From spatial noun to medial demonstrative: the case of Khalkha Mongolian

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In this presentation, we discuss the development of two attributive/nominalized spatial nouns into addressee-centered demonstratives in Khalkha Mongolian as a so far unattested path of grammaticalization. Common Mongolic had an opposition of a demonstrative *ene, signaling closeness, to a demonstrative *tere that signaled distance. These forms consisted of the stems *e- and *te- and not fully transparent subsequent locative elements (cf. locative adverbs *ende/*tende, adjectival similatives *eyimü/*teyimü), but the stems themselves cannot be traced back any further. This basic demonstrative system has been retained in the Central Mongolic varieties Buryat, Khorchin or Oirat. However, the Khalkha branch has four demonstratives (as already suggest, but not elaborated on, by Janhunen 2012: 131-2, Guntsetseg 2016: 37-9, Brosig et al. 2018: 76):

Table 1: Demonstratives (for attributive or argument use) of Khalkha Mongolian

	speaker	addressee
close to	*en*	*naa-d(-ax)* (NOUN*)=čin*
far from	*ter*	*caa-d(-ax)* (NOUN*)=čin*

Structurally the stems *naa-* 'near side of' and *caa-* 'remote side of' belong to the class of "spatial nouns", a specific word class in Mongolic that can be grouped as distantly related to the class of regular nominals (substantives, adjectives, personal pronouns, numerals) in that it shares some historical and synchronous morphology. Spatial nouns lack the nominative, but inflect for idiosynchractic locative and prolative suffixes. They also allow for ablatives (formed by attaching the regular ablative suffix to the locative) and form attributives or nominative argument forms through -*d*, which can then be turned into non-nominative or plural argument forms by adding -*x* and a case suffix (cf. Janhunen 2012: 121-5).

Table 2: The paradigm of Khalkha spatial nouns in juxtraposed with a sub-part of the paradigm of substantives

	Spatial paradigm		Corresponding noun forms	
Locative	*naa-n*	'on the close side [of]'	*zam-[i]d*	way-DAT
Locative + Ablative	*naa-n-aas*	'from the close side [of]'	*zam-aas*	way-ABL
Prolative	*naa-[ɢ]uur*	'along the close side [of]'	*[zam-aar]*	way-INS (with possible prolative interpretation)
Allative	*naa-š*	'towards the close side [of]'	*[zam-ruu]*	way-ALL
Nominative-Attributive	*naa-d* [N/Ø]	'the N/one on the close side [of]'	*zam*, *zam-iiŋ*	way (argument), way-GEN

Case forms	*naa-d-[a]x-*CASE	'the N-CASE on the close side [of]'	*zam-iiŋ-x*	way-GEN-NMLZ ('the one belonging to the way)

Regular spatial nouns are mostly used as adverbials or postpositions, as in (1). The shift of the deictic origo to second person and with it the qualitative change to a second person-centered demonstrative has taken place in the presence of a postposed clitic such as the second person singular form *=čin* that indicates that the entity in question is 'on the near (front) side of you', which usually means within the perception of the addressee, as in (2), or 'on the remote (back) side of you', i.e. not only remote from the addressee, but also beyond her sight.

(1) *tern-ees*   **naa-n**   *yuu=č*   *med[-ex=güi.]*
     DEM.DIST-ABL this.side.of-LOC   what=LIM.FOC know-FUT.PTCP=NEG
     'I don't know anything <u>beyond</u> that [point in time] (<u>i.e. that is closer to the present)</u>.'

(2) **naa-d=čin**   *kod=güü*.
     this.side.of-ATTR=2POSS   code=NEG
     '<u>That [which, seen from my perspective, is on the near side of you]</u> doesn't have a code.'

In corpus data, the new demonstratives are most well-established in argument function in free conversational data (*en*: 1032, *ter*: 793, *naad*: 226, *caad*: 26, discounting non-spatial uses), while they are basically absent in newspaper texts (e.g., for argument usage, *ene*: 4536, *naad*: 9).

Typologically, this change is distinct from developments of adverbs like 'here'/'there' to demonstratives (Kuteva et al. 2019: 229-32, 430-1) since spatial nouns code relations between two entities that are not intrinsically linked to the interlocutors.

REFERENCES
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