

Foreword

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Page ix of

Language Typology 1987: Systematic Balance in Language
. Papers from the Linguistic Typology Symposium,
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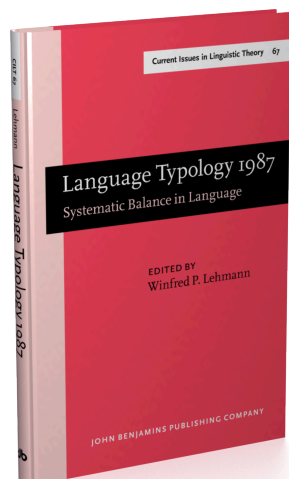
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Foreword

When in 1984 IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board) asked me to develop a program in linguistics for its exchanges with the USSR Academy of Science, we were fortunate that the linguist in charge from the USSR was Dr. Viktoria Nikolayevna Yartseva, Corresponding Member/USSR Academy of Sciences. Accompanied by two other leading members of the Institute of Linguistics, Dr. Alexandr Davidovich Shveitser and Dr. Vadim Mikhailovich Solntsev, she came to Austin for a planning meeting in December 1984. There, in conjunction with Dr. Robert Austerlitz and Dr. Wesley A. Fisher, Secretary to the Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences of the American Council of Learned Societies and Academy of Sciences of the USSR, we made plans for the program, initially a series of conferences.

The first of these was held in Moscow, December 8-10, 1985, and the papers were published in *Linguistic Typology 1985* (Amsterdam: Benjamins, 1986, Winfred P. Lehmann, ed.). *Linguistic Typology 1987: Systematic Balance in Language* includes papers from the return conference, held in Berkeley, December 1-3, 1987.

These conferences and other exchange arrangements owe a great deal to the steady academic vision associated with eminent personal qualities, among which a sense of humor is not least, of Dr. Yartseva, to whom this book is dedicated. Her clear and wide control of our field is evident in her publications, in the programs she has sponsored, and the students she has trained. Her views of our field as well as her aims in the conferences may be indicated by the title of this book, taken from her essay.

We are grateful to Johanna Nichols, who in association with Alan Timberlake arranged and hosted the Berkeley conference, and also to the University of California at Berkeley for its hospitality, as well as to the sponsors. Earlier publication would have been desirable, but, as editors of conference papers know, a few members may neglect their responsibilities to their colleagues in reviewing their contributions. It is a pleasure to record that members of the Soviet delegation who submitted their papers for publication were prompt in returning proofs and generous in taking the time to supply details that seemed useful for the published text.

In preparing the print-ready copy, Dr. H.J.J. Hewitt has applied her well-known editorial and bibliographical capabilities, as well as her exemplary direction of work-study students—Dan Driggers, Stephanie Jensen, Colette Nicholl, and Max Worrel—who did the inputting. We are also grateful to the Administrative Assistant of the Linguistics Research Center, Maryrose Hightower-Coyle, for her genial marshaling of the Center's resources in this as well as other projects.

Winfred P. Lehmann

7 September 1989