

Preface

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Pages vii–viii of

**Language Typology 1985: Papers from the Linguistic
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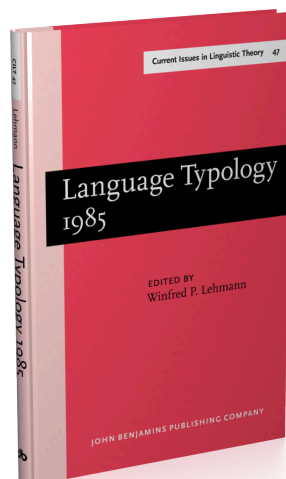
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Preface

The essays included here are revised forms of papers prepared for the Colloquium in Linguistic Typology which was arranged in Moscow, 8-13 December 1985 by the Institute of Linguistics, USSR Academy of Sciences, under the direction of Dr. Viktoria Nikolayevna Yartseva. The colloquium was held under the auspices of the ACLS-Soviet Academy of Sciences Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences administered in the U.S. by The International Research and Exchanges Board. It was planned at a meeting in Austin in December 1984; participants representing the Soviet side were Drs. Yartseva, Aleksandr Davidovich Shveitser, Vadim Mikhailovich Solntsev; representing the American side were Robert Austerlitz, Wesley Fisher, and the editor.

At the Austin meeting eight topics were selected for papers:

1. Primes
2. What is language type?
3. Form versus content
4. Metalanguages
5. Commensurability of terms
6. Different structures and their
relevance to typology
7. Areal typology
8. Typological shift

These topics were treated by members of each delegation in accordance with their own views, in papers that were circulated, then presented orally in briefer form, and discussed. I regret that the excellent paper of V. A. Vinogradov, "Different structures and their typological relevance,"

did not reach us for inclusion here. The remaining papers, revised after presentation, obviate the necessity of reporting here on the discussions.

Colloquia and other IREX programs are designed to acquaint scholars of each country with one another's contributions. We express our gratitude to IREX, its officers and funding agencies, for including linguistics among its programs. We give special thanks to Wesley A. Fisher, the indefatigable secretary to the Commission, for arranging the visit and to IREX for making preparation for publication possible.

Print-ready copy of the papers was produced by Earl Roy, who in addition to his skillful formatting of papers submitted in a remarkable array of computer conventions and typescripts, contributed to the editing. Johanna Nichols also deserves credit for turning the odd impenetrable phrase into lucid text, as does Gail Roy for her ever capable management throughout the project.

We also express our gratitude to our hosts in the Academy, notably Dr. Yartseva, who was leader of the Academy delegation, for excellent arrangements and generous hospitality. Members of our delegation appreciated very much the opportunities to discuss linguistic views with the Academy delegation and also with other members of the vigorous linguistic groups in the USSR. In addition to views sharpened through these opportunities, readers may detect in occasional phrases of the essays the rhythms of the Bolshoi Ballet, even of Svatilav Richter, or reflections of the ancient monuments at Zagorsk. Comments on the essays will be welcome, especially for planning the second meeting of the two delegations which will be held in this country.

Winfred P. Lehmann
Austin, Texas
28 July 1986