Yi Future: Tense or Evidential?*

Matthias Gerner

*City University of Hong Kong*

The Nuosu future clitic encodes future time reference but exhibits a “first-person” constraint that is reminiscent of evidential markers. We argue in support of the tense hypothesis but demonstrate with pan-Yi data that the evidential constraint is historically inherited from a quotation clitic which in turn can be traced back to a verb of speech (SAY). Several Yi languages display SAY-future tenses like Nuosu. Still other Yi languages derive future tense from the diachronic sources of WANT, FOLLOW and (probably) GET.

Key words: future tense, evidential, Yi, Nuosu

1. Introduction

Scholars disagree on the status of the English auxiliary will as a tense or modality auxiliary. The use of will is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for future time reference (Comrie 1985:47). Will has several modal uses with present time reference.

(1)  
   a. Intention: We’ll do the job now.  
   b. Volition: He will go swimming in dangerous waters.¹ 
   c. Polite request: Will you help me look for my purse?  
   d. Belief in truth: The match will be finished by now.

On the other hand, future time reference can be indicated by other forms than will.

¹ Example (1b) is quoted from Comrie (1985:47), (1c+d) from Salkie (2010:192), (2a) from Declerck et al. (2006:182), and (2b) from Salkie (2010:196).
(2) a. Present tense: The train leaves (/will leave) in 2 hours.
   b. Present progressive: Helen is taking (/will take) her exam tomorrow.
   c. Epistemic modal: Mary may (/will) get married next year.

Those who argue for will as tense marker discount the importance of these examples and quote studies on large corpora which place pure future time uses of will above 90 per cent of all uses (Salkie 2010:196).

In Nuosu and other Yi (彝) languages (Tibeto-Burman: China), future tense is encoded in verb clitics suffixed to the predicate. The status of the Nuosu clitic as marker of future tense is controversial for a different reason. The Nuosu clitic does not manifest modal extensions in sentences with non-future time reference, as English will in example (1). The Nuosu future clitic rather exhibits an evidential restriction in sentences with future time reference.

The use of the clitic mi⁴⁴ is a sufficient but not necessary condition for future time reference. The use of mi⁴⁴ encodes future tense and is incompatible with explicit nonfuture time reference, as shown in (3a+b). However, future time reference can also be expressed without the clitic, as illustrated in (4).²

Nuosu (Sichuan, Liangshan Prefecture)

(3) a. ŋa³³ čo²¹mo²¹ čo²¹ mi⁴⁴.
   1P SG wife, bride marry MIX
   ‘I will get married (in the future not now).’

b. *ŋa³³ a²¹m³³ si⁵⁵ tsʰi³³ dzi⁵⁵ ŋo²¹ mi⁴⁴.
   1P SG now affair DEM:PROX CL think MIX
   ‘I will look into this problem now.’

(4) 猛地 sa³³tu⁴⁴ ㎡⁴³hi³³ ko⁴⁴ nuu³³ (ŋa³³) ze⁵⁵ho²¹ ze⁵⁵ sa³³ o⁴⁴.
   tomorrow morning SENT.TOP TOP 1P SG song sing well DP
   ‘Tomorrow, I will sing well.’ (Folk story “The dove and the cuckoo”)

Similar to the English auxiliary will, future time reference does not necessarily trigger the presence of the Nuosu clitic, but unlike will, the clitic is subject to a first person constraint. The future clitic is incompatible with second and third person subjects.

² The Yi language data are elicited or quoted from unpublished narratives that I collected over the past 17 years. I also cite from folk stories published by Chen & Wu (1998). The Nuosu data represent the Shynra dialect of Xide County (喜德縣).
The exclusion of nonspeaker subjects is an evidential constraint. The speaker asserts something about the future only if s/he is in control of the uttered situation. This is only the case when the speaker is the controlling subject of the sentence. Thus, an alternative account of the Nuosu clitic mi⁴⁴ would be to interpret its main function as *first-hand evidential*.

We argue against the evidential hypothesis and in favour of the tense hypothesis. We survey *pro* and *contra* arguments for both positions in §2. We present the future clitics of eleven Yi languages and identify their diachronic sources in §3.

### 2. The evidential vs. tense hypothesis in Nuosu

Evidentiality is the category of information sources which indicate how one learnt something (Aikhenvald 2004:1, Willett 1988:51). Information sources are encoded in the grammatical system of a quarter of the world’s languages. With bound morphemes, the sentence must indicate the type of source on which it is based. In a chapter of the *World Atlas of Language Structures*, De Haan (2005) identifies North and South America as the principal areas of languages with grammaticalized information sources. Individual languages exhibit between one and five grammaticalized information sources (Aikhenvald 2004:60). Willett (1988:57) organizes the attested information sources into the following system.
Table 1: Types of evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of evidence</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Indirect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attested</td>
<td>Visual</td>
<td>Second-hand (hear-say)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Auditory</td>
<td>Third-hand (hear-say)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other sensory</td>
<td>Folklore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reasoning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Nuosu language exhibits a quotative evidential (second-hand). The postverbal clitic di₄⁴ marks a clause as direct or indirect speech. On the view that the morpheme mi₄⁴ codes evidential instead of tense meaning, Nuosu would have an evidentiality system with two choices. It would be reminiscent of Aikhenvald’s type A₄ (2004:34), a rare type also found in several Australian languages.

Table 2: The evidential hypothesis in Nuosu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECT:</th>
<th>mi₄⁴</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QUOTATIVE:</td>
<td>di₄⁴</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tense is the grammatical expression of location in time (Comrie 1985:9). According to Dahl & Velupillai (2005:266-279), tense is encoded in about 80% of all languages. Languages of the world make between one and ten tense distinctions. They sometimes differentiate degrees of remoteness in the past and/or in the future. Temporal distance oppositions are more frequent in the past than in the future. Comrie (1985:97) distinguishes the following more common tense values. Noncanonical systems do also exist.
Table 3: Types of absolute tenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past</th>
<th>First option</th>
<th>Second option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(-P_5):</td>
<td>last year or before</td>
<td>distant past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-P_4):</td>
<td>last week</td>
<td>last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-P_3):</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
<td>last month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-P_2):</td>
<td>earlier today</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-P_1):</td>
<td>immediate</td>
<td>immediate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Time interval including utterance time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(-F_1):</td>
<td>immediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-F_2):</td>
<td>later today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-F_3):</td>
<td>tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-F_4):</td>
<td>next week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-F_5):</td>
<td>next year or later</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the view that \textit{mi}^{44} marks future tense and not evidential meaning, we would have a tense system with only one value, future tense. As zero marking is compatible with past, present and future time reference, Nuosu would not display a future versus nonfuture split as do half of the world’s languages (Dahl & Velupillai 2005:270).

