

Editor's foreword

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Pages vii–viii of

Explorations in Integrational Linguistics: Four essays on German, French, and Guaraní

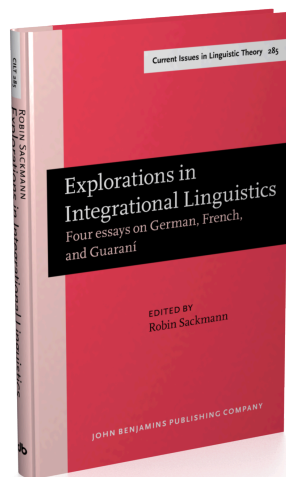
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Editor's Foreword

The present volume contains four essays using the general linguistic framework of Integrational Linguistics (henceforth: IL)¹ as originating from work done by the German linguist Hans-Heinrich Lieb, preceded by an "Introduction to Integrational Linguistics". Readers unfamiliar with IL may also consult the list of further basic readings at the end of the "Introduction". More generally, readers are referred to the *Homepage of Integrational Linguistics* available on the internet.²

IL as developed during the past few decades by Lieb and others offers a comprehensive theory of language integrating all levels of linguistic description, from phonetics to sentence semantics, and claims applicability to arbitrary languages, regardless of language type. Both features are represented by the present *Explorations*. Whereas the typological differences between German and French may be small, this is not true of those two languages and Guaraní; and the four essays chosen for the present volume cover, in one way or another, nearly all levels: phonetics and phonology ("The Case for Two-Level Phonology" by Hans-Heinrich Lieb, on German obstruent tensing and French nasal alternation), morphology ("Form and Function of Verbal Ablaut in Contemporary Standard German" by Bernd Wiese), morphology and syntax ("Inflectional Units and Their Effects" by Sebastian Drude, on the person system in Guaraní), and syntax and sentence semantics ("Topic Integration" by Andreas Nolda, on 'split topicalization' in German). Each one of the four essays is preceded by an abstract, to which the reader is here referred for a more detailed characterization of its content.

The present volume is planned to be the first one of what I hope will develop into a series of *Studies in Integrational Linguistics* embedded within *Current Issues in Linguistic Theory* (CILT).³

¹ It is unfortunate that a different linguistic approach, entirely unrelated and incompatible in basic outlook, should also go by the name of 'Integrational Linguistics': an approach developed by Roy Harris. For whatever it is worth, 'Integrational Linguistics' as used by Lieb since the 1970s may claim priority over use by Harris for his own approach. At any rate, it is important that the two frameworks be kept strictly apart.

² URL: <http://www.germanistik.fu-berlin.de/il>.

³ Further volumes are intended to appear at irregular intervals. They would be devoted to applications of IL in language description and would include both monographs and collective volumes. For an up-to-date overview, see www.germanistik.fu-berlin.de/il/sil.html.

I am grateful to the publisher for their positive response when the idea to publish a series of books on applications of Integrational Linguistics first came into being a decade ago. My deepest gratitude goes to the general editor of CILT, Professor E.F.K. Koerner, and to the persons responsible at John Benjamins Publ. Co., especially to Ms Anke de Looper, for their patience and unfailing support that were essential to the first *SIL* volume's becoming a reality. Both Professor Koerner and Ms de Looper read large parts of the manuscript and provided many helpful criticisms and suggestions. The layout of the present volume owes a lot to Professor Koerner's immense experience and expertise in making books. I am also grateful to my friend and teacher for many years, Hans-Heinrich Lieb, who always stood by me in word and deed. Finally, I owe thanks and apologies to the contributors of this volume, who have remained faithful to this project during its long gestation period.

Hong Kong, January 2008

R. S.