Egophoricity and Other Minds

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Traditionally described as a system of verb morphology, egophoric, or "conjunct/disjunct," encoding in Nepal Bhasa (Kathmandu Newar, Tibeto-Burman) is not, in fact, limited to its inflectional morphology. Instead, accounting for egophoric distributions in Nepal Bhasa, both synchronically and diachronically, requires positing an interrelated set of semantic and pragmatic functions. To the extent that these related semantic and pragmatic principles can also be shown to underlie commonplace interpretations in other languages such as English, I will suggest that when viewed independent of its formal realizations, the functional template for egophoricity may potentially draw under one roof a wider range of semantic and pragmatic phenomena.