Table 4: The future tense hypothesis in Nuosu

| FUTURE:       | \textit{mi}^{44}                    |

On the following pages, we argue for and against both hypotheses and conclude that the tense hypothesis represents a stronger case.

2.1 The evidential hypothesis

The clitic \textit{mi}^{44} is a first-hand evidential whose use is always co-associated with the idea of speaker-control. The speaker controls the situation denoted by a sentence if and only if a first person pronoun functions as the subject and the predicate allows the idea of control. The speaker makes an assertion based on her/himself as guarantor of the outcome. This idea is present in the following examples.\footnote{The Nuosu future clitic \textit{mi}^{44} occurs in written texts, three times in Chen & Wu (1998)’s folk stories and dozens of times in the Nuosu New Testament (2009).}

\footnote{The Nuosu future clitic \textit{mi}^{44} occurs in written texts, three times in Chen & Wu (1998)’s folk stories and dozens of times in the Nuosu New Testament (2009).}
Examples in (7) exhibit second, third person subjects or impersonal subjects. They represent situations not controlled by the speaker.

(7) a. *nu³³ mu³³ ka³³ ngu³³ ta³³ ho³³tu³³ tša³³ si²¹ngu²¹ mi⁴⁴.
   2P SG name COV:mix STP while CL chat MIX
   ‘You will chat with Muka for a while.’

b. *tsi³³ ma⁵⁵lo²¹ dza⁴⁴ dzu³³ gu³⁴du⁴⁴nu³³, zi⁴⁴ ka³³ ndo³³
   3P SG noon food eat after tobacco CL smoke mi⁴⁴.
   MIX
   ‘He will smoke a cigarette after the lunch.’

c. *a³³ na³³ ne⁵⁵di²¹khv³³ a⁴⁴zi³³ so³³ zö³³ tsʰi²¹ dzi²¹
   female name next year child NUM:3 CL NUM:1 CL
   ADVL bear come MIX
   ‘Anyuo will bear a triplet next year.’

d. *šø²¹tu²¹ tʰtu³³ ko³³ tu⁵⁵dze³³ mi⁴⁴.
   July time LOC Torch Festival MIX
   ‘The Torch Festival will be in July.’
Yi Future: Tense or Evidential?

In (8), the speaker assumes the function of non-controlling subject. As the predicates convey a low degree of control, the sentences are ungrammatical.

(8) a. *ŋa⁸³ o qu mi⁸⁴.
    1P SG head white MIX
    ‘I will have grey hair.’

b. *ŋa⁸³ i³¹ʨʰi³³ na³³ mi⁸⁴.
    1P SG head ill MIX
    ‘I will have a headache.’

c. *ŋa³³ cʰo³⁴e³³ tsʰi⁴⁴ ma³³ ŋgu³³ mi⁸⁴.
    1P SG girl DEM:PROX CL love MIX
    ‘I will love this girl.’

In §2.1.1, we examine a typological argument and in §2.1.2 a diachronic argument in support of the evidential hypothesis.

2.1.1 The typological argument (“first person” effects)

Many languages with evidentials in the grammatical system exhibit “first-person” effects (Aikhenvald 2004:219-233). When the speaker talks about an event in which s/he participates, the evidence of this involvement will semantically react to the use of evidentials. Certain evidentials may acquire secondary meanings and overtones when a first person pronoun is employed. The range of secondary meanings attested in different languages is called “first-person” effects.

In Qiang, a remote genetic relative of Nuosu spoken in China, the marker of visual evidence implies for first person subjects that the action was unintentional, mistaken or
accidental (LaPolla 2003:66). This effect can be depicted as a loss of speaker control over the situation.

First-hand evidentials of other languages exhibit an opposite effect, an increase of speaker control. In the Tukano language spoken in Brazil, the visual evidential implies for speaker subjects that the action is done consciously and intentionally (Ramirez 1997, Vol. I: 133).

The Nuosu examples (6)-(8) demonstrate a “first-person” effect of still a different type. The clitic mi⁴⁴ takes a narrow view of first-hand evidence. It refers to the evidence that the speaker as controlling event participant possesses. Situations in which this “control-evidence” is unattainable are incompatible with mi⁴⁴. The claim that mi⁴⁴ is evidential draws its support from this “first-person” effect, a version of which also exists in other languages of the world.

The typological argument looks weak if we distinguish between the sense of mi⁴⁴ and the meaning of other elements obligatorily co-associated with mi⁴⁴. First-hand evidence is not a sense encoded in mi⁴⁴ but arises from the elements mi⁴⁴ co-occurs with. If it really encoded first-hand evidence, it would be grammatical in the following clauses.⁴

(9)  a. ŋa³³ zi³³ tsʰi⁴⁴ bo²¹ ko³³ ta³³ bi⁵⁵bo³³ (mi⁴⁴ disallowed in perfective events)
o⁴⁴ (*mi⁴⁴).
DP MIX
‘I have left the house.’

b. ŋa³³ zi³³ tsʰi⁴⁴ bo²¹ ko³³ ta³³ bi⁵⁵bo³³ (mi⁴⁴ disallowed in ongoing events)
ku³³ (*mi⁴⁴).
PROG MIX
‘I am leaving the house.’

