



Sketch Grammar of Xinjiang Oirat Work in Progress

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❖ Introduction to Xinjiang Oirat

- Language and its speakers

- Motivation

❖ Data

- Corpus

❖ Problems and issues

- Native speaker intuition as a double-edged sword

- Multi-level analysis

- Pros and Cons of Theory

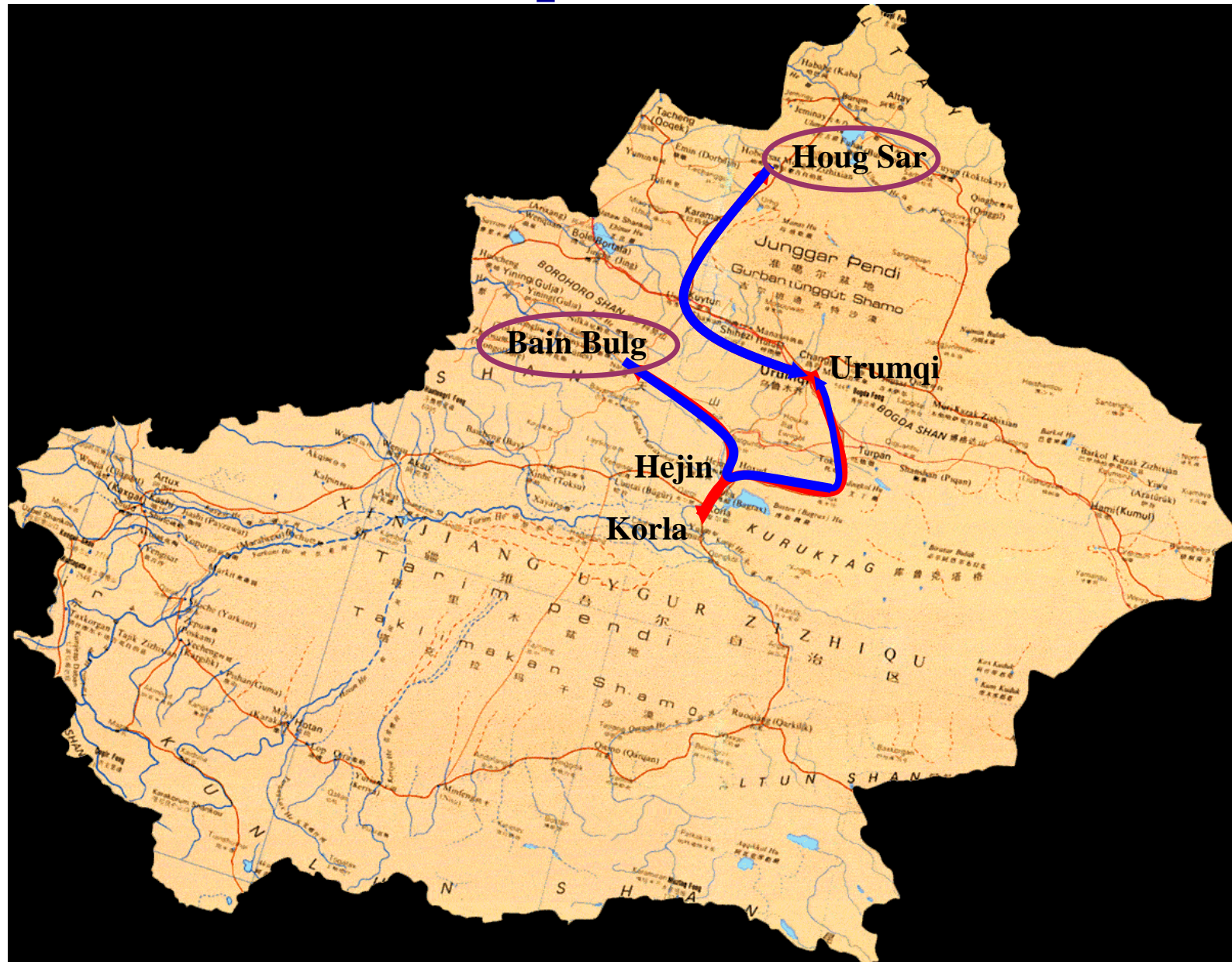
 - Problems with Metrical stress theory (Bruce Hayes, 1995)

 - O-ToBI





Fieldwork trips in 2005 and 2007







Ethnic groups in Xinjiang (2000 census) ^[1]

Nationality	Population	Percentage
Uyghur	8,345,622	45.21
Han	7,489,919	40.58
Kazakh	1,245,023	6.74
Hui	839,837	4.55
Kirghiz	158,775	0.86
Mongol	149,857	0.81

^[1] Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xinjiang> (retrieved on February 6, 2009).



