

Evidentiality in Tajik by
Alexander Nilsson:
A summary

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What the title means: "Tajik"

Distribution:

Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and the rest of Central Asia



What the title means: "Evidentiality" in linguistics

Linguistic resources for talking about
knowledge (/information) source.

(San Roque, Lila, Evidentiality (October 2019). *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 48, pp. 353-370, 2019)

e.g.

X is leaving.

X gidiyor.

Allegedly, X is leaving.

X gidiyormuş.

It rained (*I saw puddles of water*).

ugahnane?i

What the title means: Evidential markers in Tajik (according to Nilsson pp. 84-94)

}	<i>kard-a=ast</i> (Perfect)	}	Register II
	<i>me-kard-a=ast</i> (Perfectoid Imperfect)		
	<i>kard-a bud-a=ast</i> (Perfectoid Pluperfect)		
	<i>kard-a istod-a bud-a=ast</i> (Perfectoid Past Progressive)		
	<i>kard-a-gist</i> (Past Presumptive)		
	<i>me-kard-a-gist</i> (Non-Past Presumptive)		
	<i>kard-a istod-a-gist</i> (Present Progressive Presumptive)		

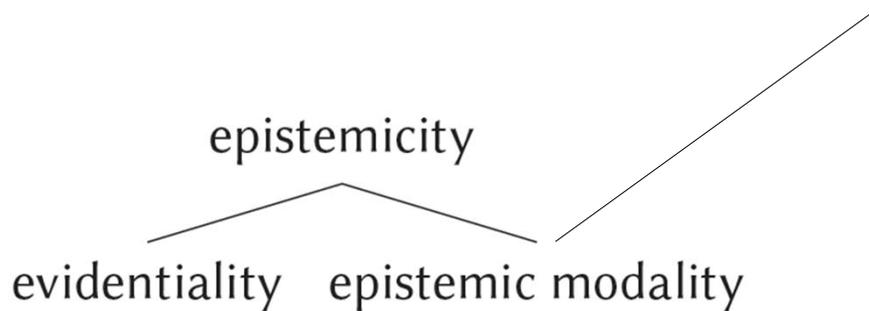
What the dissertation does (p.25)

"... is to describe and account for the evidential uses of the **Perfect**, the **Perfectoids** and the **Presumptive** in Modern Tajik ..."

Contents of the dissertation

- Part I Introduction
- Ch. 1 **Aim**, sources, and outline
- Part II Historical and linguistic background
- Ch.2 Historical background
 - Ch.3 **Evidentiality – definitions and classifications**
 - Ch.4 Evidentiality in New Persian and Turkic languages
- Part III-IV Analyses of the written and oral sources
- Part V Concluding discussion
- Ch.13 Literary sources
 - Ch.14 Oral sources
 - Ch.15 **General conclusions – revising the Tajik verb system**
 - 15.1 The Presumptive
 - 15.2 The evaluative and the mirative
 - 15.3 **Evidential categories in Tajik**

Part II “Evidentiality” according to the dissertation (pp. 54, 63)



Linguistic resources for talking about the degree of (the speaker's) certainty:

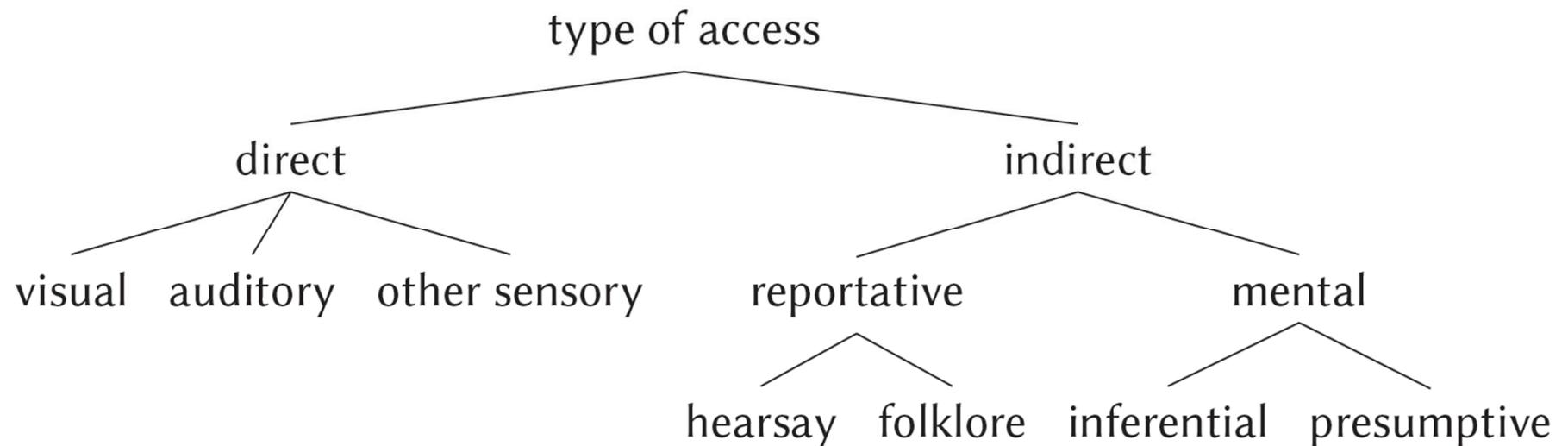
*That guy **must** have a screw loose.
perhaps, surely, etc.*

The author's definition of evidentiality:

- "I [define evidentiality] in terms of information source."
- "only the type of evidentiality that scopes over propositions ... will be dealt with in this dissertation."
- "evidentiality will refer solely to grammatical evidentiality."

