

# Verbal Categories in Modern Tibetan

# Outline

- Structural analysis
- Tense, aspect, modality and evidentiality
- TAME categories in Modern Tibetan

# Structural analysis

# Structural analysis

Non-final and Final forms

# Structural analysis

We will see later that some Sino-Tibetan languages have very complex systems of structural categories.

Tibetan and Bodo structure can be described much more easily than Limbu or rGyalrong

# Structural analysis

Non-final:

ལྷེ, བས་, ལས་, བྱས་, ཅང་, ཏུ་, and many others

# Structural analysis

Final:

Simple forms: སོང་, ཞག་, བྱང་

Complex forms: བ་ཡིན་, བ་རེད་, གི་ཡོད་, གི་ཡོག་རེད་

# Semantic categories

Languages like Bodo and Tibetan which have structurally simple verbs often have semantically very complicated meanings

The formal system of Tibetan verb suffixes is easy to describe, but the meanings are very difficult to describe

# Semantic categories

T/A/M/E

Tense-aspect-modality-evidentiality

# Semantic categories

	Egophoric	Factual	Evidential	
			Direct	Inferential
Perfective	བ་ཡིན་	བ་རེད་	སོང་	ཞག་
Perfect	ཡོད་	ཡོག་རེད་	འདུག་	
Imperfective	གི་ཡོད་	གི་ཡོག་རེད་	གི་འདུག་~ གིས་	
Future	གི་ཡིན་	གི་རེད་		

# Semantic categories

Tense/aspect

我看见了

I see PERF

你什麼時候杀了我

*Ni shemma shihou sha-le wo*

‘When are you going to kill me?’ (大上海)

# Semantic categories

## Tense/aspect

མཐོང་བ་ཡིན་

མཐོང་བ་རེད་

མཐོང་གི་ཡོད་

མཐོང་གི་འདུག་

མཐོང་གི་ཡིན་

མཐོང་གི་རེད་

# Semantic categories

## Tense/aspect

མཐོང་བ་ཡིན་

མཐོང་བ་རེད་

མཐོང་གི་ཡོད་

མཐོང་གི་འདུག་

མཐོང་གི་ཡིན་

མཐོང་གི་རེད་

# Semantic categories

Tense/aspect

བ་ = Past

པ་ = Nonpast

# Semantic categories

ཁ་      ཕྱིན་ རོང་

kho    phyin-song

he     went- ?

ཁོ་      ཕྱིན་ འག་

kho    phyin-zhag

he     went- ?

# Semantic categories

ངའི་            ནང་            བོད་ལ་            ཡོད་  
*nga-'i*    *nang*    *bod-la*            *yod*  
1sg-GEN    home    Tibet-LOC    exist.PERSONAL  
'My home is in Tibet.'

བོད་ལ་                      གཡག་            ཡོག་རེད་  
*bod-la*                      *g.yag*            *yog.red*  
Tibet-LOC            yak            exist.FACTUAL  
'There are yaks in Tibet.'

བོད་ལ་                      མོ་ཏ་            མང་པོ་            འདུག་  
*bod-la*                      *moṭa*            *mang.po*            *'dug*  
Tibet-LOC            auto            many            exist.DIRECT  
'There are lots of cars in Tibet.'

# Semantic categories

Modality

认知情态范畴

# Semantic categories

Modality            认知情态范畴

She is American.            她是美国人

She might be American.

She could be American.

She should be American.

She must be American.

She'll be American.

# Semantic categories

Modality          认知情态范畴

She is American.          她是美国人

She might be American.

Americans often come to this place, maybe she is one.

# Semantic categories

Modality      认知情态范畴

She is American.      她是美国人

She could be American.

I don't see anything about her that tells me  
she isn't American

# Semantic categories

Modality          认知情态范畴

She is American.          她是美国人

She should be American.

She's working in the US Embassy, there's probably a rule that says only Americans

# Semantic categories

Modality      认知情态范畴

She is American.      她是美国人

She must be American.

# Semantic categories

Modality          认知情态范畴

She is American.          她是美国人

She'll be American.

For all those reasons and more, I'm completely sure that she is American. (But I still don't *know* that she is).

# Semantic categories

Modality

认知情态范畴

- English modals: *may, might, can, could, will, would, must, should*
- 英语情态词:
- There is no such truth-value with respect to occurrence of the event; what is asserted is instead a specific *relation* between that event and the factual world, a set of *terms of admission* for allowing it real-world status. (Joos 1964:149)
- 某句话的真值与其所言的事情有没有真的发生无关。反而所表达的却是事情与世界之间的关系，此事在某种条件下可以真的发生。

# Semantic categories

Evidentiality      示证范畴

# Semantic categories

Mirativity      意外范畴

# Semantic categories

Mirativity      意外范畴

Examples from Dene, also called Hare, a Native language of Canada, spoken in the Northwest Territories, in the Athabaskan (Dene-Yeniseian) family

哈雷语 阿萨巴斯卡语支，加拿大西北区

# Semantic categories

Mirativity      意外范畴

*John deshīta déya*

John 森林 去.PAST

*John deshīta déya*      *lō*

John 森林 去.PAST      MIRATIVE

# Semantic categories

Mirativity      意外范畴

*John deshīta déya lō*

John 森林 去. PAST MIRATIVE

This is not what I expected. (Perhaps I was supposed to meet him; perhaps he has been ill; perhaps he usually doesn't do this; perhaps it is the wrong season to go out to the bush ...)

# Semantic categories

Mirativity      意外范畴

*shō derehle*

‘开始下雨了’

*shō derehle lō*

‘咦！开始下雨了！’

# Semantic categories

Mirativity      意外范畴

heee,    gúhde      daweda!    ch'ifi dach'ída    !!

喂      那边上面 坐      人      坐

- 'Heey, (he's) sitting up there! The guy is sitting up there!'
- ‘喂！（他）是坐在那边上面！人是坐在那边上面！’

# Semantic categories

Mirativity      意外范畴

*deshīta*      *yedaníyie*      *lō*

bush              smart

'You're smart for the bush!' (I.e. are competent at bushcraft and good at dealing improvisatorily with situations that come up in the bush)

‘你是森林聪明的人！’（意思事，你会做很多关于森林中过日子的事情，也不管你碰到任何麻烦或问题都可以立刻想到最合适的手套来克服挑战。）

# Semantic categories

	Egophoric	Factual	Evidential	
			Direct	Inferential
Perfective	བ་ཡིན་	བ་རེད་	སོང་	ཞག་
Perfect	ཡོད་	ཡོག་རེད་	འདུག་	
Imperfective	གི་ཡོད་	གི་ཡོག་རེད་	གི་འདུག་~ གིས་	
Future	གི་ཡིན་	གི་རེད་		