and the Himalayas during the last 35 years on the Tibetic languages but he has also studied Iranian languages in Central Asia. He has given many presentations and talks in Asia (China, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Singapore, Tajikistan, Japan), in Russia, Northern America (USA, Canada) and southern America (Brazil), in the middle east (Israel, Iran), in Africa (Morocco), in the Caucasus (Georgia), in Australia and in most European countries. N. Tournadre has published many articles particularly about ergativity and evidentiality and a few books, e.g: Tournadre, N. 1996. L’ergativité en Tibétain moderne: Approche morphosyntaxique de la langue parlée [Ergativity in Modern Tibetan, morphosyntactic approach of the spoken language (Bibliothèque de l’Information Grammaticale, 33). Paris/Leuven: Peeters. The Manual of Standard Tibetan (2003, Snow Lion) ; Le Prisme des langues [The prism of languages], preface of Claude Hagege (Asiatheque, 2014) ; Le grand livre des proverbes tibétains [the great book of Tibetan proverbs] with F. Robin, Presse du Châtelet 2006), Tournadre, Nicolas, Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa, Gyrme Chodrak and Guillaume Oisel. 2009. Sherpa-English and English-Sherpa dictionary ; With literary Tibetan and Nepali equivalents. Kathmandu: Vajra Publications; Linguistic panorama of Tadjiikistan – crossroad of Indo-European languages, with H. Lessan-Bezechki and C. Aslanov, Presse Universitaire de Provence, 2019); and Tournadre N. & Suzuki H. (forthcoming, 2021). The Tibetic Languages, an introduction to the family of languages derived from Old Tibetan. CNRS Lacito Publications. Linguistic diversity series.

N. Tournadre is a polyglot and knows a number of languages affiliated to nine language families (Romance, Slavic, Germanic, Semitic, Indo-Aryan, Iranian, Sinitic, Tibetic and French Sign language).

All are Welcome