
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 (however valuable its description).

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 has been compiled by Peter Bakker (Pidgins, Creoles, Mixed; Romani; Americas; Basque), Nick Evans (Australian), Malcolm Ross (Pacific), and Frans Plank. 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.

SUBSAHARAN AFRICA (minus Afroasiatic and Afrikaans)

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

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

BASQUE

Salaburu Etxeberria, with Maite Lakar (2005). Baztango mintzoa: gramatika eta hiztegia.

[The speech of Baztan: grammar and dictionary.]

524 pp.

Editor: [Iruñea] : Nafarroako Gobernua ; [Bilbao] : Euskaltzaindia, 2005.

[Government of Navarra and the Basque Academy]

BASQUE

Sarasua Aranberri, Asier, Aintzane Agirrebeña Ubera, Leire Zenarruzabeitia Alonso (2005). *Eibarko euskara: gure hizketaren doinu eta berbak*. [Basque of Eibar: prosody and words of our dialect.]

532 pp.

Editor: Eibar : Udala, 2005. [municipality of Eibar]

ISBN-ISSN: 84-89696-40-3

BASQUE

De Rijk, Rudolf P. G. (2007). *Standard Basque: A Progressive Grammar*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. <isolate>

[*Standard Basque: A Progressive Grammar* is the first modern pedagogically oriented reference grammar in English for this new standard language. It guides the reader progressively through 33 chapters covering topics that range from orthography and pronunciation to case endings, verb forms, ergativity, the antipassive, and allocutive forms. In addition to information on the various dialects, the book includes thousands of example sentences drawn from Basque literature and extensive vocabulary listings. Most chapters conclude with exercises. Part 1 covers the grammar and Part 2 contains glosses for the example sentences and indexes.

Rudolf P. G. de Rijk (1937-2003) brought the study of the Basque language into the generative syntax tradition with his MIT Ph.D. dissertation on Basque relative clauses in 1972. He taught at Leiden University in the Netherlands until his retirement in 2002. This book was prepared for publication after the author's death by Virginia de Rijk-Chan with Armand De Coene and Fleur Veraart and the assistance of linguists at Cornell University and Leiden University and the University of the Basque Country. The glosses and supplementary material in Part 2 were prepared by Armand De Coene. [MIT Press]]

ESTONIAN

Wiedemann, Ferdinand Johann (2005). *Grammatik der estnischen Sprache*. Revised facsimile of edition of 1875, edited by Karl Pajusalu & Urmas Sutrop. Tallinn: Stiftung für Estnische Sprache.

ISBN 9985-79-130-4

UYGHUR

De Jong, Frederick (2007). *A Grammar of Modern Uyghur*. Utrecht: Houtsmā. <Eastern Turkic, Turkic, Altaic>

[Modern Uyghur is a Turkic language which is predominantly spoken in the Xinjiang (Xinjiang) Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. It belongs to the Eastern or Chaghatay branch of the Turkic languages.

Few texts exist which can be used for learning Modern Uyghur, which is one of the least researched Turkic languages. This grammar is the first English-based learning

grammar for this language. It is partially Latin-based while is also uses categorizations rooted in the work of Chaghatay grammarians. It pays attention to dialect forms when these forms are on the way to become part of the standard written language. To facilitate its use, an index of the elements of grammar covered, and an English-Uyghur vocabulary are included at the end of this book.

By mastering its contents and by carefully going through the numerous examples, the student should be able to read Uyghur publications with the aid of a dictionary. At the same time, this grammar can be used fruitfully as the basis for Uyghur courses at all levels. In conjunction with the study of Frederick De Jong et al., *Uyghur. A Manual for Conversation* (Utrecht: Houtsmastichting 2005) and the accompanying audio-CD, basic conversational skills can be acquired. [Publishers, see www.houtsmastichting.nl]]

THE AMERICAS

BAURE

Danielsen, Swintha (2007). *Baure: An Arawak Language of Bolivia*. (Indigenous Languages of Latin America (ILLA), 6.) Leiden: CNWS Publications. <Arawak> [Swintha Danielsen recently defended her doctoral dissertation at Nijmegen University and her book contains a grammatical description of Baure, a seriously endangered language of Bolivian Amazonia. Baure belongs to the South Arawakan language family and forms part of the Guaporé-Mamoré linguistic area. The book is the first detailed and comprehensive grammatical description of the language, covering its phonology, morphology, syntax and discourse structure. Special attention is given to the complex (morpho)phonological processes within a phonological phrase, the rich noun classification system, the distinction of verbal and non-verbal predicates with respect to the argument marking pattern, the three-level distinction of verbal morphology, and specific clause types based on different nominalization strategies, which also play an important role in clause subordination. The relation to the surrounding South-Arawakan languages Trinitario, Ignaciano, and Paunaca is investigated through comparison of the lexicon and the grammar. The appendices contain different text types, lists of grammatical morphemes, classifiers, and the Swadesh 200 word list. It is a highly valuable addition to our knowledge of South-American languages and cultures in general and the Arawakan languages in particular.