2.1.2 The diachronic argument

Although mi⁴⁴ does not function as an evidential in Modern Nuosu, it is still possible that mi⁴⁴ had this function in a proto-language. The “first-person” effect could be a residual property of its evidential meaning. Nothing can be known about the history

⁴ The perfective and progressive clitics cannot be in the scope of the future clitic, but the future clitic can be in the scope of the perfective and progressive clitics. The compound clitics mi⁴⁴o⁴⁴ and mi⁴⁴ku³³o⁴⁴ were reanalyzed with new meanings (§2.2.3).
of \textit{mi}^{44} through internal reconstruction, but other genetically related Yi languages offer insights.

The Nase [na^{33}sa^{33}] language, a close Yi relative not mutually intelligible with Nuosu (see §3), employs a future clitic that Gerner (2009, 2012) reconstructs from the verb ‘say’. There are three verb clitics that are distinguished by tone alone. The constant-mid tone \^{33} is associated with future tense, the rising-low tone \^{13} is a marker for possible epistemic modality and the constant-high tone \^{55} links to necessary epistemic modality.

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{ccc}
\textbf{di}^{33} & \textbf{di}^{13} & \textbf{di}^{55} \\
FUTURE TENSE (‘will’) & POSSIBILITY (‘may’) & NECESSITY (‘must’) \\
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

Examples in (10) contrast the three clitics for the same basic sentence.

Nase (Yunnan, Luping County)

(10) a. \textit{tʂ’u}^{21} \textit{ci}^{55} \textit{do}^{33} \textit{di}^{33}.
3P SG sweat exit FUT
‘He will be sweating.’

b. \textit{tʂ’u}^{21} \textit{ci}^{55} \textit{do}^{33} \textit{di}^{13}.
3P SG sweat exit POSS
‘He might be sweating.’

c. \textit{tʂ’u}^{21} \textit{ci}^{55} \textit{do}^{33} \textit{di}^{55}.
3P SG sweat exit NESS
‘He must be sweating.’

These clitics are historically derived from the verb \textit{di}^{55} ‘say’ which is still in use in Modern Nase. It is a parallel compound of two words of speaking in a proto-language, *\textit{di} ‘say’ and *\textit{e} ‘speak’.

(11) \textit{tʂ’u}^{21} \textit{mi}^{55} \textit{yu}^{21} \textit{di}^{55}.
3P SG word say
‘He is talking.’

The split \textit{di}^{55}/\textit{di}^{13}/\textit{di}^{33} was triggered by intonational variation and speech act choice. Later, these three tonal variants were semantically reanalyzed as modal \textit{must}, \textit{can} and as future tense (Gerner 2012). The Neasu [ns^{55}su^{13}] language, another Northern Yi language (§3), exhibits a future tense clitic (\textit{he}^{33}) that is historically related to the verb ‘say’ (\textit{hi}^{55}). Both morphemes are exemplified in (12) and (13).
Neither Nase nor Neasu displays a “first-person” effect as reported for the Nuosu clitic \textit{mi}^{44}. The feature of speaker-control is either idiosyncratic to Nuosu or a property of all Northern Yi languages that was subsequently lost in Nase and Neasu. Either way, future tense developed from the sense of quotative marker in clauses with explicit future time reference. The quotative marker was reanalyzed as prediction marker (gloss: \textit{predict that}) even when future time reference was not explicit in the sentence. Speaker-control might have triggered the function of predictive marker. The predictive marker further evolved into future tense. The following figure surveys the main steps of the reconstruction and is extended and adapted from Gerner (2012).\(^5\)

---

\(^5\) The verb \textit{follow} has the sound shape /\textit{me}/ in several Yi languages though not in Nuosu. There is a small chance that the Nuosu future tense clitic \textit{mi}^{44} is grammaticalized not from the verb \textit{say} but from the verb \textit{follow}. Under this scenario, the clitic \textit{mi}^{44} would not have changed its sound structure much. Two arguments contradict this kind of evolution. First, it would not be possible to account for the first person constraint, if \textit{mi}^{44} was related to the sense \textit{follow}. Second, the Ni language of Shilin County (石林縣), considered by some scholars to be the cradle of the Yi tribes, uses the verb \textit{me}^{33} ‘follow’ and the forms \textit{ni}^{33}/\textit{li}^{33} for future tense. In Ni, the verb \textit{follow} is not likely cognate to the future clitic as this would require an unlikely process of phonological dissimilation \textit{me}^{33} \rightarrow \textit{ni}^{33}/\textit{li}^{33} (bilabial nasal + front vowel \rightarrow alveolar nasal + front vowel). The Ni forms \textit{ni}^{33}/\textit{li}^{33} should be viewed as intermediate forms of the Nuosu clitic \textit{mi}^{44}.\hspace{1cm}
In Nuosu and Neasu, the different products of the grammaticalization process can co-occur in the same clause, whereas in Nase they cannot. In the Modern Nuosu example (14), the clitics mi\textsuperscript{44} and di\textsuperscript{44} are compatible; Example (15) shows the same point for Modern Neasu. However, the Nase future tense clitic di\textsuperscript{33} is ungrammatical with the modals di\textsuperscript{13} ‘may’ and di\textsuperscript{55} ‘must’, as illustrated in (16).

Nuosu (Sichuan, Liangshan Prefecture)
(14) mu\textsuperscript{33}ka\textsuperscript{33} \_k hi\textsuperscript{21} ko\textsuperscript{33} i\textsuperscript{33} \_k t\textsuperscript{h}ur\textsuperscript{21}z\textsuperscript{33} ts\textsuperscript{h}i\textsuperscript{33} dzi\textsuperscript{55}
\text{male name} \ \text{say} \ \text{SENT.TOP} \ \text{LOG-SG} \ \text{book} \ \text{DEM:PROX} \ \text{CL}
b\_y\textsuperscript{33} \text{mi}\textsuperscript{44} \text{di}\textsuperscript{44}.
\text{write} \ \text{MIX} \ \text{QUOT}
‘Mukak said that he\textsubscript{k} will write this book.’

