Introduction

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non-Germanic Languages.**
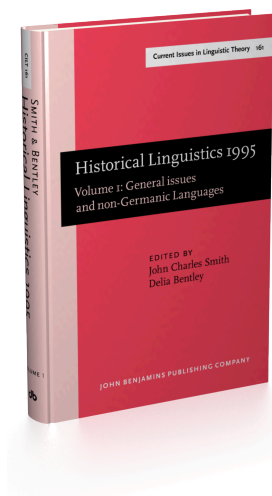**Edited by John Charles Smith and Delia Bentley**
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Introduction

The Twelfth International Conference on Historical Linguistics took place at the University of Manchester, England, between 13 and 18 August 1995.[1] This biennial conference is the major forum for the presentation of work in progress in the field of diachronic linguistics, and provides a snapshot of the discipline at the time at which it is held. Eight plenary talks were given during the conference, and the final day was given over to three workshops: "Changes in Numeral Systems", organized by Jadranka Gvozdanović; "Syntactic Change in Cross-Linguistic Perspective", organized by Lyle Campbell and Alice Harris; and "The Influence of the Hansa and Low German on European Languages", organized by Laura Wright and Ernst Håkon Jahr. However, the majority of papers at the conference were given in the general sessions. The present volumes contain selected papers from these sessions, which occupied most of the first four days. In this volume, we present papers on general problems in historical linguistics and specific studies of non-Germanic languages. The companion volume[2] contains papers on Germanic languages.

The quality and breadth of the abstracts submitted for the general programme necessitated four parallel sessions throughout the conference. A major development at recent ICHLs has been an extension of the focus of the papers to include many non-Indo-European languages. This trend was maintained at Manchester; ethnocentricity is much less the order of the day than it used to be. Not only were there plenary papers devoted to Dravidian and Australian languages (by Susan Herring and Barry J. Blake, respectively); many of the contributions to the general sessions dealt with languages outside the Indo-European family. The present volume contains three papers on Japanese. Peter

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[1] For a detailed report on the Conference, see John Charles Smith, "Report on the Twelfth International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Manchester, 13-18 August 1995", in *Diachronica* 13:1 (1996), pp. 187-196.

[2] *Historical Linguistics 1995. Volume 2: Germanic Linguistics. Selected Papers from the Twelfth International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Manchester, August 1995*. Edited by Richard M. Hogg & Linda van Bergen. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1998.

Hendriks charts the decline of the *kakari-musubi* system and the extension of the attributive form into predicative function, arguing that the former was not brought about by the latter; he further notes that the developments he discusses are a counter-example to the frequently made claim that subordinate clauses preserve older forms and lag behind matrix clauses in terms of syntactic change. Bjarke Frellesvig investigates a number of morphophonemic phenomena involving word tone in Contemporary and Younger Generation Kyoto Japanese: changes in active metatony, relations between forms exhibiting and not exhibiting passive metatony, and the derivation of *-mono* forms. Alan Hyun-Oak Kim argues that zero-marked Quantifier-Floating in Japanese is not, as has often been maintained, a recent innovation, but is already found in Old Japanese. Anju Saxena discusses perfective aspect morphology in Tibeto-Kinnauri, suggesting that it is not always possible to distinguish between internal and external factors in a situation of language contact, and that the importance of both types of factor must be recognized. Australian languages are represented by Alan Dench's paper on comparative reconstitution — a presentation of a method and an evaluation metric for the description of the phonology of an extinct, or nearly extinct, language, here applied to Nyungar, a language of Western Australia. Nicholas Ostler discusses grammatical and semantic changes relating to the development of transitivity in the Chibchan languages of Colombia. Marianne Mithun examines the 'recycling' of aspect markers in the Central Pomo language of California, developments which shed light on the kinds of hierarchical semantic relations that may obtain between aspectual categories. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the formal relationships among the categories accord in interesting ways with various quasi-universal semantic schemata which have been proposed in the literature.

Despite this welcome increase in the discussion of languages which have not so far been in the mainstream of historical linguistics, at least as represented at successive ICHLs, the conference did not lose sight of its traditional preoccupations. Indo-European reconstruction is the focus of two papers. Problems in the Indo-European sound system are dealt with by Tim Pulju, who claims that several problems in Indo-European reconstruction can be simplified, if not solved, by postulating the existence of an unstable *dl cluster, which was simplified or broken up in a number of different ways; whilst Ann Taylor, Tandy Warnow & Don Ringe report on a computational model of language evolution applied to Indo-European. Leonid I. Kulikov suggests that, in Vedic Sanskrit, the thematicizability of a nasal present stem correlates with the

semantic and syntactic properties of the verb, such as (in)transitivity and causativity. Vit Bubenik suggests that the rise of the 'have'-perfect in Macedonian and the inferential mode in Bulgaro-Macedonian may be more due to internal factors and less the result of external factors than has often been assumed.

