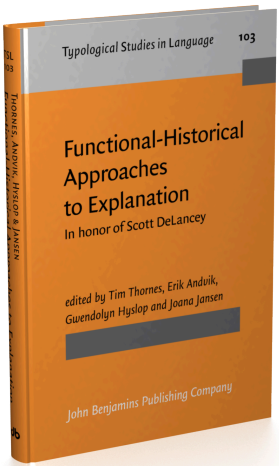
Typological Studies in Language
103

Introduction

https://doi.org/10.1075/tsl.103.intro



Pages ix–xviii of
Functional-Historical Approaches to Explanation: In honor of Scott DeLancey
Edited by Tim Thornes, Erik Andvik, Gwendolyn Hyslop and Joana Jansen
[**Typological Studies in Language**, 103] 2013. xviii, 294 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights

Introduction

It seems only fitting to honor our teacher, colleague, mentor, and friend Scott DeLancey with a volume of work that spans language documentation and description, historical work, west coast functionalism, and language typology with foci in two major geographical areas – southeast Asia and northwestern North America. We believe that the broad and diverse nature of Scott's interests and influences belies an intransigent unity – languages are the way they are because of what they need to accomplish. That is, communicative need drives the continually changing shape of language.

The extensive list of publications listed below demonstrates just a fraction of the influence Scott DeLancey has had on the field of linguistics. We would be remiss to omit the direct influence Scott has had on broader efforts to document, preserve, and in many cases revive minority languages. By directing his students, including the editors of the present volume, in the direction of language description, comprehensive grammars now exist for many otherwise under-documented languages. As co-founder of the Northwest Indian Language Institute (NILI), Scott has supported and influenced language activists throughout the region with efforts to preserve and revitalize their heritage languages. Most recently, through his involvement with the Northeast Indian Linguistics Society (NEILS), he is again supporting major efforts directed toward documenting the languages of this highly diverse region.

The papers in this volume are unified under the common theme of how linguistic phenomena are explained. You will find papers that linger on the beauty and empirical primacy of data over theory. You will find description with a sensitivity to discourse, historical change, and typology. You will also find critical evaluations of the typological approach itself, as well as updated historical assessments of related languages and applications of grammaticalization theory.

The volume begins with a paper by **Zygmunt Frajzyngier**, who proposes using typology as a tool to discover what facts in languages require an explanation as against what he refers to as the "aprioristic approach" which, he claims, may overlook functions that lie outside of traditional categories linguists use in their descriptions. Such an approach, he claims, will allow linguists to determine what issues in the realm of formal coding and its relationship to linguistic functions need to be explained, and "may even explain why lexical items that have the same reference have different properties across the languages."

The typological study of **Claude Hagège** introduces a distinction in the treatment of place – that of place as one feature of an entity versus place as a simple spatial relationship. He employs the contrastive notions of chorophorics versus logophorics as a means for explaining the distinctive ways in which languages address the complexities of reference to space.

The paper by **T. Givón** explores a functional-diachronic explanation of the so-called "ethical dative." In it, he suggests that the association of the ethical dative construction with the dative is "indirect, and that it is the reflexive-benefactive that is invariably the direct diachronic precursor of the ethical dative construction." One of his more overarching claims is that what appear to be "chains" of grammaticalization and historical development are actually epiphenomenal, and are the result of highly probable, but strictly local, mechanisms.

George van Driem's paper focuses on biactantial agreement marking in Gongduk transitive verbs. His description and evaluation of the patterns of agreement in Gongduk has important historical ramifications for Tibeto-Burman, particularly since the language occupies a distinct phylogenetic position within it.

The contribution by **James Matisoff** explores interactions between the lateral liquid ***l*** and the voiced stop ***d*** in Sino-Tibetan. The issues raised by synchronic patterns of variation coupled with patterns of sound change provides for a refinement of several etymologies within the family.

