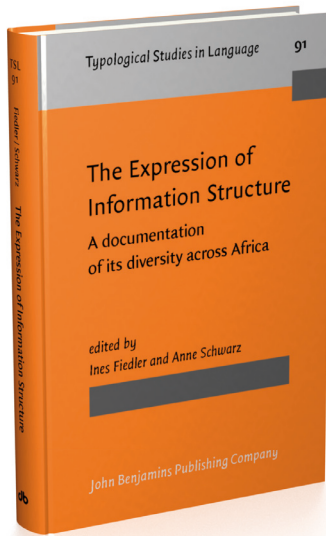


# NEW BOOK INFORMATION

Linguistics



## The Expression of Information Structure

### A documentation of its diversity across Africa

Edited by Ines Fiedler and Anne Schwarz

Humboldt University, Berlin / Humboldt University, Berlin & James Cook University, Cairns

This book analyzes the different patterns found across sub-Saharan Africa to express information structure. Based on languages from all four African language phyla, it documents the great diversity of linguistic means used to encode information-structural phenomena and is therefore highly relevant for some of the most pertinent questions in modern linguistic theory. The special contribution of this volume is the perspective on a variety of information-structurally related phenomena which go far beyond classical notions such as focus and topic. Detailed investigations are dedicated to so far less discussed focal subcategories, like focus on verbal operators or the thematic-categorical distinction. Finally, the information-structural configuration of unmarked, canonical sentence structures is recognized. The papers provide evidence that the formal means to encode information-structural categories range from means such as morphological markers or syntactic operations, famous in linguistics, to less well-known strategies, such as defocalization rather than focalization.

[Typological Studies in Language, 91] 2010. xii, 383 pp.

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“Through its presentation of studies of information structure in languages from all of the major indigenous language phyla of Africa this volume makes a significant contribution to this increasingly important area of linguistic theory and analysis. Of particular interest are the investigations of special verb-focus marking in several languages, a phenomenon to which insufficient attention has been paid in the past. This volume is a welcome addition to the growing literature on the typological variation in information structure across languages.”

Robert D. Van Valin Jr., Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf

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