

Recently Published and of Typological Interest / viii 2009

New publications of potential typological interest are periodically advertised on the lingtyp list. This used to be a feature of ALT News; but whereas ALT News are for reading, this listing is meant to elicit action – reviewing action.

Apart from directly commissioning reviews, *LT* solicits offers from lingtypists to review books – those listed here or whichever others you'd like to add on your own understanding of the attribute “typologically relevant”. (And do construe its scope liberally!) For purposes of book reviewing in *LT*, what matters is that REVIEWS are done from a distinctively typological angle, from whatever angles the books reviewed are done. Prospective reviewers so intentioned please get in touch.

Drop me a line with bibliographical particulars if you want to make sure your own relevant publications will be included in the next listing. The most effective indication of the existence of a new relevant book is the receipt of a review copy; do remind your publisher to send one to:

LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY,
Sprachwissenschaft,
Universität Konstanz,
78457 Konstanz, Germany.

My apologies for any listings inadvertently repeated from previous ALT News. But then, many previously listed titles have remained unreviewed in *LT*, and since typological publications can have long shelf-lives, you're welcome to make your pick and review now what has been listed before but is not past the sell-by date.

Do feel free to also offer to review grammars for *LT* (again, from a distinctively typological angle). Those new grammars we were aware of have so far been listed in GRAMMAR WATCH, periodically updated and with a consolidated listing on the ALT website. GRAMMAR WATCH is about to be converted to wiki format, continuingly housed on the ALT website; and in future you'll be able to enter new grammars yourselves. For the time being, we continue to include grammars and such in this listing.

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Alekseev, M. E., T. A. Majsak, D. S. Ganenkov, Ju. A. Lander (eds.). 2009. *Udiskij sbornik: Grammatika, leksika, istorija jazyka*. Moskva: Academia.

Avery, Peter, B. Elan Dresher, & Keren Rice (eds.). 2008. *Contrast in phonology*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Barðdal, Jóhanna & Shobhana L. Chelliah (eds.). 2009. *The role of semantic, pragmatic and discourse factors in the development of case*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Blevins, James P. & Juliette Blevins (eds.). 2009. *Analogy in grammar: Form and acquisition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Brandão de Carvalho, Joaquim, Tobias Scheer, & Philippe Ségéral (eds.). 2008. *Lenition and fortition*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

[There are books on tone, coronals, the internal structure of segments, vowel harmony, and a couple of other topics in phonology. This book aims to fill the gap for Lenition and Fortition, which is one of the first phenomena that was addressed by phonologists in the 19th century, and ever since contributed to phonological thinking. It is certainly one of the core phenomena that is found in the phonology of natural language: together with assimilations, the other important family of phenomena, Lenition and Fortition constitute the heart of what phonology can do to sound.

The book aims to provide an overall treatment of the question in its many aspects: historical, typological, synchronic, diachronic, empirical and theoretical. Various current approaches to phonology are represented.

The book is structured into three parts: 1) properties and behaviour of Lenition/Fortition, 2) lenition patterns in particular languages and language families, 3) how Lenition/Fortition work. [MdG]]

Bubenik, Vit, John Hewson, & Sarah Rose (eds.) 2009. *Grammatical change in Indo-European languages*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Christiansen, Morten H., Christopher Collins, & Shimon Edelman (eds.). 2009. *Language universals*. New York: Oxford University Press.

[Languages differ from one another in bewildering and seemingly arbitrary ways. For example, in English, the verb precedes the direct object ('understand the proof'), but in Japanese, the direct object comes first. In some languages, such as Mohawk, it is not even possible to establish a basic word order. Nonetheless, languages do share certain

regularities in how they are structured and used. The exact nature and extent of these "language universals" has been the focus of much research and is one of the central explanatory goals in the language sciences.