Neasu (Guizhou, Weining County)
(15) c\_i\textsuperscript{21} hi\textsuperscript{55}, c\_i\textsuperscript{21}χ\textsuperscript{55} ni\textsuperscript{33}dzi\textsuperscript{33} k\_e \_t\textsuperscript{u}\textsuperscript{33} χ\textsuperscript{0}\textsuperscript{21} he\textsuperscript{33} \text{dx}\textsuperscript{55}.
3P SG \ \text{say} \ 3P PL \ \text{law} \ \text{GOAL} \ \text{change} \ \text{SEND} \ \text{FUT} \ \text{QUOT}
‘He said that they will change the law.’
In Nase (Yunnan, Luoping County)

(16) a. *tšu²¹ ʔu²¹ m³⁵⁵ nte⁶²¹ ta²¹ po³³ ci³³  
    3P SG 1P SG COV:toward wine NUM:1 CL do in honor of  
    di³³ di¹³.  
    FUT POSS  
    ‘He will might be drinking a toast to me.’

b. *tšu²¹ ʔu²¹ tʰ³⁵⁵ nɔ⁵⁵ nie²¹ tsa⁵⁵ dɔ³³ so³³ po⁵⁵ tʃʰɔ²¹  
    3P SG 1P SG for container NUM:3 CL carry  
    die²¹ lie⁵⁵ di³³ di⁵⁵.  
    come FUT NESS  
    ‘He will must have carried three container boxes for me.’

In Nuosu and Neasu, future tense and quotation clitics are compatible as they apply to different levels of a subordinate clause. In Nase, all three markers *di³³, *di¹³, and *di⁵⁵ contribute to the same syntactic level of simple clause which explains their incompatibility.


2.2 The tense hypothesis

In Modern Nuosu, *mi⁴⁴ is future tense marker. To substantiate this claim we discuss three arguments: the property that the use of *mi⁴⁴ is a sufficient condition for future time reference (§2.2.1), the possibility of encoding relative future in subordinate clauses (§2.2.2), and the suspension of the constraint of speaker-control in certain contexts (§2.2.3).

2.2.1 The argument of “sufficient condition”

If *mi⁴⁴ is appended to a simple clause, the clause always refers to the future of the time of speaking (sufficient condition). The converse is not true. Future time reference does not necessarily trigger the use of *mi⁴⁴ (necessary condition). Most scholars would view linguistic forms whose use is either sufficient or necessary for particular time reference as encoding tense. Sometimes, authors even accept forms which fail on both sufficient and necessary conditions as tense forms (see Salkie 2010, on English will).

For minimal simple clauses, the sufficient condition and failure of necessary condition was already illustrated in examples (3)-(4). In this section, we catalogue
further contexts in which the sentence encodes or implicates nonfuture time reference and in which \( \text{mi}^{44} \) is prohibited.

The clitic \( \text{mi}^{44} \) is ungrammatical in clauses with past tense reference, in timeless clauses and in habitual clauses, as demonstrated in the following group of examples.

Nuosu (Sichuan, Liangshan Prefecture)

(17) a. \( ^{a21}\text{ndi}^{33}hi^{44}\text{ŋa}^{33}\text{ts}^{h}\text{u}^{33}\text{tc}^{h}\text{u}^{33}\text{vz}^{33}\text{mi}^{44}. \)  
Past time  
\( \text{yesterday} \quad \text{1P} \quad \text{SG} \quad \text{rice} \quad \text{buy} \quad \text{MIX} \)  
‘I bought rice yesterday.’

b. \( ^{vo55}\text{li}^{33}\text{ci}^{44}\text{ni}^{33}\text{dzui}^{33}\text{mi}^{44}. \)  
Timeless  
\( \text{pig} \quad \text{TOP} \quad \text{QUANT:all} \quad \text{also} \quad \text{eat} \quad \text{MIX} \)  
‘Pigs will eat everything.’

c. \( ^{ŋa33}\text{k}^{h}\text{u}^{55}\text{mo}^{21}\text{ts}^{h}\text{i}^{21}\text{č}^{33}\text{dzi}^{44}\text{a}^{21}\text{dzi}^{33}\text{ndo}^{33}\text{ko}^{33}\text{šu}^{44}\text{mi}^{44}. \)  
Habitual  
\( \text{1P} \quad \text{SG} \quad \text{evening} \quad \text{NUM:1} \quad \text{CL} \quad \text{every} \quad \text{wine} \)  
\( \text{drink} \quad \text{HAB} \quad \text{MIX} \)  
‘I will drink wine every evening.’

The future clitic \( \text{mi}^{44} \) can only occur in declarative sentences, but not in imperative or optative clauses. Imperative clauses refer to orders that are relevant at the time of speaking, not in the indefinite future to which \( \text{mi}^{44} \) points. Optative clauses prohibit \( \text{mi}^{44} \) because they refer to events that are not controlled by the speaker. (This is also true for imperative clauses.)

Nuosu (Sichuan, Liangshan Prefecture)

(18) a. \( ^{*dzo55bi^{21}}\text{ts}^{h}\text{i}^{44}\text{ma}^{33}\text{si}^{21}\text{bo}^{33}\text{mi}^{44}. \)  
Imperative  
\( \text{bag} \quad \text{DEM:PROX} \quad \text{CL} \quad \text{take} \quad \text{go} \quad \text{MIX} \)  
‘Take this bag away!’

b. \( ^{*nur33ci^{21}m}^{33}t^{h}a^{55}\text{ku}^{33}\text{mi}^{44}. \)  
Imperative  
\( \text{2P} \quad \text{SG} \quad \text{DEM:DD} \quad \text{NEG.IMP} \quad \text{stupid} \quad \text{MIX} \)  
‘Don’t be stupid!’

c. \( ^{ŋa33}č\text{o}^{21}\text{mo}^{21}\text{č}^{21}\text{du}^{21}\text{lo}^{44}\text{mi}^{44}. \)  
Optative  
\( \text{1P} \quad \text{SG} \quad \text{wife, bride} \quad \text{marry} \quad \text{WISH} \quad \text{MIX} \)  
‘Hopefully, I will get married.’

For interrogative sentences, there is a homophonous particle \( \text{mi}^{44} \) whose function is to solicit the addressee’s opinion. It can occur in sentences with past time as well as
future time reference. It is not related to tense.

    person DEM:PROX CL house NEG have
    k[h]a[55] bo[33] mi[44]?
    where go SOL
    ‘As for this family, there is nobody at home. Where have they gone?’

    yesterday teacher here LOC come-come
    mi[44]?
    SOL
    ‘Did the teacher come yesterday?’