As is customary, the Romance languages were also well represented at the conference. Jean-Luc Azra revisits the thorny problem of the evolution of phonemic nasal vowels in French; he makes the novel claim that both vowel length and lexical stress had had an influence on nasalization, and presents his findings within the framework of Optimality Theory, constructing a model of phonological change based on the mismatch between production and perception. Michela Cennamo examines Latin pleonastic reflexives in in the light of the 'Unaccusative Hypothesis', seeking to show that, at some point in Late Latin, the accusative and dative reflexive pronouns became markers of split intransitivity, and that this development can be accounted for by a semantico-syntactic approach to unaccusativity. Denis Dumas discusses the role of semantics and morphology in determining the distribution of the French clitic pronouns *y* and *lui.* Pieter van Reenen & Lene Schøsler examine two opposing tendencies in the evolution of the declension system in Old and Middle French; the tendencies in question are for the declension system to become both stronger and weaker, the former tendency triumphing in the case of determiners, the latter in the case of nouns. Anna Giacalone Ramat deals with the development of verbal periphrases formed with the verbs 'come' and 'go' in Italian. She points out that these constructions, which in many ways represent incomplete grammaticalization, have important consequences for the unidirectionality hypothesis, raise important questions about the boundary between grammatical and lexical processes; moreover, they demonstrate that grammaticalization processes involving the same lexical items may have different outcomes in different languages. Monique Dufresne, Fernande Dupuis & Mireille Tremblay undertake a Minimalist analysis of changes in the properties of expletive *ce* between Old French and the modern language, arguing that these developments could be attributed to a change in the specification of certain phi-features from strong to weak. Maria Manoliu-Manea offers an analysis of the semantic/pragmatic development of Romanian temporal adverbs, pointing out that the 'classic' account of the evolution of distal deictics from indexicals to anaphors and subsequently to discourse markers will not account for the discourse uses of proximal deictics; rather, she claims, these items achieve the

status of discourse markers by another route — via a shift from *deixis ad oculos* to *deixis ad phantasma*. In a paper exemplified chiefly from Spanish, Christopher Pountain introduces the notion of 'capitalization', which he defines as the exploitation by a language of an existing grammatical or semantic distinction which has as its consequence the making overt of grammatical distinctions which were previously covert. Paul M. Lloyd discusses the abandonment of phonemic quantity in the vowel system of Latin/Romance; he sees this development as partly explicable in terms of an 'invisible hand' process, whereby change can be the unintended collective consequences of immediate intentions, whose outcome may to some extent be the opposite of what was originally intended. Mario Saltarelli adopts an explicit panchronic approach to the evolution of Latin/Romance prosody from a metre-based system to one based on rhythm, arguing that such an approach is especially useful and relevant in the study of prosodic patterns.

Several papers address problems from a cross-linguistic perspective or deal with general issues of method. Margaret E. Winters & Geoffrey S. Nathan are also concerned with Keller's notion of the *unsichtbare Hand*; they explicate some of Keller's claims in terms of Cognitive Grammar, claiming that 'invisible hand' explanations are upheld by and uphold a view of language which emphasizes semantics, rather than structure, as basic. Anna Siewierska discusses diachronic aspects of the ordering of agreement and tense markers with data drawn from a sample of almost 200 languages; she suggests a number of scenarios for the emergence of the less common order in which a marker of subject-agreement occurs further away from the verb than a tense marker, noting correlations between this phenomenon and word order type, and suggesting that Wackernagel's law may be a major factor in the emergence of some of these patterns. Christopher Lyons investigates how languages acquire definiteness marking, claiming that, in the emergence of a functional DP system, D is not 'Determiner', but rather the category of definiteness. Anthony Fox presents some sober thoughts on the role played by simplicity in linguistic reconstruction, stressing amongst other things the need to separate questions of methodology from questions of historical interpretation in the study of linguistic prehistory.

The Manchester ICHL reflected the health of diachronic linguistics in the last decade of the twentieth century. There were more papers and more participants than at previous conferences, and the discussion covered a broader range of languages than hitherto. At some ICHLs, it has been possible to isolate a

particular theoretical or methodological preoccupation which has dominated much of the conference; but the overall impression to be gained from the Manchester meeting was one of stimulating diversity — of a discipline moving forward on many fronts simultaneously, yet without losing focus. There were other pleasures to be had, too. The city renowned as the rain capital of Britain basked in a heatwave throughout the conference, thereby enhancing the social programme, which included trips to the Lake District and to nearby stately homes, a meal at a Cheshire banqueting hall, and receptions organized by the City of Manchester (in the Victorian Gothic splendour of the Town Hall) and the University of Manchester. Nigel Vincent, who presided over the conference, is to be congratulated on organizing one of the most successful ICHLs to date.

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