The story that **Mark W. Post** tells about the Galo language infuses functional motivation with language change as he enters a discussion begun, in many ways, by Scott in the area of person-sensitive tense-aspect-modality-evidentiality (TAME) marking in Tibetan. Post's focus is on a detailed functional-historical explanation of the patterns of TAME marking found in Galo that builds upon work carried out elsewhere in Tibeto-Burman studies.

The paper by **Virginia Beavert** and **Joana Jansen** explores the historical development of ergative case-marking in the small Sahaptian language family of the Columbia River plateau of the Pacific Northwest. They uncover interesting variation between Nez Perce and across the various dialects of Ichishkíin (Sahaptin) that subtly interacts with a referential hierarchy typically found in languages coding inverse voice functions.

Gwendolyn Hyslop's paper explores the complex historical links between converb, clause-chaining, and serial verb constructions in Kurtöp, a Tibeto-Burman language of Bhutan. She argues that, in the case of certain clause-chaining constructions, the grammaticalization of a serial verb pattern may occur when there is no intervening morphological material between the main lexical verb and a marked converbal auxiliary.

The paper by **Tam Nguyen** divides serial verb constructions in Ede (Chamic) into two types, based upon their degrees of syntactic integration. The relative status of the verbs in the series have consequences for their syntactic and semantic contribution to the construction, as well as their grammaticalization patterns in the direction of case-marking in Ede and related or neighboring languages.

Carol Genetti examines the historical status of tense-aspect suffixes in the various branches of Newar and proposes that they have historically derived from nominalizers. The mechanism for this development would have been "non-embedded nominalization, a common syntactic pattern of Tibeto-Burman", about which Scott himself has written extensively.

Shobhana Chelliah's paper presents an analysis of Manipuri (Meiteiron, Meithei) noun phrases that matches their morphological coding to properties of discourse salience. Utilizing retellings of the Pear Story, she finds a contrast between what she terms the "uniform encoding" of referents low in discourse salience (usually definite) versus the "mixed encoding" association with more highly salient referents (definite, indefinite, individuated, incorporated, or zero).

Two distinct morphological causatives in Northern Paiute, a Uto-Aztecan language of western North America, are explored in the paper by **Tim Thornes** through the application of Scott's notion of "functional sink" to the problem of their explanation. The functional profiles of the two morphological causatives overlap only partially, and their historical pathways are clearly distinct. Thornes hypothesizes that their convergence in the area of causation arose in part from the demise of an older morphological causative.

In the final paper, **Doris Payne** describes the Maa (Maasai) 'away' morpheme as having a range of functions, including motion away, direction away, distributive action or situation, continuous aspect, an incipient plurality function, and an applicative-like function, as well as a valence-decreasing function with some verbs and occasional lexicalizations. She argues that an analysis that includes frequency effects as well as processes of lexicalization and grammaticalization serves the cause of explanation best, since the meanings associated with the 'away' morpheme's various usage combinations are not entirely predictable from the sum of the parts.

These papers are, we hope, representative of the work of many of the people Scott has influenced at different stages in their careers – from senior scholar to student – alongside their disparate linguistic and topical foci. Scott has had an impact on a great many people, and we hope that this small token expresses at least a part of our gratitude to him.

DeLancey's Publications (Chronological)

2013

– Verb agreement suffixes in Mizo-Kuki-Chin. In Gwendolyn Hyslop, Stephen Morey, and Mark W. Post, eds., *North East Indian Linguistics 5, 138–150.* Delhi: Cambridge University Press.

2012

– "Optional" "ergativity" in Tibeto-Burman languages. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 34.2:9–20.
– On the origins of Bodo-Garo. In Gwendolyn Hyslop, Stephen Morey, and Mark W. Post, eds., *North East Indian Linguistics 4,* 3–20. Delhi: Cambridge University Press.
– Still mirative after all these years. *Linguistic Typology* 16.3: 529–564.

