

## Editor's foreword

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**Subordination and Coordination Strategies in North Asian Languages**

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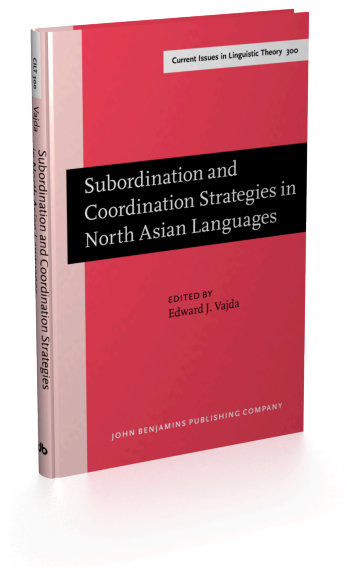
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## FOREWORD

This volume contains 14 chapters, each reflecting a paper originally presented at the “Third International Symposium on the Languages Spoken in Europe and North and Central Asia” (‘LENCA-3’) held at Tomsk State Pedagogical University in Tomsk, a city in south-central Siberia, Russian Federation, during June 27-30, 2006. The symposium was organized to investigate a broad range of issues involving systems of coordination and subordination in complex sentences in the languages of Eurasia. Most of the papers selected for the present volume deal with complex sentence structures characteristic of North Asia, with some of the studies dealing with languages traditionally spoken adjacent regions of the Pacific Rim, notably Central Alaskan Yupik and Ainu, as well as Russian. From an areal perspective, complex sentence morphosyntax across North Asia and the Pacific Rim reveals an unusually high prevalence of suffixation patterns used to signal syntactic subordination. This prevalence for suffixal subordinators involves a variety of genetic groupings, most notably Samoyedic, Turkic, and Tungusic. Less well known is the fact that similar traits play a role in complex sentence formation in some of the region’s language isolates, such as Ket and Ainu, as well.

No general study has surveyed the syntax of complex sentences across this area, which is noted both for its complex web of language contact phenomena as well as for its long-established genetic divisions. Much of the data presented in the individual chapters reflect original fieldwork, and several of the contributions focus on critically endangered languages. Nearly all the genetic groupings in the region under consideration are somehow represented, as are all major formal and functional types of complex sentence formation.

The chapters themselves are grouped into three sections. Part One consists of a single chapter that serves as an introduction to the types of issues discussed by the book’s individual case studies. *Subordination, Coordination: Form, semantics, pragmatics — setting the scene*, by Bernard Comrie (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig), examines instances where the distinction between subordination and coordination is not clear-cut, and takes into account the formal, semantic and pragmatic diversity of such complex sentence types. This chapter also serves as a general introduction to the problem of typologizing complex sentence patterns.

Part Two contains seven chapters devoted to analytic patterns of subordination and coordination. The individual chapters in this section deal primarily with patterns of complex sentence formation based on conjunctions, clause constituency, and word order rather than on the use of special synthetic verb forms, a topic addressed by the articles in Part Three.

*Speech Report Constructions in Ainu*, by Anna Bugaeva (Chiba University, Japan), is based on extensive examples taken from Hokkaido Ainu narratives. It demonstrates that Ainu speech report constructions cannot be analyzed in terms of a sharp dichotomy between reported and direct speech. Adopting a continuum approach to the description of this type of complex sentence, the author provides a novel analysis of constructions intermediate between direct and indirect speech reporting.

*The Syntax and Pragmatics of Adverbial Clauses in Eastern Khanty*, by Andrei Filtchenko (Rice University & Tomsk State Pedagogical University), discusses a wide variety of adverbial clauses in one of the least studied and most highly endangered forms of Khanty (Ostyak), an Ob-Ugrian language of Western Siberia. The syntactic complexity of adverbial clause structure is considered from a diachronic and synchronic perspective in order to identify both past and ongoing patterns of grammaticalization.

*Grammaticization and Relative Clauses in Eastern Khanty*, by Olga Potanina (Tomsk Polytechnic University), demonstrates how Eastern Khanty tends to avoid using postposed relative clauses by preposing the modifying material before its head noun. This has led to the grammaticalization of certain nouns in the role of bleached semantic heads in what originally were relative clause constructions with preposed modifiers. Textual examples deriving from the author's original fieldwork provide a basis for concluding that most sentences in Eastern Khanty resemble a string of clauses, loosely linked, often without any overt syntactic indication of subordination.

*Null Arguments in Kumyk Adverbial Clauses*, by Linda Humnick (University of Minnesota), explores the syntax and pragmatics of referring expressions in Kumyk, a Turkic language spoken primarily in the Dagestan region of the Russian Federation. An examination of constraints on the use of null subjects in non-finite clauses within a text corpus provides evidence that adverbial clauses in Kumyk have null subjects that are syntactically unrestricted yet pragmatically constrained in the same way as null subjects of matrix clauses. Though Kumyk is spoken near the Caspian Sea and technically falls outside the geographic designation of "North Asia", it represents a language type common across much of Inner Asia.

*Finite Structures in Forest Enets Subordination: A case study of language change under strong Russian influence*, by Olesya Khanina & Andrey Shluinsky (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig,

Germany & Institute for Linguistics RAS, Moscow), explores recent contact-induced change in Forest Enets, a Samoyedic language of north-central Siberia with only a few dozen remaining speakers. By comparing subordination techniques used by the last speakers of Forest Enets with texts recorded a few generations back, the study is able to document contact-induced change from a system based originally on the extensive use of non-finite verb forms in subordinate clauses to a system making more extensive use of the pattern of subordinating conjunction and finite verb form usage typical for European languages.

