

Chapter 4

Linguistic typology

4.1 Introduction

Simply speaking, the study of universals is concerned with what human languages have in common, while the study of typology deals with ways in which languages differ from each other. This contrast, however, is not sharp. When languages differ from each other, the variation is not random, but subject to limitations. Linguistic typology is not only concerned with variation, but also with the limitations on the degree of variation found in the languages of the world. It is due to these limitations that languages may be meaningfully divided into various types.

For instance, typologists often divide languages into types according to so-called **basic word order**, often understood as the order of subject (S), object (O) and verb (V) in a typical declarative sentence. The vast majority of the languages of the world fall into one of three groups:

SOV (Japanese, Tamil, Turkish etc.)
SVO (Fula, Chinese, English etc.)
VSO (Arabic, Tongan, Welsh etc.)

Logically speaking, there should be nothing wrong with the three other possibilities: VOS, OVS and OSV. As mentioned above, however, they are exceedingly rare and typically occur in areas that have been relatively isolated. The three main groups have one thing in common, that the subject precedes the object. It is a small step, therefore, from basic word order typology to the formulation of the statistical universal we became acquainted with in the previous chapter:

Subjects tend strongly to precede objects.

The study of typology and the study of universals, therefore, go hand in hand.

In this chapter, we will have a look at morphological typology, word order typology, the typology of motion verbs, and the typological distinction between tone languages and stress languages. These are only a few examples of the large amount of phenomena that may be studied from a typological viewpoint.

First, however, we shall discuss a little further what typology is, and what it is not.

An Introduction To Linguistic Typology

**Anatole Lyovin, Brett Kessler, William
Ronald Leben**



An Introduction To Linguistic Typology:

An Introduction to Linguistic Typology Viveka Velupillai, 2012 Offers an introduction to linguistic typology that covers various linguistic domains from phonology and morphology over parts of speech the NP and the VP to simple and complex clauses pragmatics and language change This title also includes a discussion on methodological issues in typology

Introducing Language Typology Edith A. Moravcsik, 2012-12-20 Language typology identifies similarities and differences among languages of the world This textbook provides an introduction to the subject which assumes minimal prior knowledge of linguistics It offers the broadest coverage of any introductory book including sections on historical change language acquisition and language processing Students will become familiar with the subject by working through numerous examples of crosslinguistic generalizations and diversity in syntax morphology and phonology as well as vocabulary writing systems and signed languages Chapter outlines and summaries key words a glossary and copious literature references help the reader understand and internalize what they have read while activities at the end of each chapter reinforce key points

Shaetlan Prof. Dr. Viveka Velupillai, Roy Mullay, 2025-05-15 Shaetlan Dis is da first bilingual grammar o Shaetlan da language at predaets English ithin Shetland da maist norderly bit o da UK Da language is o mixed ancestry wi Norn an Scots as its main input languages bit wi a linguistic history shaepit bi closs contact wi da Low Country Germanic languages becis o da intense Hanseatic an fysheen traedes Shaetlan is b n braaly stigmatised ower da hindmaist twa hunder year an is nivver b n tocht richt fir se Noo hit s ithin a precarious poseetion wi less an less young fokk takkin til it fae dir aald fokk Hoosumivver da backbonn o da language is bidden strong an still shaas da rare Mixed Language forebears no j st ithin da vocabulary bit ithin its grammar an aa Da grammar tells aboot da language fae a linguistic typological ootlook and sets it ithin a wirld typological context He s a linguistically kantit book bit is b n written fir aabody tae read Da data is maed up o 37 5 ooers o archival recoardeens yun s aboot 400 000 wirds fibye dat de r mair as 9 year o interviews participant observation an immersion Da book starts wi seeven contributions fae midder tongue spaekers o Shaetlan He s dan spleet inti twa pairts Pairt I tells da historico linguistic r ts ti Shaetlan tells aboot its status an plaess ithin Shetland daday shaas da science ahint caain hit a Mixed Language an offers a orthography at s b n pitten tigidder fir da data gaddered fir Da Shaetlan Project Pairt II gies a grammatical description o Shaetlan as it stands noo sin a ginerall typological linguistic framewark an is laid oot laek a conventional typological linguistic grammar Da hael book is bilingual apairt fae da bits fae da seeven midder tongue spaekers at ir onnly in Shaetlan as is onnly richt English This is the first bilingual grammar of Shaetlan the language which pre dates English in Shetland the northernmost part of the UK The language is of a mixed ancestry with Norn and Scots as its main input languages but with a linguistic history shaped by intense contact with the Low Country Germanic languages due to the intense Hanseatic and fishing trades Shaetlan has seen severe stigmatisation over the last few centuries and has never been formally recognised It is now in an endangered state with dwindling intergenerational transmission However the structure of

