

Grammar Watch

Periodically, ALT News draws attention to recently published grammars and family/area surveys, on the perhaps not unreasonable assumption that these genres are of special interest to typologists. A consolidated list can be found on the ALT homepage, <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fss/organisations/alt/gramnot.htm>

LT invites reviews and notices of such grammars, done from a typological angle, naturally, or also typological sketches of “their” languages by the grammar writers themselves.

Since typological generalizations obviously shouldn't be informed by bad grammars, no matter how nicely a bad-grammared language would serve to balance one's sample, having a Good Grammar Guide would be even more useful than a mere listing. Occasional annotations by the current Grammar Watchers shouldn't be taken as definitive quality judgments, though: we'd prefer to leave it to reviewers/noticers, for LT or otherwise, and ultimately of course grammar users, to determine a grammar's worth. Our sincere wish is that the fittest may survive as typological samples evolve. But please do weed out grammars evidently ill-describing well-described languages. And occasionally consider changing your samples: Variatio delectat! It hasn't GOT to be Nkore-Kiga representing Africa in EVERY sample.

Dictionaries have so far not been listed on a regular basis, on the assumption -- no doubt to prove mistaken, sooner or later -- that they matter less for typologists than grammars do.

The current listing of recent titles is rather haphazard. Expect a more systematic update of the consolidated listing soonish. Do send titles we have overlooked, or forthcoming ones that you'd like to see listed in the future, to frans.plank@uni-konstanz.de, who is coordinating the Watch.

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SUBSAHARAN AFRICA (minus Afroasiatic and Afrikaans)

NORTH AFRICA (including all of Afroasiatic), NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

ARABIC

Owens, Jonathan (2006). *A Linguistic History of Arabic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. <Semitic, Afroasiatic>

MINA

Frajzyngier, Zygmunt & Eric Johnston, with Adrian Edwards (2005). *A*

Grammar of Mina. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter. <🍏🍏🍏, Afroasiatic>

EURASIA (plus Japan and Korea, plus Romani, plus Afrikaans)

BASQUE

Bendel, Christiane (2006). *Baskische Grammatik*. Hamburg: Buske. <isolate>

FINNISH

Pohjanen, Bengt & Eeva Muli (2005). *Meänkieli — rätt och lätt: grammatik i meänkieli*. [Meänkieli — direct and easy: Grammar of Meänkieli.] Sweden: Barents Publisher. <Finno-Ugric, Uralic>

[Popular grammar of a Finnic variety spoken in Northern Sweden. Written in accessible Swedish]. 156 pp. ISBN 91-89144-25-2. Price SEK 220,- (ca. 24 Euro) + porto (SEK 33,-) from info@sirillus.se]

ROMANI

Tenser, Anton (2006). *Lithuanian Romani*. (Languages of the World/Materials, 452.) München: LINCOM. <Indo-Aryan, IE>

YUKAGHIR

Nikolaeva, Irina (2006). *A Historical Dictionary of Yukaghir*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. <isolate, or distantly related to Uralic>
[With Basics of Yukaghir Phonology.]

THE AMERICAS

APACHE

De Reuse, Willem, with Phillip Good (2006?). *A Practical Grammar of the San Carlos Apache Language*. (LINCOM Studies in Native American Linguistics, 51.) München: LINCOM. <Southern Athabaskan>

CHIBCHAN

Quesada, J. Diego (2007). *The Chibchan Languages*. Cartago: Editorial Tecnológica de Costa Rica. <Chibchan>

TIMBISHA (PANAMINT)

McLaughlin, John E. (2006). *Timbisha (Panamint)*. (Languages of the World/Materials, 453.) München: LINCOM. <Central Numic, Uto-Aztecan>

TIRIYÓ

Meira, Sergio (2006). *A Grammar of Tiriyo*. (MGL, 34.) Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. <Cariban>

THE CAUCASUS

SOUTH ASIA and SOUTH EAST ASIA

CHINESE

Sun, Chaofen (2006). *Chinese*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <Sinitic, Sino-Tibetan>

DHANKUTE TAMANG

Poudel, Kedar Prasad (2006). *Dhankute Tamang Grammar*. (LINCOM Studies in Asian Linguistics, 60.) München: LINCOM. <Tibeto-Burman, Sino-Tibetan>

HINDI

Kachru, Yamuna (2006). *Hindi*. (London Oriental and African Language Library, 12.) Amsterdam: Benjamins. <Indo-Aryan, IE>

LAO

Enfield, N. J. (2006). *A Grammar of Lao*. (MGL, 38.) Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. <Tai, Kam-Tai, Tai-Kadai>

MARATHI

Wali, Kashi (2006). *Marathi: A Study in Comparative South Asian Languages*. Delhi: Indian Institute of Language Studies. <Indo-Aryan, Indo-European>

NEWAR

Genetti, Carol (2007). *A Grammar of Dolakha Newar*. (MGL, 40.) Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. <Tibeto-Burman, Sino-Tibetan>

SINO-TIBETAN

Thurgood, Graham & Randy J. LaPolla (eds.) (2007). *The Sino-Tibetan Languages*. London: Routledge. (Originally 2003, now paperback.)

PACIFIC

BWATOO

Rivierre, Jean-Claude, Sabine Ehrhart, & Raymond Diéla (2006). *Le bwatoo et les dialectes de la région de Koné (Nouvelle-Calédonie)*. Leuven: Peeters. <Oceanic, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Austronesian>

MARQUESAN

Cablitz, Gabriele H. (2006). *Marquesan: A Grammar of Space*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. <Oceanic, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Austronesian>

AUSTRALIA

PIDGINS, CREOLES, MIXED LANGUAGES

SIGN LANGUAGES

THE REST