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]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uyghur</td>
<td>8,345,622</td>
<td>45.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han</td>
<td>7,489,919</td>
<td>40.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakh</td>
<td>1,245,023</td>
<td>6.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hui</td>
<td>839,837</td>
<td>4.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirghiz</td>
<td>158,775</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongol</td>
<td>149,857</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Motivation
Corpus

- Transcribed and annotated files - 339
- Transcribed files - 532
- Identical sets – 2185
- Audio recordings
- Video recordings
Sample of a transcribed and annotated file

Tone tier
AP tier
Break tier
Phonetic
Word
Gloss
English translation
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Tense</th>
<th>Recent</th>
<th>Remote</th>
<th>Unexpected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baatr suu-va</td>
<td>Baatr suu-la</td>
<td>Baatr suu-dje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baatr sit-RP</td>
<td>Baatr sit-Pst</td>
<td>Baatr sit-IC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baatr sat</td>
<td>Baatr sat</td>
<td>Baatr sat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidentiality?</th>
<th>Recent</th>
<th>Remote</th>
<th>Unexpected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The speaker saw Baatr sitting</td>
<td>The speaker didn’t see Baatr sitting</td>
<td>The speaker saw Baatr sitting and was surprised</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attachment?</th>
<th>Recent</th>
<th>Remote</th>
<th>Unexpected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The speaker knows Baatr</td>
<td>The speaker might know Baatr but is not closely related to him.</td>
<td>The speaker definitely knows Baatr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Word level
Initial | Final
--- | ---
Long

AP level
Initial | Final
--- | ---
H
L

Word + AP level
Initial | Final
--- | ---
Long
H
L

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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References


Thank You