The book is in English and contains 502 pages. The sale price is 45 Euros and it can be ordered directly from the publisher CNWS in Leiden. For ordering and further information about other publications in our series and the special offer that runs until December 15, please visit: <http://www.cnwspublications.com/>. [Mily Crevels]]

THE CAUCASUS

SOUTH ASIA and SOUTH EAST ASIA

LAO

Enfield, N. J. (2007). *A Grammar of Lao*. (MGL, 38.) Berlin: Mouton. <Tai, Tai-Kadai>

PACIFIC

AVAVA

Crowley, Terry (2006), *The Avava Language of Central Malakula (Vanuatu)*. Edited by John Lynch. (Pacific Linguistics, 574.) Canberra: Australian National University.

BUKAWA

Eckermann, William (2007). *A Descriptive Grammar of the Bukawa Language of the Morobe Province of Papua New Guinea*. (Pacific Linguistics, 585.) Canberra: Australian National University.

INDONESIAN

Sneddon, James Neil (2007). *Colloquial Jakarta Indonesian*. (Pacific Linguistics, 581.) Canberra: Australian National University.

LAMAHOLOT

Nishiyama, Kunio & Herman Kelen (2007). *A Grammar of Lamaholot, Eastern Indonesia: The Morphology and Syntax of the Lewoingu Dialect*. (LWM, 467.) München: Lincom Europa.

MARQUESAN

Cablitz, Gabriele H. (2006). *Marquesan: A Grammar of Space*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

MAYBRAT

Dol, Philomena (2007). *A Grammar of Maybrat: A Language of the Bird's Head Peninsula, Papua Province, Indonesia*. (Pacific Linguistics, 586.) Canberra: Australian National University.

MEREI

Chung, Ying Shing Anthony (2006). *A Descriptive Grammar of Meri (Vanuatu)*. (Pacific Linguistics, 586, Shorter Grammars.) Canberra: Australian National University.

MIAN

Fedden, O. Sebastian (2007). A grammar of Mian, a Papuan language of New Guinea. Doctoral dissertation, University of Melbourne. <Ok, Trans New Guinea Phylum> <http://eprints.infodiv.unimelb.edu.au/archive/00003879/>
[Particularly interesting for its tonal phonology, switch reference, noun classification, and existence of two sets of verbs, one taking object agreement and the other not -- NE]

NAMAN

Crowley, Terry (2006). *Naman: A Vanishing Language of Malakula (Vanuatu)*. Edited by John Lynch. (Pacific Linguistics, 576.) Canberra: Australian National University.

NESE

Crowley, Terry (2006). *Nese: A Diminishing Speech Variety of Northwest Malakula (Vanuatu)*. Edited by John Lynch. (Pacific Linguistics, 577.) Canberra: Australian National University.

NEVE'EI

Musgrave, Jill (2007). *A Grammar of Neve'ei*. (Pacific Linguistics, 587.) Canberra: Australian National University.

SOUTH EFATE

Thieberger, Nicholas (2006). *A Grammar of South Efate: An Oceanic Language of Vanuatu*. (Oceanic Linguistics Special Publication, 33). Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

TAPE

Crowley, Terry (2006). *Tape: A Declining Language of Malakula (Vanuatu)*. Edited by John Lynch. (Pacific Linguistics, 557.) Canberra: Australian National University.

YABEM

Bradshaw, Joel & Francisc Czobor (2005). *Otto Dempwolff's Grammar of the Jabêm Language in New Guinea*. (Oceanic Linguistics Special Publication, 32.). Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

AUSTRALIA

KUUK THAAYORRE

Gaby, Alice (2006). A grammar of Kuuk Thaayorre. PhD thesis, Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, University of Melbourne.

[Detailed reference grammar of this Pama-Nyungan language of Western Cape York -- NE]

Available from: <http://eprints.infodiv.unimelb.edu.au/archive/00002486/>

WULGURU

Donohue, Mark (2007). *Wulguru: A Salvage Study of a North-eastern Australian Language from Townsville*. München: Lincom Europa. <Pama-Nyungan, Australian>

[Sketch grammar of this essentially undescribed Pama-Nyungan language on the basis of salvage materials -- NE]

YALARNGA

Breen, Gavan & Barry J. Blake (2007). *The Grammar of Yalarnga: A Language of Western Queensland*. (Pacific Linguistics, 584.) Canberra: Australian National University.

[Yalarnga is a language from Dajarra and country to its east, in far western Queensland. This grammar presents all that could be learnt by the authors from their work with the last

three aged speakers, two of whom spoke it only as a second language. Typologically Yalarnnga is a fairly typical Pama-Nyungan language. It makes an interesting comparison with its northern neighbour, Kalkutungu, with which it shares some lexical and grammatical features, but not some distinctive sound changes that are reflected in that language.

Gavan Breen's work in linguistics can be divided essentially into three main streams: salvage studies of a substantial number of now-extinct Australian languages, based on fieldwork with the last speakers; development of orthographies and literacy courses, and teaching vernacular literacy and other skills relevant to work in bilingual education programs, mainly in Central Australian languages; studies of Central Australian languages, including phonology, kinship and ethno-classification, but mainly directed towards production of dictionaries. Breen has been based for many years at the Institute for Aboriginal Development, in Alice Springs.

ISBN 9780858835672 Xi + 120 pp

Prices: Australia AUD \$34.65 (incl. GST), Overseas AUD \$31.50 -- [PL]

PIDGINS, CREOLES, MIXED LANGUAGES

SIGN LANGUAGES

THE REST