

Acknowledgments

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Principles of Syntactic Reconstruction

Edited by Gisella Ferraresi and Maria Goldbach

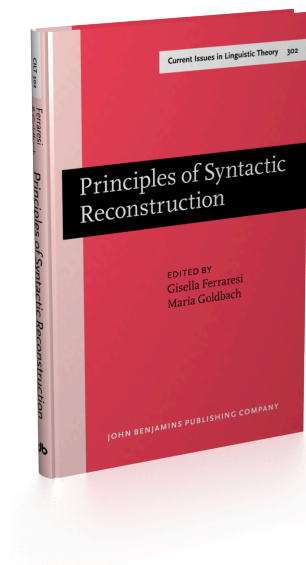
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Acknowledgments

The idea to develop a collection of papers on syntactic reconstruction was inspired by the debate between Lyle Campbell and Alice C. Harris, on the one hand, and David W. Lightfoot, on the other, in 2002 in the *Journal of Linguistics*. This debate can, to some extent, be traced back to the fruitful discussions at the workshop on syntactic reconstruction that took place at the 1999 annual meeting of the German Society of Linguistics held at University of Konstanz. Thus our thanks go first and foremost to the three scholars mentioned above and to the other participants in that meeting. Since the scientific outlook of Harris and Campbell lies more in the tradition of comparative-historical linguistics, whereas Lightfoot's work is couched within the framework of generative syntax, we had the impression that their respective results were not sufficiently acknowledged across the spectrum of theoretical perspectives. Therefore we tried to bring together researchers from different linguistic subfields working on historical and diachronic syntax from various perspectives and research traditions in order to possibly find a more common denominator. Although we feel that we may not have fulfilled our intention entirely, we do hope that we have renewed the discussion on this matter. (Incidentally, the 2009 conference of the Indo-European Society – *Die Ausbreitung des Indogermanischen: Thesen aus Sprachwissenschaft, Archäologie und Genetik* – is scheduled to deal with syntactic reconstruction, too. It seems that there is a renewed interest in this topic occurring).

In the process of preparing the present volume, researchers from different countries and schools have been contacted. It must be admitted that it took us some time to convince enough colleagues to work on this project. We would like to thank all the people who finally took part in it: first of all our authors who supported the project from the very beginning, but equally those who joined us at a later point. We would further like to thank Acrisio Pires, Sergio Neri and five anonymous referees for their valuable comments, and Giuseppe Longobardi for writing the Foreword to the volume. Our special thanks go to the series editor and to Anke de Looper at John Benjamins for her patience and assistance with all editorial and technical matters.

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