Examples in this section show that mi[44] must be associated with sentences that have future time reference.

2.2.2 The argument of “relative future tense”

In the literature on tense, scholars traditionally distinguish between three time concepts: the situation time, the reference time and the utterance time (Reichenbach 1948, Comrie 1985, Klein 1992, 1994). The concepts of absolute and relative tense are defined in terms of these time frames. Absolute tense is the case where reference time and utterance time are identical; for relative tense they differ. Comrie (1985:74-75) defines relative past tense and relative future tense as follows.

Relative past tense  situation time < reference time
Relative future tense  reference time < situation time

Pluperfect and future perfect are two relative past categories attested across languages (Comrie 1985:65-71).

Table 5: Relative past tense and types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pluperfect</td>
<td>situation time &lt; reference time &lt; utterance time</td>
<td>‘John had already left at 10pm.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future perfect</td>
<td>situation time &lt; utterance time &lt; reference time</td>
<td>‘John will have left by tomorrow.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) situation time = utterance time &lt; reference time</td>
<td>He is leaving now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases: (a)</td>
<td>(c) utterance time &lt; situation time &lt; reference time</td>
<td>He will leave before midnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>situation time &lt; utterance time &lt; reference time</td>
<td>He has already left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) situation time = utterance time &lt; reference time</td>
<td>He is leaving now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) utterance time &lt; situation time &lt; reference time</td>
<td>He will leave before midnight.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By symmetry, relative future tense has also two exponents, *future in the future* and *future in the past*, but these two concepts are not widely expressed in the world’s languages. For future in the past, English employs the temporal *would* which must be distinguished from its modal use (Comrie 1985:75).

### Table 6: Relative future tense and types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future in the future</td>
<td>utterance time &lt; reference time &lt; situation time</td>
<td>‘John will be about to leave.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future in the past</td>
<td></td>
<td>‘John said that he would return.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases: (a)</td>
<td>reference time &lt; situation time &lt; utterance time</td>
<td>John has already returned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) reference time &lt; situation time = utterance time</td>
<td>John returns now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) reference time &lt; utterance time &lt; situation time</td>
<td>John has not returned yet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The clitic *mi*\(^{44}\) conveys *absolute future tense* with one exception. In reported speech constructions, *mi*\(^{44}\) takes the deictic center of the embedded clause and expresses *future in the past*, as in (20a+b). In all other complex clauses, *mi*\(^{44}\) either encodes absolute future tense, as in (20c), or is illicit, as in (20d).

**Nuosu (Sichuan, Liangshan Prefecture)**

(20) a. \(a^{21}he^{55}di^{21}k{y}^{55}ts^{hi}^{33}hi^{21}ko^{33}i^{33}pa^{33}ndz{e}^{33}\)

last year 3P SG say SENT.TOP LOG-SG move

\(o^{21}d{z}{o}^{33}i^{55}bo^{33}mi^{44}di^{44}\)

Xichang stay go MIX QUOT

‘Last year he said that he would move to Xichang to live there.’

b. \(o^{21}k^{h}ur^{21}m^{33}ta^{33}zi^{44}ni^{21}c{e}^{21}mo^{21}ts^{hi}^{44}gu^{33}a^{21}\)

LOG PL INT:how STP then wife DEM CL NEG
tce\(^{33}\) la\(^{33}\) mi\(^{44}\) di\(^{44}\)
fear COME FUT QUOT

‘(Wondered about) how they will become less fearful of their wives.’

(Chen & Wu 1998:228)

c. \(n{a}^{33}c{e}^{21}mi^{44}su^{33}c{e}^{21}mo^{21}{n}^{a}^{55}a^{44}ta^{33}mo^{33}o^{44}\)

1P SG marry MIX NOM bride 1P SG POSS father see DP

‘My father saw the bride that I will marry.’

d. \(dzi^{21}hu^{44}t^{h}wu^{33}ko^{33}n{a}^{33}yu^{33}to^{44}(mi^{44})su^{33}n{a}^{33}\)

compete time LOC 1P SG get able MIX COMP 1P SG

ko\(^{33}\) ndz{e}^{44}o^{44}\)

GOAL believe DP

‘I believed that I will win the competition.’
The possibility of conveying future in the past further substantiate the claim that \( \text{mi}^{44} \) is a future tense clitic and not an evidential.

2.2.3 The argument of “suspended first-person effect”

The Yi languages have layered verb morphology (Stump 1997) where up to three clitics may be stacked after each other if they are semantically compatible. The clitic \( \text{mi}^{44} \) has grammaticalized with several other aspect clitics into compound clitics that convey the meaning of definite and immediate future tense. Definite future tense combines the focus meaning of the perfect clitic \( \text{ta}^{33} \) with the future tense meaning of \( \text{mi}^{44} \). Immediate future tense is a tense category pointing to a time point close to the utterance time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound Clitics</th>
<th>Type of future</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
<th>FUT</th>
<th>PROG</th>
<th>STP</th>
<th>DP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \text{mi}^{44}\text{ta}^{33} )</td>
<td>Definite Future</td>
<td>‘it is the case that… will’</td>
<td>( \text{mi}^{44} )</td>
<td>( \text{ta}^{33} )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \text{mi}^{44}\text{o}^{44} )</td>
<td>Immediate Future</td>
<td>‘about to’</td>
<td>( \text{mi}^{44} )</td>
<td>( \text{o}^{44} )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \text{mi}^{44}\text{ta}^{33}\text{o}^{44} )</td>
<td>Immediate Future</td>
<td>‘definitely about to’</td>
<td>( \text{mi}^{44} )</td>
<td>( \text{ta}^{33} )</td>
<td>( \text{o}^{44} )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \text{mi}^{44}\text{ku}^{33}\text{o}^{44} )</td>
<td>Immediate Future</td>
<td>‘about to, very soon’</td>
<td>( \text{mi}^{44} )</td>
<td>( \text{ku}^{33} )</td>
<td>( \text{o}^{44} )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The use of any of these compound clitics suspends the constraint of speaker-control exhibited by the bare clitic \( \text{mi}^{44} \) (§2.1.1). In the following examples, the compound clitics co-occur with non-speaker subjects or with predicates that lack the idea of control.