Motivation





心存侥幸
必遭不幸



08/22/2007





































FanErKe







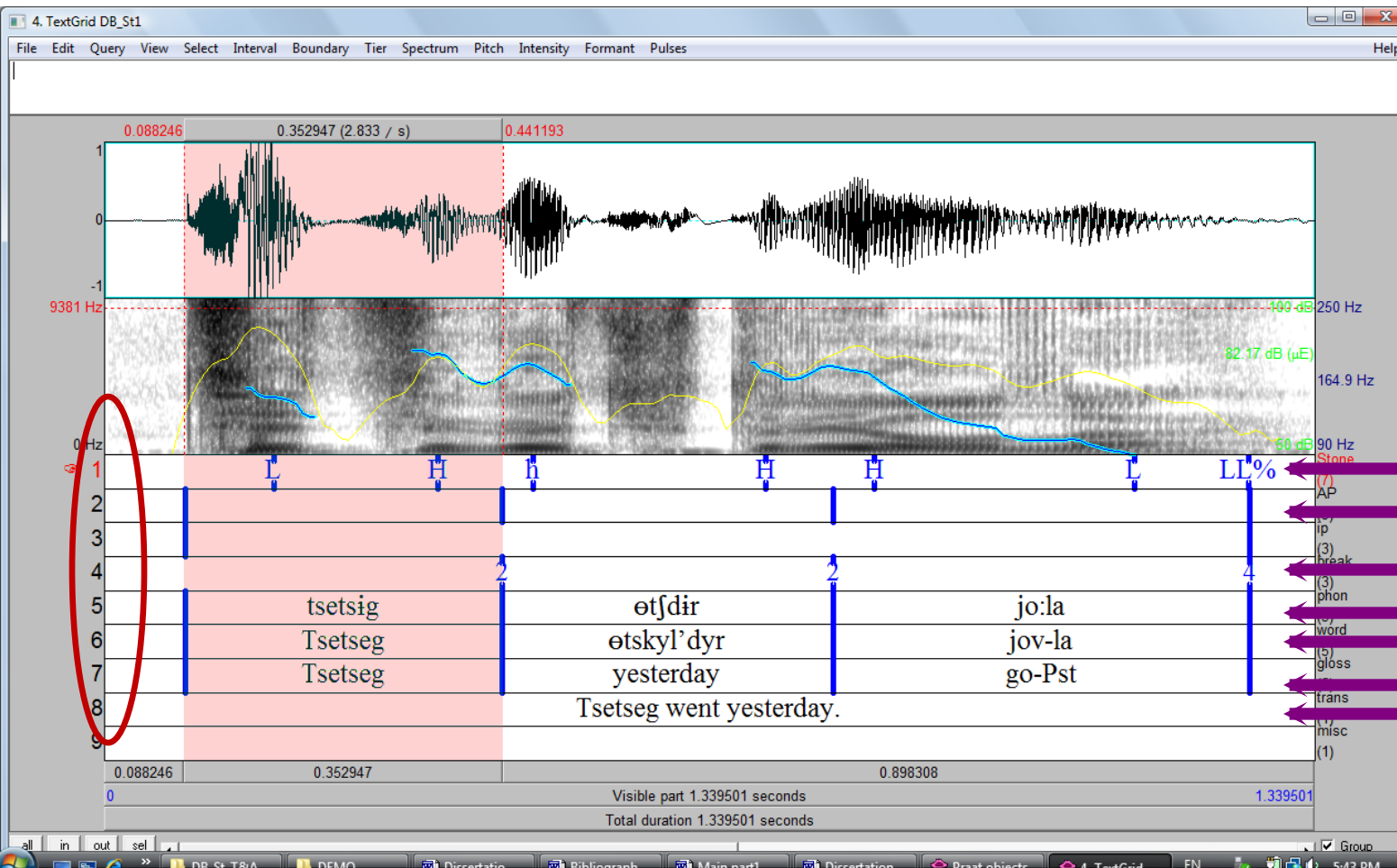




Corpus

- **Transcribed and annotated files - 339**
- **Transcribed files - 532**
- **Identical sets – 2185**
- **Audio recordings**
- **Video recordings**