During the past 50 years, there has been tremendous progress, a few major conceptual revolutions, and even the emergence of entirely new fields. The wealth of findings and theories offered by the various language-science disciplines has made it more important than ever to work toward an integrated understanding of the nature of human language universals. This book is the first to examine language universals from a cross-disciplinary perspective. It provides new insights into long standing questions such as: What exactly defines the human capacity for language? Are there universal properties of human languages and, if so, what are they? Can all language universals be explained in the same way, or do some universals require different kinds of explanations from others? *Language Universals* is unique in starting with the assumption that the best way to approach these and related questions is through a dialogue between a wide range of disciplines, including linguistics, cognitive neuroscience, philosophy, computer science and biology. [OUP]]

Comrie, Bernard, Ray Fabri, Elizabeth Hume, Manwel Mifsud, Thomas Stolz, & Martine Vanhove (eds.). 2009. *Introducing Maltese linguistics*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Corrigan, Roberta, Edith A. Moravcsik, Hamid Ouali, & Kathleen M. Wheatley (eds.). 2009. *Formulaic language*. 2 volumes. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Coupe, Alex R. 2007. *A grammar of Mongsen Ao*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Dimmendaal, Gerrit J. (ed.) 2009. *Coding participant marking: Construction types in twelve African languages*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Dixon, R. M. W. & Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (eds.). 2009. *The semantics of clause linking: A cross-linguistic typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

🍏 Duanmu, San. 2008. *Syllable structure: The limits of variation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[This book looks at the range of possible syllables in human languages. The syllable is a central notion in phonology but basic questions about it remain poorly understood and phonologists are divided on even the most elementary issues. For example, the word city has been syllabified as ci-ty (the 'maximal onset' analysis), cit-y (the 'no-open-lax-V' analysis), and cit-ty (the 'geminate C' analysis).

San Duanmu explores and clarifies these and many other related issues through an in-depth analysis of entire lexicons of several languages. Some languages, such as Standard and Shanghai Chinese, have fairly simple syllables, yet a minimal difference in syllable structure has led to a dramatic difference in tonal behavior. Other languages, such as English, German, and Jiarong, have long consonant clusters and have been thought to require very large syllables: San Duanmu shows that the actual syllable structure in these languages is much simpler. He bases his analyses on quantitative data, paying equal attention to generalizations that are likely to be universal. He shows that a successful analysis of the syllable must take into account several theories, including feature theory, the Weight-Stress Principle, the size of morpheme inventory, and the metrical representation of the syllable.

San Duanmu's clear exposition will appeal to phonologists and advanced students and will provide a new benchmark in syllabic and prosodic analysis. He also offers an answer to the intriguing question: how different can human languages be? [OUP]

Epps, Patience & Alexandre Arkhipov (eds.). 2009. *New challenges in typology: Transcending the Borders and Refining the Distinctions*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Evans, Nicholas. 2009. *Dying words: Endangered languages and what they have to tell us*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Everaert, Martin, Simon Musgrave, & Alexis Dimitriadis (eds.). 2009. *The use of databases in cross-linguistic studies*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

[This book promotes the development of linguistic databases by describing a number of successful database projects, focusing especially on cross-linguistic and typological research. It has become increasingly clear that ready access to knowledge about cross-linguistic variation is of great value to many types of linguistic research. Such a systematic body of data is essential in order to gain a proper understanding of what is truly universal in language and what is determined by specific cultural settings. Moreover, it is increasingly needed as a tool to systematically evaluate contrasting theoretical claims. The book includes a chapter on general problems of using databases to handle language data and chapters on a number of individual projects. [MdG]]

Gelderen, Elly van (ed.). 2009. *Cyclical change*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Guo, Jiansheng, Elena Lieven, Nancy Budwig, Susan Ervin-Tripp, Keiko Nakamura, & Şeyda Özçalışkan (eds.). 2009. *Crosslinguistic approaches to the psychology of language: Research in the tradition of Dan Isaac Slobin*. New York: Psychology Press.

