

# On egophoricity in Tibetic evidential systems

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## ABSTRACT

Evidentiality is the grammatical representation of the evidence one's assertions are based on. The evidence indicated may convey several distinct types of knowledge:

- |                                 |   |                                     |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Assumed/Factual knowledge    | → | claimed to be facts                 |
| 2. Personal/Egophoric knowledge | → | accessed only by the speaker        |
| 3. Contingent knowledge         | → | obtained through sensory perception |

Although all these knowledge types are relevant to verbal evidentiality marking in Tibetic languages (Bodic branch, Sino-Tibetan family), it is controversial whether all of them constitute integral parts of the evidential system. One particular author, for example, states outright that "The Tibetic Egophoric category is not part of the evidential system" (DeLancey 2018: 588). While it has been contended that egophoricity and evidentiality may constitute two distinct grammatical phenomena from a cross-linguistic perspective, I will adduce ample dialect data in this talk to demonstrate that the two potentially distinct categories are fused into a single paradigm across modern Tibetic languages.

## References

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