

# Preface

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Page v of

**Universal History of Linguistics: India, China, Arabia, Europe**

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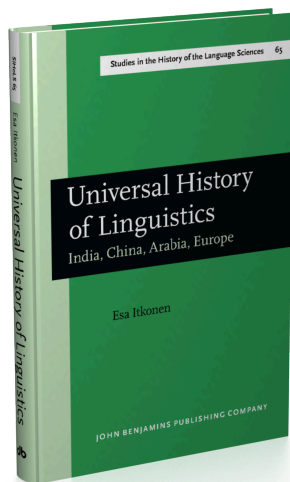
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## Preface

Methodology of linguistics was the topic of my two previous books *Grammatical Theory and Metascience* (henceforth to be abbreviated as *GTM*) and *Causality in Linguistic Theory* (to be abbreviated as *CLT*). Therefore I found it natural to choose history of linguistics as my next topic. When I started the research, I had an inkling that the results might ultimately agree with those of my previous books. However, this proved to be the case even more than I had expected. Accordingly, the three books might be said to constitute a trilogy dealing with the methodology-cum-history of linguistics.

Writing a 'universal history' of a scientific discipline is a venture whose viability may not be obvious to everybody. To some extent, this may be just a matter of terminology. My use of the expression 'universal history' is explained in Introduction.

As for my use of sources, I know Sanskrit, Classical Greek, and Latin well enough to have read e.g. Pāṇini, Plato, and Varro in the original. Since I know only the merest rudiments of Arabic syntax, Chapter 4 is based on translations of primary sources and on secondary sources. Since I do not know Chinese at all, the same is true of Chapter 3.

Without the existence of the series *Studies in the History of the Language Sciences*, the writing of this book would have been much more difficult.

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