the language has remained remarkably resilient and still shows its unique Mixed Language ancestry not only in its vocabulary but also in its grammar This grammar describes the language from a linguistic typological perspective and places it in a global typological context While it is a linguistically oriented book it is written to be accessible for the general public The data consists of 37 5 hours of archival recordings which represents a corpus of about 400 000 words as well as more than nine years of interviews participant observation and immersion The book starts with seven contributions by Shaetlan mother tongue speakers It is then divided into two parts Part I sets the scene and gives the historico linguistic background to the formation of Shaetlan discusses its status and place in society today shows the data for classifying it as a Mixed Language in its own right and presents the orthography used for the data in Da Shaetlan Project Part II gives a grammatical description of contemporary Shaetlan using a general typological linguistic framework and structured as a conventional typological linguistic grammar The entire book is bilingual with the exception of the seven introductory contributions by Shaetlan mother tongue speakers which are in Shaetlan only

An Introduction to the Languages of the World Anatole Lyovin, Brett Kessler, William Ronald Leben, 2017 The only textbook of its kind An Introduction to the Languages of the World is designed to introduce beginning linguistics students who now typically start their study with little background in languages to the variety of the languages of the world

A Grammar of Papapana Ellen Smith-Dennis, 2021-01-18 This monograph is not only the first comprehensive grammar of Papapana a previously undocumented and under described endangered language but the first full reference grammar of any Oceanic language of Bougainville Papua New Guinea despite this region displaying considerable linguistic innovation and language contact phenomena with numerous typologically significant features This book describes Papapana on various levels including phonology morphology and syntax in noun phrases and the verb complex and syntax at the clause and sentence level Throughout the grammar the described phenomena are related to the current research on typological and Oceanic linguistics Typologically unusual features of Papapana include multiple reduplication inverse number marking in the noun phrase and postverbal subject indexing The book also describes the sociolinguistic and historical context within which Papapana is spoken and highlights linguistic changes resulting from language contact The monograph fills an important gap in terms of grammatical descriptions of Bougainville Oceanic languages and makes a significant contribution to the field of Oceanic linguistics and to future comparative linguistic and typological research

Linguistic Typology Jae Jung Song, 2018-01-18 This textbook provides a critical introduction to major research topics and current approaches in linguistic typology the study of structural variation in human language and of the limits on that variation Jae Jung Song draws on a wide range of cross linguistic data to describe what linguistic typology has revealed both about language in general and about the rich variety of ways in which meaning and expression are achieved in the world s languages Following an introduction to the subject matter and its history the first part of the book explores theoretical issues and approaches as well as practical considerations such as sampling methods and data collection

In the second part chapters examine variation in particular phenomena such as word order case alignment and evidentiality marking Each chapter concludes with study questions and suggestions for further reading The volume will be suitable for undergraduate and graduate students in the fields of linguistic typology and language universals and as secondary reading for cross linguistically focused courses in phonology morphology syntax and semantics *Linguistics: An Introduction* William B. McGregor,2015-04-09 This is the new edition of *Linguistics An Introduction* It is a bestselling introductory textbook for all students of linguistics and language studies This reworked edition features new chapters on sign languages writing and text and discourse coverage of writing in electronic media revised and updated chapters on languages of the world and psycholinguistics Firmly based around taught courses and catering to student needs it addresses all the topics that a student will need in their study of language With key terms further reading questions at the end of each chapter exercises and key paragraphs in stand out boxes this is a firmly pedagogic text that takes difficult concepts and explains them in an easy to understand way It features examples taken from a range of languages across the world Global in its scope and comprehensive in its coverage this is the textbook of choice for linguistics students The book comes with a large Companion Website also extensively revised and expanded For lecturers and instructors a comprehensive Answer Book is also available to go along with the questions throughout the chapters **The SAGE Encyclopedia of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders** Jack S. Damico,Martin J. Ball,2019-03-01 The SAGE Encyclopedia of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders is an in depth encyclopedia aimed at students interested in interdisciplinary perspectives on human communication both normal and disordered across the lifespan This timely and unique set will look at the spectrum of communication disorders from causation and prevention to testing and assessment through rehabilitation intervention and education Examples of the interdisciplinary reach of this encyclopedia A strong focus on health issues with topics such as Asperger s syndrome fetal alcohol syndrome anatomy of the human larynx dementia etc Including core psychology and cognitive sciences topics such as social development stigma language acquisition self help groups memory depression memory Behaviorism and cognitive development Education is covered in topics such as cooperative learning special education classroom based service delivery The editors have recruited top researchers and clinicians across multiple fields to contribute to approximately 640 signed entries across four volumes *Linguistics: An Introduction* William McGregor,2009-03-15 A fresh and contemporary introductory textbook for all students of linguistics and language studies

Reviewing **An Introduction To Linguistic Typology**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is actually astonishing. Within the pages of "**An Introduction To Linguistic Typology**," an enthralling opus penned by a highly acclaimed wordsmith, readers embark on an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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