

Diachronic and Synchronic Insubordination in Turkic and Mongolic

Arienne M Dwyer

University of Kansas Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities

Insubordination - the deployment of morphologically non-finite forms in main-clauses - is a common phenomenon whose ubiquity is only surprising when linguistic investigation is restricted to non-spontaneous language. Spontaneous discourse reveals that insubordination is possible with most non-finite clause types; more crucial is that insubordinate clauses cohere syntactically and pragmatically across speaking turns. Here we investigate to what extent synchronic insubordination in Turkic and Mongolic require pragmatic and syntactic parallelism in adjacency pairs. Diachronically, the grammaticalization of nonfinite clauses as finite ones is also a well-established phenomenon in all of the languages under study. This paper also investigates whether there is any evidence of contact-induced spread of insubordination, or if it should be considered solely an expected and regular diachronic development.