Part II “Evidentiality” according to the dissertation

Types of Evidentiality according to the dissertation (pp. 60)



Part II “Evidentiality” according to the dissertation

Mirative and "Evaluative" (pp. 56-59) -- An additional category in evidentiality

Mirativity: Linguistic resources for expressing "surprise" and/or "new information".

e.g.

Soğukmuş!

(recall *X gidiyormuş.*)

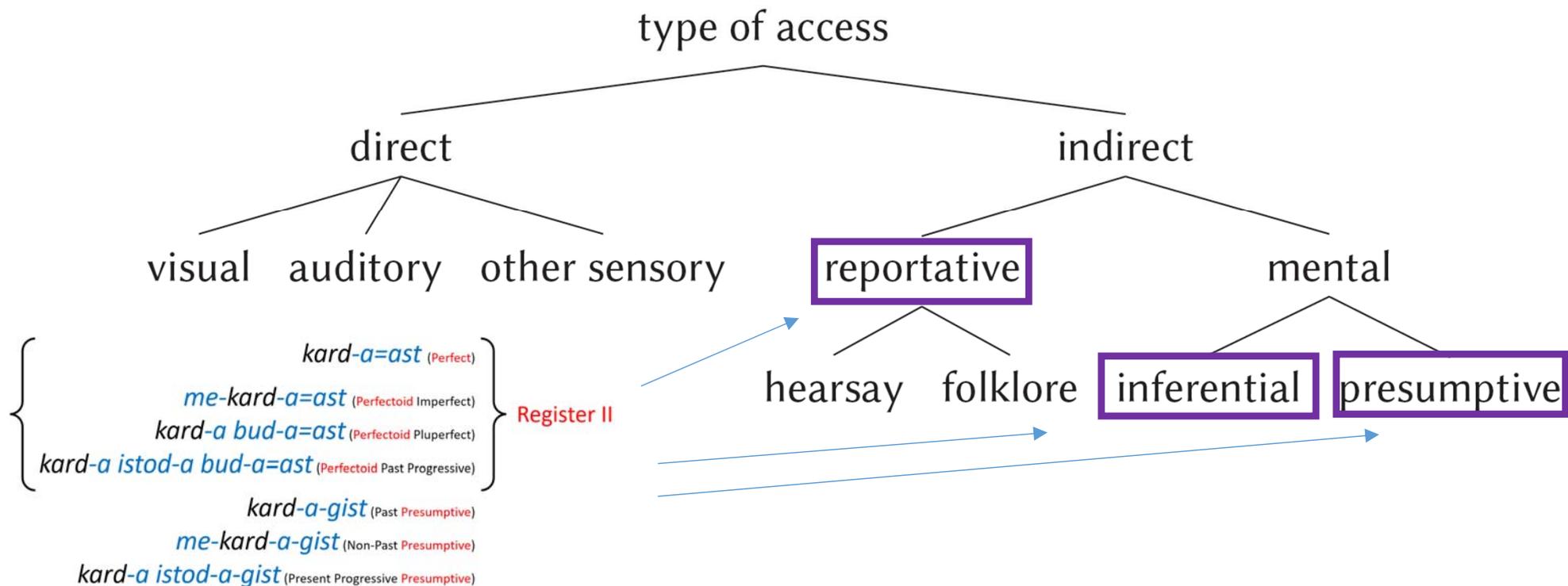
(examples not from the dissertation)

Part III & Part IV Analyses of written and spoken Tajik (pp. 113-211 [Parts III-IV])

"the reportative, inferential, evaluative, mirative, and presumptive uses of the Perfect, Perfectoids, and Presumptive are listed." (p. 114)

Part III & Part IV Analyses of written and spoken Tajik (pp. 113-211 [Parts III-IV])

"the reportative, inferential, evaluative, mirative, and presumptive uses of the Perfect, Perfectoids, and Presumptive are listed." (p. 114)



Part V Conclusions

Claim 1:

... the evidential uses of the register II forms and the Presumptive are more prevalent in the older texts than in the newer texts

Table 13.1. A cursory summary of all of the texts in part II, showing the instances of the Presumptive and the non-resultative use of the Perfect and the Perfectoids, the total number of analysed pages, and the instances per page ratio. Note that not all of the instances in Ayni's text were given in chapter 5, but they have been included in this table.