Sample of a transcribed and annotated file





Problems and Issues





Native speaker's intuition as a double-edged sword

■ Advantage:

- **Saves time**

■ Disadvantages:

- **Dominance of the underlying form**
- **Overconfidence**



- **Advantage:**
 - **Saves time**



■ **Disadvantages:**

- **Dominance of the underlying form**
- **Overconfidence:
premature or hasty conclusions**



Premature or hasty conclusion as a result of overconfidence



-va -la -dje

	Recent	Remote	Unexpected
Past Tense	Baatr suu-va Baatr sit-RP Baatr sat	Baatr suu-la Baatr sit-Pst Baatr sat	Baatr suu-dje Baatr sit-IC Baatr sat
Evidentiality?	The speaker saw Baatr sitting	The speaker didn't see Baatr sitting	The speaker saw Baatr sitting and was surprised
Attachment?	The speaker knows Baatr	The speaker might know Baatr but is not closely related to him.	The speaker definitely knows Baatr



Multi-level analysis

➤ Russian-Kazakh loan words

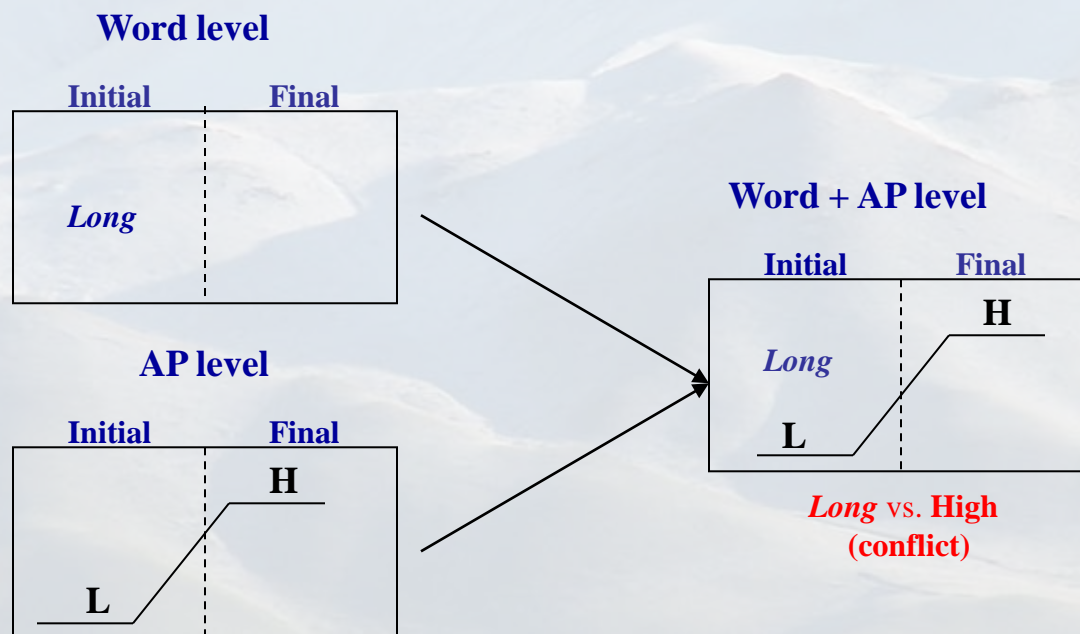
➤ North- South : West-East
‘down’-‘front’ ‘up’-‘back’

Pros and Cons of Theory

- Problems with Metrical Stress Theory
- O-ToBI

Word vs. Phrase Level

Long duration vs. High pitch



**Long vs. High
(conflict)**



Why in the framework of ToBI?

➤ Using the same framework and prosodic categories across languages allows us to directly compare their intonational structure, which contributes to the field of intonational typology. (Jun, 2003)



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Thank You





