(21) a. \( \text{m}^{21}\text{š}^{33}\text{tu}^{44} \) \( \text{ma}^{33}\text{ha}^{33} \) \( \text{dzi}^{21} \) \( \text{la}^{33} \) \( \text{mi}^{44}\text{ta}^{33} \).

tomorrow rain become come DEFFUT

‘It is the case that it will rain tomorrow.’

b. \( \text{m}^{21}\text{š}^{33}\text{tu}^{44} \) \( \text{by}^{33}\text{ma}^{33} \) \( \text{a}^{21} \) \( \text{zo}^{33} \) \( \text{mi}^{44}\text{ta}^{33} \).

tomorrow written language NEG study DEFFUT

‘It is the case that there are no classes tomorrow.’

c. \( \text{mu}^{33}\text{ka}^{33} \) \( \text{ts}^{h}^{i33} \) \( \text{a}^{44}\text{ti}^{33} \) \( \text{o}^{21}\text{dz}^{o}^{33} \) \( \text{bo}^{33} \) \( \text{mi}^{44}\text{ta}^{33} \),

male name 3P SG only Xichang go DEFFUT

say INT:who also NEG tell

‘Muka will go to Xichang on his own, so he didn’t tell anyone.’

(22) a. \( \text{ts}^{h}^{o}^{21} \) \( \text{y}^{o}^{44} \) \( \text{i}^{44}\text{ko}^{33} \) \( \text{bo}^{33} \) \( \text{mi}^{44}\text{o}^{44} \).

3P SG home go IMFUT

‘They go home immediately.’
The complex clitic mi^{44}ta^{33}o^{44} can be employed in imperative clauses in contrast to example (18) of §2.2.1. See example (23b).

(23) a. va^{33}pu^{33} k'u^{33} la^{33} mi^{44}ta^{33}o^{44}.
   ‘The rooster is about to cry.’

b. dzu^{21}mo^{21} ts^{hi^{33}} va^{55} de^{33} ṇa^{33} bz^{44} mi^{44}ta^{33}o^{44}.
   ‘Give me ten dollars now!’

c. vo^{33} dzología^{33} bo^{33} sa^{55} mi^{44}ta^{33}o^{44}.
   ‘The snow is about to melt completely.’

(24) a. ts^{hi^{33}} si^{55} ts^{hi^{33}} dz^{i^{55}} ṇo^{21} mi^{44}ku^{33}o^{44}.
   ‘He is thinking at this problem immediately.’

b. ho^{33}pu^{33} ko^{33} dza^{33}bo^{33} zología^{55}dz^{33} h^{i^{55}} mi^{44}ku^{33}o^{44}.
   ‘The crops on the mountain can be harvested shortly.’

The future tense clitic mi^{44} imports the sense of future tense into the above compounds but its evidential “first person” constraint is offset. The primary function of mi^{44} is therefore not evidential but temporal.

3. Overview of future clitics in the Yi languages

In this section we survey the future clitics of eleven Yi (彝) languages that are representative of the Loloish group within the Tibeto-Burman family. In Table 8, we present the future clitics, the possibility of negating the future clitic, two potential

---

6 The Yi nationality is one of the 55 national minorities in China with more than 7 Million members. The Yi languages belong to the Tibeto-Burman language family and represent a cluster of about 120 isolating languages spoken in four provinces of Southwest China. The Nuosu language is the principal language of the Yi Nationality spoken by about 2.5 Million people.
lexical sources, *say* and *want*, and information about cognate forms.

**Table 8: Future Tense in the Yi languages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Geographical location</th>
<th>FUT</th>
<th>NEGATE</th>
<th>‘say’</th>
<th>‘want’</th>
<th>OTHER INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nuosu</td>
<td>Sichuan, Liangshan Prefecture</td>
<td>mi²³</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>hi¹⁵</td>
<td>tʰci³³</td>
<td>mi²⁴ (i) ‘even’; (ii) ‘呢’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neasu</td>
<td>Guizhou, Weining County</td>
<td>he³³</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>hi⁵⁵</td>
<td>kʰa⁵⁵</td>
<td>he³³ ‘kindness’, ‘mercy’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngopho</td>
<td>Guangxi, Longlin County</td>
<td>yu³³</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>mbi³³</td>
<td>yu³³</td>
<td>yu³³ ‘get’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nase</td>
<td>Yunnan, Luoping County</td>
<td>di³³</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>di⁵⁵</td>
<td>yu³³</td>
<td>di⁵⁵ ‘must’; di³³ ‘may’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kopho</td>
<td>Yunnan, Shizong County</td>
<td>tie²¹</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>di²¹</td>
<td>yu⁵⁵</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axi</td>
<td>Yunnan, Mile County</td>
<td>dia²²</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>bie³³</td>
<td>yu³³</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azhee</td>
<td>Yunnan, Mile County</td>
<td>za²¹</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>bi³³</td>
<td>m⁵⁵</td>
<td>yu³³ ‘get’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nesu</td>
<td>Yunnan, Gejiu City</td>
<td>yê³³</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>dzê³³</td>
<td>yê³³</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lalo</td>
<td>Yunnan, Weishan County</td>
<td>xu⁵⁵</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>bj³³</td>
<td>zê⁵⁵</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lolo</td>
<td>Yunnan, Yongren County</td>
<td>yê²¹me³³</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>be³³</td>
<td>na³³</td>
<td>yê²¹ ‘not’; me³³ ‘follow’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluphu</td>
<td>Yunnan, Wuding County</td>
<td>ve³³</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>dzê³³</td>
<td>di³³yê³³</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.1 Say-future

In §2, we documented the *say*-future clitics of Nuosu, Neasu and Nase that are historically derived from the verb *say* and from quotation clitics. The Kopho and Axi languages can be added to this group.