2011

– Les langues d'Oregon: derniers locuteurs et revitalisation. In Colette Grinevald, and Michel Bert, eds., *Linquistique de terrain sur langues en danger: Locuteurs et linguistes*, 323–33. [Faits de Langues 35–6]. Paris: Ophrys.
– Grammaticalization and syntax: A Functional view. In Bernd Heine and Heiko Narrog, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Grammaticalization*, 365–77. London: Oxford University Press.
– Agreement prefixes in Tibeto-Burman. *Himalayan Linguistics* 10.1:1–29.
– Le Klamath. In Emilio Bonvini, Joëlle Busuttil, and Alain Peyraube, eds., *Dictionnaire des langues*, 1381–89. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.
– Le Pénutia. In Emilio Bonvini, Joëlle Busuttil, and Alain Peyraube, eds., *Dictionnaire des langues*, 1347–52. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.
– Finite structures from clausal nominalization in Tibeto-Burman languages. In Foong Ha Yap, Karen Grunow-Hårsta & Janick Wrona (eds.), *Nominalization in Asian Languages: Diachronic and Typological Perspectives*, 343–62. [Typological Studies in Language 96]. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
– Nocte and Jinghpaw: Morphological Correspondences. In Gwendolyn Hyslop, Stephen Morey, and Mark W. Post, eds., *North East Indian Linguistics 3*, 61–75. Delhi: Cambridge University Press.
– The origins of Sinitic. *NACCL PROCEEDINGS ONLINE – NACCL-23* (2011), 51–64.

2010

– Towards a history of verb agreement in Tibeto-Burman. *Himalayan Linguistics* 9.1.1–38.
– Language replacement and the spread of Tibeto-Burman. *Journal of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society* 3.1.40–55.

2009

– Bipartite verbs in languages of western North America. In Filchenko, Andrei, and Olga Potanina, (eds.), *Time and Space in Languages of Various Typology. Proceedings of the XXV International Conference "Dulson Readings"*. Tomsk: Tomsk State Pedagogical University.

2008

– Kurtoep and Tibetan. In Brigitte Huber, Marianne Volkart, and Paul Widmer, Chomolangma, Demawend und Kasbek: *Festschrift für Roland Bielmeier zu seinem 65. Geburtstag* 29–38. International Institute for Tibetan and Buddhist Studies GmbH.

2007

– The semantic structure of Klamath bipartite stems. In J. Fernandez-Vest, ed., *Combat pour les langues du monde/Fighting for the world's languages: Hommage à Claude Hagège*. (Grammaire et cognition n°4). Paris: L'Harmattan.
– review of Frajzyngier and Shay, *Explaining language structure through systems interaction. (Benjamins, 2003). Functions of Language* 14.2:277–283.

2005

– Adposition as a non-universal category. In Zygmunt Frajzyngier, Adam Hodges and David S. Rood, eds., *Linguistic diversity and language theories* 185–202. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: Benjamins.
– 2005. The blue bird of ergativity. In F. Qeixalos, ed., *Ergativity in Amazonia III. (Proceedings of the Workshop on "Ergatividade na Amazônia", Centre d'Études des Langues Indigènes d'Amérique (CELIA),* 1–15. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris.

2004

– Grammaticalization. In Geert Booij, Christian Lehmann, Joachim Mugdan, and S. Skopeteas, eds., *Morphology: An International Handbook on Inflection and Word Formation*, 1590–99. Berlin and New York: De Gruyter.

2003

– Location and direction in Klamath. In E. Shay and U. Seibert, eds., *Motion, direction, and location in languages: In honor of Zygmunt Frajzyngier*, 59–90. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: Benjamins.
– Classical Tibetan. In Graham Thurgood and Randy LaPolla, eds., *The Sino-Tibetan Languages*, 255–269. London: Routledge.
– Lhasa Tibetan. In Graham Thurgood and Randy LaPolla, eds., *The Sino-Tibetan Languages*, 270–288. London: Routledge.

2002

– Relativization in Bodic. In Patrick Chew ed., *Proceedings of the* 28th *Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, Parasession on Tibeto-Burman and Southeast Asian Linguistics*, 55–72. Berkeley: Berkeley Linguistic Society.

