

Preface

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Word Order Typology and Comparative Constructions

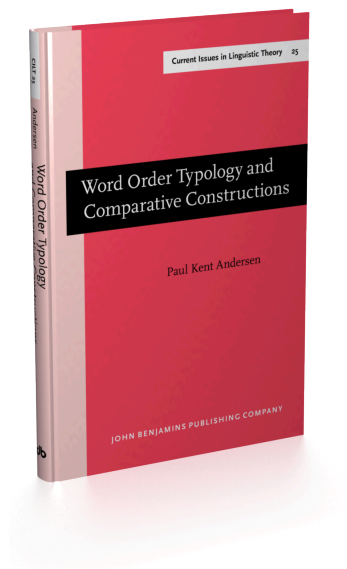
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PREFACE

This monograph is a thoroughly revised version of my 1979 doctorate thesis. I am particularly grateful for the criticism made by two anonymous reviewers of the thesis; although I did not agree with the majority of their comments, it was extremely useful for me to see where my argumentation was either not clear enough or not convincing enough. It has been these portions of the original thesis where my revision has been most intensive.

Since I was majoring in Indo-European linguistics at the University of Freiburg i.Br., my original interest was directed toward the work done by W. P. Lehmann on word order typology and its application to Indo-European studies; hence my emphasis on this author. My comments, however, are applicable not only to Lehmann and Indo-European linguistics but even more so to word order typology in general linguistics. For this reason the book should be of interest to a much wider audience. Eventhough I was concerned in pointing out some severe shortcomings in current theories on and methodologies of word order typology, a number of proposals for further research have been made. Although there are many areas of disagreement between Lehmann and myself, I would like to express my thanks to him for directing our attention to syntax--a most neglected area of investigation in Indo-European linguistics--and for emphasizing the use of modern syntactic theories for this purpose.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people for their help and support. First and foremost, my sincer thanks go to my teacher Professor Oswald Szemerényi who guided my studies not only in Indo-European linguistics but also in general lin-

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guistics. He always emphasized that I should never merely accept claims made by others when there is a possibility of checking these claims myself; my thesis arose out of one such claim that he had asked me to check. Throughout the writing of the thesis he had given me numerous suggestions which have helped me considerably. With Michael Back, a fellow student at Freiburg, I had discussed almost daily various aspect of my work; his extremely critical approach to my theories helped me to see my own mistakes and shortcomings. When I could finally convince him I was then certain that I was on the right path. I am also very thankful to Professor Ulrich Schneider and Docent Ruprecht Geib for guiding my studies in Old and Middle Indic philology at Freiburg. In the past three years at Bielefeld, I have profited greatly from Professor Werner Kummer, with whom I am currently engaged in typological research. A special thanks must go to Joel Erikson who first introduced me to Sanskrit and linguistics at the University of Colorado in Boulder while I was still studying physics; he was the one who originally suggested that I go to Germany to study Indo-European and Sanskrit. Of course without the support of my parents my studies in Freiburg would not have been possible; I will always be grateful to them for giving me this opportunity to continue my education. My dear wife Gunne deserves a special *tack ska du ha* for all that she has done for me during the time I spent on the preparation of my manuscript and away from my duties at home. And finally, I would like to express my thanks to Professor E.F.K. Koerner not only for accepting my book in his series but also for all of the help and suggestions he gave me for the preparation of the final manuscript.

Bielefeld, June 1983

Paul Kent Andersen