### 3.2 Want-future

The Nesu language derives future tense from a buletic verb. Verbs of *wanting* are widely attested in the world’s languages as sources for future tense (Bybee et al. 1994: 252). Nesu is thus reminiscent of Chinese 將要⁸ and English *will*. In the process of grammaticalization, the vowel in ‘want’ weakened to become the middle vowel in ueue³³ (future tense).

**Nesu (Yunnan, Gejiu City)**

(25) a. kʰê²¹ zê³³ tʰo²¹ tə⁵⁵ hi³³ yê²¹ ka⁵⁵ yê³³.  
  3P SG POSS birthday April FUT  
  ‘His birthday will be in April.’

---

⁷ To the best of my knowledge, there is no relevant research on future tense in the Yi languages undertaken in Mainland China. For research of future tense in Tibetan languages, see Zhou (1999).

b. ηο 33 mi 55 ?e 55 te h e 21 ts h o 55 du 33 kσ 55 ηο 33.
1P SG field DEM:PROX NUM:1 CL dig EXH FUT
‘I will finish digging this piece of land.’
c. k h σ 55 go 33 σ o 33 te h e 21 pa 33 η e 33.
3P SG wheat NUM:1 CL want
‘He wants a pack of wheat.’

The Nesu clitic is fairly unrestrained except for the prohibition of marking individual-level predicates (Kratzer 1995). This constraint is probably universal. A sentence like *The Yellow river will be in China is always pragmatically marked as it seems to implicate that the situation does not hold at the time of speaking (Comrie 1985:43).

d. #go 33 go 21 mi 55 lu 21 se 55 dza 21 η o 33.
Gejiu city Luse mountain have FUT
‘Luse mountain will be in Gejiu City.’

3.3 Follow-future

Another lexical source for future tense is the verb follow. In the Lolo language, the future tense particle *j 21 me 33 is historically derived from the negation particle *j 21 and the verb *me ‘follow’. In several Yi languages, *me ‘follow’ still functions as main predicate. The Nase language, for example, has preserved the old form mu 55 ‘follow’ which was replaced in Modern Lolo by ts h o 33 ‘follow’.

Nase (Yunnan, Luoping County)
(26) a. mo 33 zu 33 (zi 55) mo 33 mu 21 mu 55 zσ 33.
colt run mare follow PROG
‘The colt follows the mare.’

Lolo (Yunnan, Yongren County)
b. dze 21 mu 21 zo 33 dze 21 mu 21 mo 33 th i e 21 ts h o 33 do 55 (go 33).
colt mare GOAL follow PROG run
‘The colt follows the mare.’

In Lolo, the morpheme me 33 cannot be used as independent predicate any longer but is grammaticalized as resultative suffix after other verbs (Gerner 2002). The suffix is not productive and can only occur after a few verbs. Examples are provided in (27a-c).
The clitic *ŋ21* is used for negating the predicate of declarative sentences, as illustrated in (28a+b).

Lolo (Yunnan, Yongren County)

(27) a. lu33tsi33 ge55 zɔ21 tv21 me33 ɔ44.
   mule all 3P SG gamble FOLLOW DP
   ‘He has won all the mules in a gamble.’

b. tɔa55p a33 mo33 ne33 di33 zo33 ga21 me33 ɔ44.
   female monkey young girl chase FOLLOW DP
   ‘The monkey caught the girls.’

c. zɔ21 ge33 to33 me33 ɔ44.
   3P SG hunt FOLLOW DP
   ‘He hunted successfully.’

(28) a. zɔ21 ɔe55 su33 ŋ21 sa55.
   3P SG Chinese (Han) written language NEG know
   ‘He doesn’t know written Chinese.’

b. ni33 ŋ21 zi33 lu33 ge33 ɔo33
   2P SG NEG go COMP more good
   ‘It would be better not to go.’

The negation clitic *ŋ21* combined with *me33* into *ŋ21 me33* to negate the result of an action. This sense is still available in Modern Lolo, as illustrated in (29). The meaning of negated result was reanalyzed as delayed result, then as delayed action and finally as future tense. The sense of future tense is illustrated in (30a+b).

(29) tɔa55p a33 mo33 ne33 di33 zo33 ga21 ŋ21 me33 ɔ44.
   female monkey young girl chase NEG FOLLOW DP
   ‘The monkey (chased but) did not catch the girls.’

(30) a. bɔ33lu21 su55 dzɔ33 ŋ21 me33.
   male name book study FUT
   ‘Bolo will attend school.’

b. e55 me33 ɔ55 mu21 ɔe21 ɔe33 ŋ21 me33.
   this evening very black early, quick FUT
   ‘This evening it will get dark early.’

Cross-linguistically, the verb *follow* was never reported as diachronic source for...

3.4 Get-future

For the remaining future clitics, it is more difficult to predict their diachronic source. The verb \( yu^{33} \) ‘get’ has probably given rise to future tense in the Ngopho language. If this conjecture is true, it must have undergone sound changes when morphing into the future tense clitic. In (31a-c), \( yu^{33} \) is illustrated as independent verb, auxiliary and resultative suffix. The future tense clitic \( yu^{33} \) is shown in (32a+b). Cross-linguistically, the diachronic source \textit{get} for future tense is not reported (Bybee et al. 1994:253).\(^9\)

\begin{table}
\begin{tabular}{lll}
Ngopho (Guangxi, Longlin County) & & \\
(31) a. & \( zi^{33} ni^{33} sei^{33} yu^{33} lie^{33} \) & \textit{Main predicate} \\
& \textit{today firewood get come} & ‘Today I have got some firewood.’ \\
& \textit{‘Today I have got some firewood.’} & \\
b. & \( no^{33} yu^{33} dzu^{33} lie^{33} \) & \textit{Auxiliary ‘get chance of’} \\
& \textit{1P SG GET eat come} & ‘I got the chance to come eating.’ \\
& \textit{‘I got the chance to come eating.’} & \\
c. & \( no^{33} sou^{33} yu^{33} ma^{21} ko^{21} \ldots \) & \textit{Resultative suffix} \\
& \textit{1P SG search GET NEG MOD:can} & ‘When you cannot find me….’ \\
& \textit{‘When you cannot find me….’} & \\
(32) a. & \( mu^{55} hu^{21} yu^{33} \) & \textit{Future tense} \\
& \textit{rain FUT} & ‘It will rain.’ \\
b. & \( hu^{21} lou^{53} yu^{33} li^{21} yu^{33} \) & \textit{Future tense} \\
& \textit{3P SG Longlin go FUT} & ‘He will go to Longlin County.’ \\
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

3.5 Other future clitics

For Azhee, Lalo\(^10\) and Aluphu the historical origin of the future tense clitic is uncertain and my informants did not provide information. In none of these languages,

\footnotesize
\(^9\) Bybee et al. (1994:253) mention that in Danish/Norwegian future tense in derived from the verb \textit{get}. This does not seem to be correct as the two Danish tense auxiliaries \textit{vil} ‘will’ and \textit{skal} ‘must’ do not originate from the verb \textit{get}.