2001

– The mirative and evidentiality. *Journal of Pragmatics* 33.3:371–384.
– The universal basis of case. *Logos and Language* 1.2:1–15.
– *Functional Syntax Lectures* Linguistics Society of America Summer Institute: University of California at Santa Barbara. http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~delancey/sb/fs.html

2000

– Argument structure of Klamath bipartite stems. In Andrew Simpson ed., *Proceedings of the* 26th *Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society: Special Session: Syntax and Semantics of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas*, 15–25. Berkeley: Berkeley Linguistic Society.

1999

– Lexical prefixes and the bipartite stem construction in Klamath. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 65.1.56–83.
– Relativization in Tibetan. In Yogendra Yadava and Warren Glover, eds., *Studies in Nepalese Linguistics*, 231–49. Kathmandu: Royal Nepal Academy.

1998

– Semantic categorization in Tibetan honorific nouns. *Anthropological Linguistics* 40:109–23.

1997

– Mirativity: The grammatical marking of unexpected information. *Linguistic Typology* 1.1:33–52.
– (with Victor Golla) The Penutian hypothesis: Retrospect and prospect. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 63(1):171–202.
– What an innatist argument should look like. In T. Haukioja, M–L Helasvuo, and M. Miestamo, eds., *SKY 1997 (1997 Yearbook of the Linguistic Association of Finland)*, 7–24.
– Grammaticalization and the gradience of categories: Relator nouns and postpositions in Tibetan and Burmese. In Joan L. Bybee, John Haiman, and Sandra A. Thompson, eds., *Essays on Language Function and Language Type*, 51–69. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

1996

- Penutian in the bipartite stem belt: Disentangling areal and genetic correspondences. *Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society: Special Session on Historical Topics in Native American Languages*, 37–54. Berkeley: Berkeley Linguistic Society.
- rev. of R.M.W. Dixon, Ergativity. *Journal of Linguistics* 32.173–177.

1994

- Grammaticalization and linguistic theory. *Proceedings of the 1993 Mid-America Linguistics Conference and Conference on Siouan/Caddoan Languages*, Pp. 1–22. Boulder: Dept. of Linguistics, University of Colorado.

1992

- The Sino-Tibetan languages. In William Bright, ed., *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics*, vol 3, 445–7. NY: Oxford University Press.
- Klamath and Sahaptian numerals. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 58:2.235–39.
- Sunwar copulas. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 15:1.31–38.
- The historical status of the conjunct/disjunct pattern in Tibeto-Burman. *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* 25:39–62.

1991

- The origins of verb serialization in Modern Tibetan. *Studies in Language* 15:1.1–23.
- Event construal and case role assignment. *Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, 338–353. Berkeley: Berkeley Linguistic Society.
- Chronological strata of suffix classes in the Klamath verb. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 57(4):426–445.
- rev. V. Golla, ed., *The Collected Works of Edward Sapir, Vol. VIII: Takelma Texts and Grammar. Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 1(2):234.

1990

- Ergativity and the cognitive model of event structure in Lhasa Tibetan. *Cognitive Linguistics* 1.3:289–321.
- Diachronic notes on the Klamath verb suffixes. in S. DeLancey, ed., *Papers from the 1989 Hokan-Penutian Workshop*, 18–27.
- Notes on evidentiality in Hare. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 56.152–8.
- Tibetan evidence for Nungish metathesis. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 12.2:25–31.

- Contour tones from lost syllables in Central Tibetan. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 12.2:33–34.
- Cross-linguistic evidence for the structure of the Agent prototype. *Proc. of the* 29th *Child Language Research Forum*.
- rev. Andronov and Bhakti, *Linguistics: A Soviet Approach. American Anthropologist* 92:250.

1989

- Verb agreement in Proto-Tibeto-Burman. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 52:315–33. (Chinese tr. appeared as "Yuanshi Zang-Mianyu dungcide rencheng fanchou", Minzu Yicong 1993.2:34–45, 1993.3:38–42).
- rev. of B. Michailovksy, *La langue hayu. Language* 65:828–32.
- rev. T. Lyman. *A Grammar of Mong Njua (Green Miao). Language* 65:668–9.
- rev. G. Décsy, *A Select Catalog of Language Universals. Language* 65:423–4.

