

Analyzing the functions of the quotative verb *ge-* in Khalkha Mongolian

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Quotative markers, which prototypically code direct reported discourse, can be used on their own or with a speech predicate (Matić & Pakendorf 2013: 370-2). They commonly extend to indirect reported discourse and to rendering cognition, emotion and perception (Chappel 2008: 52). Apart from these core functions, quotative indices may extend to other domains of usage, e.g. intention/future (Güldemann 2008: 422-43), metalinguistic reference (Matić & Pakendorf 2013: 379-81), hearsay knowledge and illocutionary force (e.g. Wang et al. 2003). Such grammaticalization can be absent and greatly depends on areal factors (Matić & Pakendorf 2013: 365-6).

In Khalkha Mongolian, the quotative verb *ge-* is known to fulfill a number of functions of which purpose-clause marking (Hashimoto 2004), speaker intention (Song 2002) and prospective aspect (*passim*) have been described in some detail, while phrasal marking of purpose, benefaction and cause (examples in Yáo 2007), adversative, concessive, conditional conjunctions, topic markers (Matić & Pakendorf 2013) and sentence-final particles (Sarana 2006) have only been mentioned in passing. For closely related Kalmyk, the complementizer function has received a relatively detailed analysis (Baranova 2015, Knyazev 2016).

In my research, I am working towards a comprehensive picture of the constructional network constituted by reflexes of *ge-* and the subsystems that they constitute. In this presentation, after introducing my methodological approach, I will give an overview of the inventory of forms (converbs, finite verbs and participles) and the functional classes into which it can be subdivided (e.g. conjunction vs. sentence adverbial vs. topic marker vs. non-finite predicate), focusing for the time being on how particular words assume similar distributions rather than on their fine-grained semantic differences. Within this patterning, morphological variants (e.g. with subject person clitics or suffix for uncontrolled events) tend to assume a narrower distribution. Secondly, I will discuss an alternative approach that starts from function, namely the expression of surprise, taking as an example three finite forms of *ge-* alongside dedicated verbal suffixes. In the end, I will give a short overview of the research papers that I am currently contemplating and their possible scope.