\(^{10}\) I did not personally collect data in Lalo but rely on Björverud (1998)’s Grammar of Lalo.
however, do we find “first-person” effects like those observed in Nuosu.

Azhee (Yunnan, Mile County)
(33) a. tsʰoʰ ga³³ zi³³ teʰie³³ la²¹ tsʰoʰkua³³du³³ to²¹ za²¹.
   person evil DEM:PROX CL enter prison go FUT
   ‘This evil man will go to prison.’

b. a³³ na³³ zo³³mo³³ go³³ na⁵⁵ za²¹.
   name money lose FUT
   ‘Anna will lose money.’

c. a²¹ni³³ku¹³³ ku⁵⁵ mu²¹lu³³du³³ to²¹ za²¹.
   last year 3P SG Mile County go FUT
   ‘He said last year that he would go to Mile.’

Lalo (Yunnan, Weishan County) (Björverud 1998:116)
(34) ŋo⁵⁵ di²¹ kʰw²¹ la⁵⁵ xu⁵⁵ a²¹ mu⁵⁵
   2P SG GOAL steal come FUT DP EVID
   ‘He will come and steal from you.’

Aluphu (Yunnan, Wuding County)
(35) ño³³ kʰo³³ du³³ ve³³.
   1P SG GOAL drink FUT
   ‘I will drink it.’

4. Conclusion

We have argued in this paper for the existence of future tense in the Yi languages against the backdrop of a first-person constraint reminiscent of evidential markers in one Yi language, Nuosu. This constraint is explained as a residual property that survived when the future tense clitic in Nuosu shifted from evidential meaning to tense meaning. We have shown that the diachronic source for future tense in Nuosu and several other Yi languages is the verb say. Other Yi languages derive their future tense from the verbs want, follow and probably get. The Yi languages channel speedy grammaticalization processes through serial verb constructions which account for why future tense has so many different origins in a group of genetically closely related languages.
## Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1P PL</td>
<td>First person plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1P SG</td>
<td>First person singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1P SG POSS</td>
<td>First person singular possessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2P PL</td>
<td>Second person plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2P SG</td>
<td>Second person singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2P SG POSS</td>
<td>Second person singular possessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3P PL</td>
<td>Third person plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3P SG</td>
<td>Third person singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3P SG POSS</td>
<td>Third person singular possessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVL</td>
<td>Adverbializer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALT</td>
<td>Alternative question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART</td>
<td>Definite article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Classifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COME</td>
<td>Inchoative phase derived from ‘come’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP</td>
<td>Complementizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COP</td>
<td>Copular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COV:mix</td>
<td>Coverb with verbal meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEFFUT</td>
<td>Definite future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEM:DD</td>
<td>Discourse deictic demonstrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEM:PROX</td>
<td>Demonstrative: Proximal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Dynamic perfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVID</td>
<td>Evidential marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOLLOW</td>
<td>Resultative derived from ‘follow’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT</td>
<td>Future clitic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
<td>Goal case marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GET</td>
<td>Resultative derived from ‘get’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAB</td>
<td>Habitual clitic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT:how</td>
<td>Interrogative pronoun ‘how’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOG-PL</td>
<td>Plural-logophor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOG-SG</td>
<td>Singular-logophor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOC</td>
<td>Locative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIX</td>
<td>The Nuosu future clitic (romanized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOD:can</td>
<td>Modal auxiliary with meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEG</td>
<td>Negation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEG.IMP</td>
<td>Negative Imperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NESS</td>
<td>Necessity modal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOM</td>
<td>Nominalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUM:1</td>
<td>Number with value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSS</td>
<td>Possibility modal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROG</td>
<td>Progressive marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUANT:all</td>
<td>Quantifier all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUOT</td>
<td>Quotative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMB</td>
<td>Renminbi Currency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEND</td>
<td>Resultative derived from ‘send’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENT.TOP</td>
<td>Sentence topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOL</td>
<td>Solicitation discourse particle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUFF</td>
<td>Suffix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STP</td>
<td>Stative perfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOP</td>
<td>Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WISH</td>
<td>Optative clitic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


Yi Future: Tense or Evidential?


[Received 14 December 2011; revised 28 April 2012; accepted 4 December 2012]

Department of Chinese, Translation & Linguistics
B 7704 Academic Building
City University of Hong Kong
83 Tat Chee Avenue
Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR, China
mgerner@cityu.edu.hk
彝語的將來表達：時態或言據性？

馬嘉思
香港城市大學

諾蘇語的將來助詞有指向將來的功能，但條件是句子的主題一定是第一人稱代詞，這種條件與言據性語言的助詞很相似。本文通過對諾蘇語的數據進行分析，得出諾蘇語的將來助詞是時態助詞，而不是言據性助詞。關於句子的主題一定是第一人稱代詞的現象是由古彝語引用助詞的演變而產生的，古彝語引用助詞是從動詞“說”演變而來的。除諾蘇語以外其他幾種彝語的將來助詞也是從動詞“說”演變而來的，但也有另外一些彝語的將來助詞是從動詞“要”和“跟”演變而來的。可能還有一種彝語的將來助詞是從動詞“得”演變而來的。

關鍵詞：將來時，言據性，彝語，諾蘇語