	Instances	Pages	Ratio (instances per page)
Ayni	67	28	2.39
Jalil	12	41	.29
Mirzo	31	35	.89
Tursun	45	70	.64
Safar	9	112	.08
Nazarova	7	148	.05

Part V Conclusions

Claim 2:

The Presumptive is an evidential verb form

The findings of the Presumptive in the written sources suggest that this verb form is in fact evidential.

I argue that this particular verb form should be classified as evidential. (p. 222)

Part V Conclusions

Claim 3:

I introduce *evaluative* as a notion distinct from mirative

... the Tajik “mirative” is essentially of two kinds. One is for marking new information (i.e. classical mirative), and the other is for marking personal opinion (evaluative).

Part V Conclusions

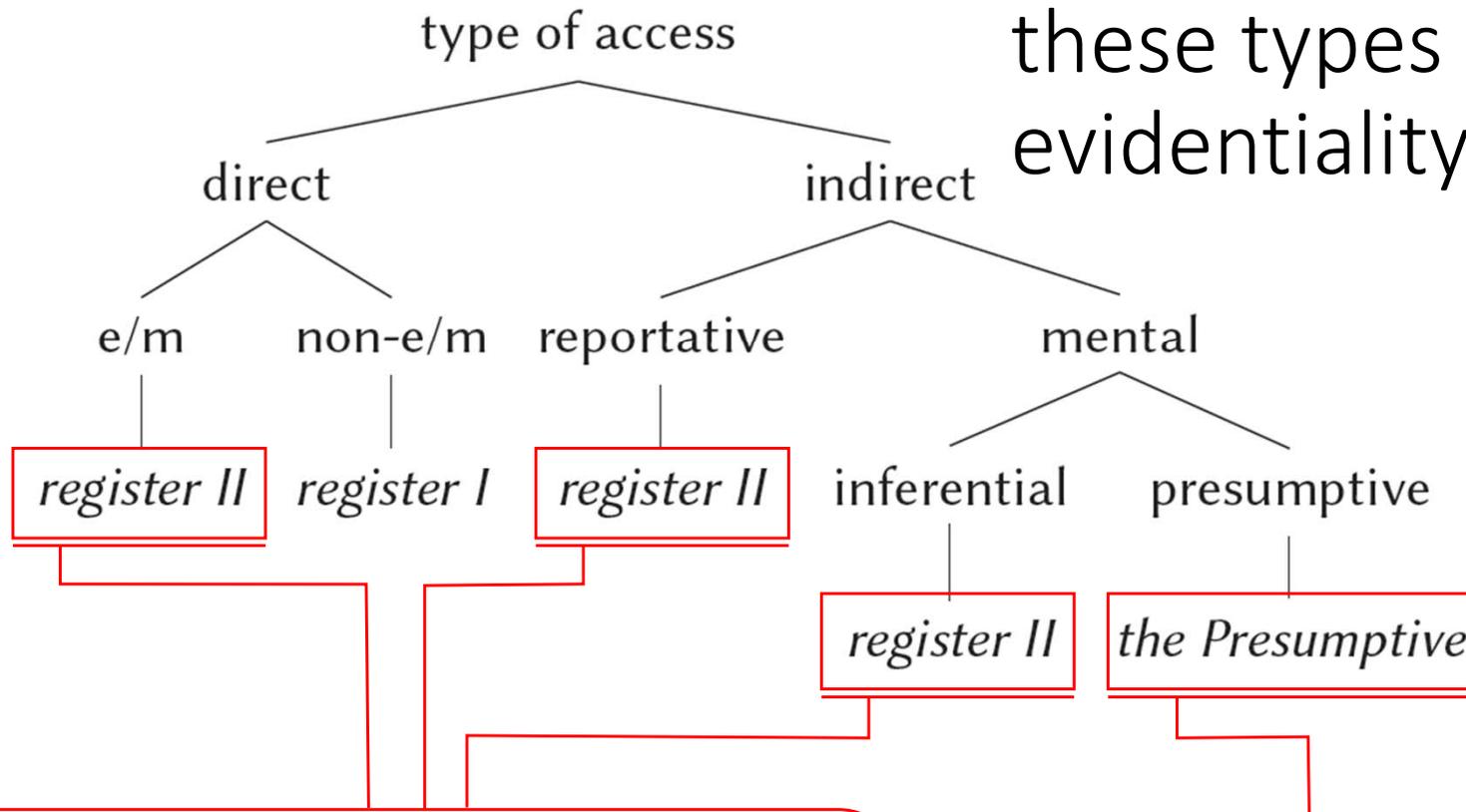
Claim 4:

Both mirative and “evaluative” are evidential

... since evaluative and mirative utterances with register II forms are always based on direct experience, I argue that they are evidential.

Part V Conclusions

Claim 5: The verb forms encode these types of evidentiality



kard-a=ast (Perfect)

me-kard-a=ast (Perfectoid Imperfect)

kard-a bud-a=ast (Perfectoid Pluperfect)

kard-a istod-a bud-a=ast (Perfectoid Past Progressive)

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me-kard-a-gist (Non-Past Presumptive)

kard-a istod-a-gist (Present Progressive Presumptive)