

ASPECTS OF YAGHNOBI GRAMMAR

by

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A THESIS

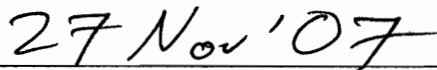
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“Aspects of Yaghnobi Grammar,” a thesis prepared by Brian Arnett Bird in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in the Department of Linguistics. This thesis has been approved and accepted by:



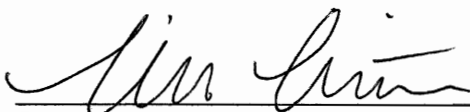
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Yaghnobi is an Eastern Iranian language spoken by approximately 12,500 people in Tajikistan. Considered by some to be endangered, it has received little previous study. Documentation of this language will contribute to ongoing revitalization efforts.

This thesis describes the basic morphosyntax of the language up to the level of the clause from a functional-typological perspective. Descriptions of aspects of the grammar not published elsewhere include: two different copulas; additional tenses of the verb-auxiliary complex; delineation of directional and locational functions of adpositions; identification of two different case forms for pronouns and demonstratives; and a system of grammatical relations which is split on aspect, with a nominal accusative system for perfective aspect and an unusual system which does not distinguish S and O arguments for imperfective verbs.

The appendix contains parsed and glossed Yaghnobi texts and a Yaghnobi - Tajik - English dictionary based on field work conducted during the fall of 2006.

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Dedicated to the Yaghnohi people of Tajikistan.

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