

### **Contact induced changes in Kazakh in Urumchi**

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The talk will deal with Kazakh, the second most important Turkic minority language of China. Brief information will be given about the Kazakh community in China, the number of speakers, their geographical distribution, the use of Kazakh in education and the media, the contact language, and the special sociolinguistic status of young Kazakhs in Urumchi.

The main aim of the presentation is to demonstrate some typical contact-induced structural changes in the variety of Kazakh spoken by young speakers in Urumchi. In the urban setting of Urumchi, the environment is dominantly Chinese speaking so Kazakh is spoken in an asymmetrical situation. Kazakh in Urumchi is also dominated by the largest Turkic minority language of China, Uyghur. This has a significant impact on the linguistic habits of the young bi- or multilingual Kazakhs living there. The input of Kazakh is reduced and its status is lower than that of Chinese or Uyghur. In a communication situation in which a Chinese or an Uyghur speaker participates, the language choice goes in favor of these languages. The Kazakh speakers are exposed to dominantly Chinese media products. The speakers living in Urumchi have moved away from the Kazakh homeland, have been relocated, which is an important factor promoting language-shift.

The data to be presented is a selection of audio recordings of spontaneous conversations and samples of texts distributed in social networking illustrating changes in the lexical and grammatical structure of the variety spoken by young Kazakhs in their everyday group communication and social networking. Sociolinguistic data of the speakers will not be presented in detail, the evaluation of a questionnaire is to be found in Abish & Csató. The structural impact of Chinese will be presented in the framework of the Code Copying Model (Johanson 2002). This model provides an integrated framework for the description of different types of copying, a term used in this model instead of “borrowing”, “calquing”, “taking over”, etc. A presentation of this model is especially motivated by the fact that Johanson’s book has recently been translated into Chinese.

### **References**

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