*The Development of Deconverbal Prepositions: Reanalysis or grammaticalization?* by Sandra Birzer (University of Regensburg), compares the historical emergence of Turkic and Russian deconverbal adpositions belonging to the semantic categories “due to”, “although”, and “since” in light of the differing typological profiles of Inner Asian and European languages. An examination of semantic bleaching, univerbation, and argument structure change demonstrates that the rise of these subordinators most closely aligns the trajectories of their emergence with definitions of grammaticalization rather than reanalysis. By juxtaposing its analysis of Asian patterns to earlier research on grammaticalization and reanalysis in European languages, the study makes a contribution to the general linguistic understanding of grammaticalization.

The last study in this section, *Question Particles or What? Open alternative questions in Udeghe*, by Maria Tolskaya (Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University) & Inna Tolskaya (University of Tromsø), analyzes the syntax and pragmatics of interrogative devices in the highly endangered Udeghe language spoken in Russia’s Maritime Province and, more broadly, in other Tungus-Manchu languages of Eastern Siberia and the Far East, such as Evenki and Oroqen. Contextual examples include original material from Maria Tolskaya’s fieldwork on Udeghe, as well as examples cited from previous publication. This is the first analysis of this particular variety of interrogative sentence across Tungusic. Its results permit a new typological interpretation of question sentence formation in one of the most widespread North Asian families.

Part Three turns to synthetic techniques of marking subordination and coordination. The six chapters in this section deal primarily with the usage of special suffixal forms to convey syntactic subordination or coordination. Such patterns appear to represent a special areal feature of North and Inner Asia, a fact that renders their study of great potential value for helping understand the typological and genetic profile of Eurasian languages in general.

*Toward a Semantic Typology of Coordination*, by Elena Rudnitskaya (Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow) & Elena Uryson (Vinogradov Russian Language Institute, Moscow), explicitly compares coordination patterns

expressed by synthetic means and those expressed analytically by finite verbs in clauses linked using subordinating conjunctions. The former technique, exemplified by Korean, represents the type of complex sentence formation found widely across North and Inner Asia. Parallel translations of the Korean examples into Russian and English illustrate how various semantic categories of coordination can be expressed synthetically, as well. By examining the contrast between confirmed vs. cancelled expectations in such utterances, the authors provide a new vantage from which to typologize the expression of such meanings using two structurally distinct types of complex sentence formations.

*Imperatives in Conditional and Concessive Subordinate Clauses*, by Nina Dobrushina (State University Higher School of Economics, Moscow), highlights a rare example of what essentially represents a synthetic form of subordination in a European language: the colloquial usage of pseudo-imperative forms in Modern Russian to express conditional and concessive subordination. By including comparative data from Turkish, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Estonian and Aghul (a Nakh-Dagestanian language spoken in the Dagestan, Russia, and also Azerbaijan), the author provides compelling textual evidence that the forms in question cannot be regarded as imperatives but rather are distinct grammatical means of conveying certain types of subordination asyndetically. Because Russian is now the most widely spoken language across the entire geographic region under consideration, this study has obvious implications for our understanding of the areal patterning of syntax in contemporary North Asia.

*Morphological Strategies for 'Complex Sentences' and Polysynthesis in Central Alaskan Yupik (Eskimo)*, by Osahito Miyaoka (Osaka Gakuin University), provides analysis of the extensive use of cyclical suffixation used for building up complex morphological structures that are the syntactic equivalent of complex sentences in most other languages of the world. Though based on examples from Central Alaskan Yupik, the patterns discussed appear to be likewise present, in their general outlines, in forms of Yupik traditionally spoken in the Russian Far East and thus exemplify an extreme example of the type of syntactic subordination through the build-up of suffixes that can be seen as prevalent across North Asia.

*Converbs in Northern Selkup*, by Riitta-Liisa Valijärvi (Uppsala University), provides a morphological analysis of non-finite verb forms used exclusively in subordinate clauses in the Taz dialect of Selkup, a Samoyedic language of central Siberia. Using examples from field elicitation and earlier recordings of folkloric texts, the author examines a wide range of converbial suffixes and semantic types of subordination. Her conclusions hold relevance for the study of Samoyedic syntax in general.

*Head-Negating Enclitics in Ket*, by Edward J. Vajda (Western Washington University), provides an analysis of postposed relational morphemes in Ket, an endangered isolate spoken by fewer than 200 people in Central Siberia. It reveals that most semantic types of subordination use enclitics displaying clear typological and semantic parallels to those found in non-finite verb constructions in the adjacent Turkic and Samoyedic languages. Morphological and phonological data are considered to demonstrate that the morphemes in question are actually clitics rather than converbial suffixes or case endings, suggesting a relatively recent development under the influence of language contact.

The last chapter, *Infinitive Constructions in Ket*, Marina Zinn (Tomsk State Pedagogical University), surveys the diverse semantic functions expressed by non-finite forms of the Ket verb in a variety of types of subordinate clauses. All of the examples derive from the author's recent fieldwork with some of the language's last remaining speakers and include hitherto undocumented syntactic types of infinitival constructions. The use of non-finite verb forms in such Ket constructions fit very much into prevalent North Asian patterns of complex sentence formation.

This volume should be of value to anyone interested in the syntactic typology of Eurasian languages, particularly linguists studying the morpho-syntax of complex sentences. The large number of endangered languages surveyed, as well as the significant amount of original field data cited in the articles make this collection important in the documentation of the world's disappearing languages.

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