Hagège, Claude. 2009. *On the death and life of languages*. Translated by Jody Gladding. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Hasan, Ruqaiya. 2009. *Semantic variation: Meaning in society and in sociolinguistics*. Edited by Jonathan J. Webster. London: Equinox.

King, John T. 2009. *A grammar of Dhimal*. Leiden: Brill. <Tibeto-Burman>

Klein, Wolfgang & Ping Li (eds.). 2009. *The expression of time*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Lipták, Anikó (ed.). 2009. *Correlatives cross-linguistically*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Luraghi, Silvia & Claudia Parodi. 2008. *Key terms in syntax and syntactic theory*. London: Continuum.

McGregor, William B. 2009. *Linguistics: An introduction*. London: Continuum.

[More "typological" than most contemporary introductions. Of special typological interest: Part III: Language: Uniformity and diversity. [FP]]

Mauri, Caterina. 2008. *Coordination relations in the languages of Europe and beyond*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Mereu, Lunella (ed.). 2009. *Information structure and its interfaces*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Narrog, Heiko. 2009. *Modality in Japanese: The layered structure of the clause and hierarchies of functional categories*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Newman, John (ed.). 2009. *The linguistics of eating and drinking*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Rai, Novel K., Yogendra P. Yadav, Bhim N. Regmi, & Balaram Prasaim (eds.). [no date]. *Recent studies in Nepalese linguistics*. Kathmandu: Linguistic Society of Nepal.

[pp 97, 105, 119-120, 122-123 – not from a Nepali linguist: "Typology is a superficial science. Through its juggling with labels, each of which is an ill-defined working hypothesis, some of the findings of language typological studies are no more than the tautologous outcomes of circular reasoning. [...] it is fair to say that at this point in the history of the field much work conducted by professional linguists is either bogus, utterly useless or both. [...]

I cannot urge field linguists strongly enough *not* to use a uniform format like that of the Lingua Descriptive Studies Questionnaire. Such a working outline is not a crutch but an analytical impediment [...] The Lingua Descriptive grammars each contain numerous idiotically numbered sections [...] The topsy-turvy, anti-traditionalist set-up of the Lingua Descriptive Series Questionnaire [...] serves no purpose other than to satisfy the late Simon Dik's desire to appear innovative. The results of this exercise may be of some utility to language typologists, but the resultant descriptions do not do justice to the languages studied. [...] Following any standard outline is an inept strategy bound to produce unsatisfactory results in the best case and utterly daft results in the worst. Relying on such a format is tantamount to an admission that one is not up to the challenge of writing a grammar."]

♣Schroeder, Christoph, Gerd Hentschel, & Winfried Boeder (eds.) 2009. *Secondary predicates in Eastern European languages and beyond*. Oldenburg: BIS-Verlag der Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg.

♣Stassen, Leon. 2009. *Predicative possession*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
[xiv, 812 pages. Comprehensive [OUP, and no reviewer will disagree [FP]]. Third instalment of The Saga of Deranking and Balancing. End of the Chapter? [to borrow a title from John Galsworthy – FP]]

Steinkrüger, Patrick O. & Manfred Krifka (eds.). 2009. *On inflection*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Stephany, Ursula & Maria D. Voeikova (eds.). 2009. *Development of nominal inflection in first language acquisition: A cross-linguistic perspective*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Sun Hongkai & Guangkun Liu. 2009. *A grammar of Anong: Language death under intense contact*. Translated, annotated, and supplemented by Fengxiang Li, Ela Thurgood, & Graham Thurgood. Leiden: Brill. <Tibeto-Burman>

Wohlgemuth, Jan. 2009. *A typology of verbal borrowings*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Yadava, Yogendra, Govinda Bhattarai, Ram Raj Lohani, Balaram Prasain, & Krishna Parajuli (eds.). 2005. *Contemporary issues in Nepalese linguistics*. Kathmandu: Linguistic Society of Nepal.