

Evidentiality in some Inner Asian Turkic languages

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This paper mainly addresses two aspects of evidentiality in some Inner Asian Turkic languages, above all in Uyghur, Kazakh, Salar, Yellow Uyghur and Jungarian Tuvan: Firstly, it describes subtypes of evidential systems in some Inner Asian Turkic languages, mainly marked through evidential markers and referred by evidentiality strategies; Secondly, it discusses some important diachronic and contact-induced factors in establishment of evidentiality as an independent grammatical category in the Inner Asian Turkic languages. Besides them, the paper will also briefly analyze some interesting linguistic facts observed in neighbouring non-Turkic languages, which, very probably reflect influence of Turkic evidentiality. The basis of this study is mainly a comparative data collected by a research group in Minzu University of China from various Altaic languages spoken in China during the last three years. Some earlier field records made by the author from some Turkic varieties, e.g. Salar, Yellow Uyghur and Jungar Tuvan etc. will also be consulted. The data of non-Altaic languages is mainly taken from Chinese academic publications.