



A new future construction from the verb *t̪i* ‘say’ in Pangkhua

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When

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Where

Zoom: [Download](#)
Meeting ID: 890 7072 8307
Password: 579918
Direct link: [Zoom link](#)

More information

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Register

Not required. All are welcome.

Abstract

In many languages, grammatical markers of “future” derive historically from a verb meaning ‘want’ (for example, English *will*). In Pangkhua, a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, a new future construction has evolved from a verb *t̪i* meaning ‘say’. This is notwithstanding the fact that the language already has a morphological marker of future tense *-at*, which though it continues to occur in the language, the ‘say’ verb seems to be steadily replacing. In addition to its cross-linguistic rarity, another remarkable phenomenon about this future construction is that no other genetically or areally related languages appear to exhibit this development, which may be unique to Pangkhua. In this talk, I will describe the structural and distributional properties of *t̪i* ‘say’ in relation to the future marker, also taking into consideration a distinct and more familiar case in which *t̪i* ‘say’ has developed into a reportative marker. I will conclude by discussing implications of this study for grammaticalization theory and for the typology of Tibeto-Burman languages.