1988

- (with C. Genetti & N. Rude). Some Sahaptian-Klamath- Tsimshianic lexical sets. William Shipley, eds, *In Honor of Mary Haas: From the Haas Festival Conference on Native American Linguistics*, 195–224.
- On the evolution of the Kham agreement paradigm. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 11.2:51–61.
- Klamath stem structure in genetic and areal perspective. In Scott DeLancey, ed., *Papers from the 1988 Hokan-Penutian Workshop*, 31–9.
- rev. J.A. Matisoff, *The Grammar of Lahu. Language* 64.1:213–4.

1987

- The Sino-Tibetan languages. In Bernard Comrie, ed., *The World's Major Languages*, Pp. 797–810. Croom Helm.
- Transitivity in grammar and cognition. In R. Tomlin, ed., *Discourse Relations and Cognitive Units*, 53–68. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Klamath and Wintu pronouns. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 53.461–4.
- Morphological parallels between Klamath and Wintu. In J. Redden, ed., *Proceedings of the 1987 Hokan-Penutian Conference*, pp. 50–60. Carbondale, IL: Dept. of Linguistics, Southern Illinois University.

1986

- Invited comment on Wierzbicka, 'Semantics of the "internal dative" in English. *Quaderni di Semantica VII*, no. 1:140–2.
- Notes on the history of Tai classifier systems. In C. Craig, ed., *Noun Classes and Categorization*, 437–52. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

– Evidentiality and volitionality in Tibetan. In Wallace L. Chafe and Johanna Nichols, eds., *Evidentiality: The Linguistic Coding of Epistemology*, 203–13. Norwood, NJ: Ablex.

1985

– The analysis-synthesis-lexis cycle in Tibeto-Burman: A case study in motivated change. In John Haiman, ed., *Iconicity in Syntax*, 367–89. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
– On active typology and the nature of agentivity. In Frans Plank, ed., *Relational Typology*. Berlin: Mouton.
– Lhasa Tibetan evidentials and the semantics of causation. In *Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, 65–72.
– rev. S–Y. Killingsley, *The Grammatical Hierarchy of Malayan Cantonese. Language* 62:223.

1984

– Notes on agentivity and causation. *Studies in Language* 8.2:181–213.
– Etymological notes on Tibeto-Burman case particles. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 8.l.59–77.
– Transitivity and ergative case in Lhasa Tibetan. In *Proceedings of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, 131–40.
– Categories of non-volitional actor in Lhasa Tibetan. In A. Zide et. al., eds., *Proceedings of the Conference on Participant Roles: South Asia and Adjacent Areas*, Pp. 58–70. IULC.
– Agentivity in syntax. *Chicago Linguistic Society Parasession on Agentivity and Causation*.
– rev. S. Koshal, *Conversational Ladakhi. Language* 60:678.
– rev. B. Trnka, *Selected Papers in Structural Linguistics. Language* 60:662.

1983

– rev. of B. Comrie, *Language Universals and Linguistic Typology. Language* 59.2:406–11.
– rev. C. Harbsmeier, *Aspects of Classical Chinese. Language* 59:938–9.
– rev. C. Tanz, *Studies in the Acquisition of Deictic Terms. Language* 59:938–9.

1982

– Modern Tibetan: A case study in ergative typology. *J. of Linguistic Research* 2.1:21–31.
– Aspect, transitivity, and viewpoint. In Paul Hopper, ed., *Tense-Aspect: Between Semantics and Pragmatics*. 167–83. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

- Tangut and Tibeto-Burman morphology. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 7.2:100–8.
- Agentivity and causation: Data from Newari. *Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, 54–63.

1981

- An interpretation of split ergativity and related patterns. *Language* 57.3:626–57.
- The category of direction in Tibeto-Burman. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 6.1:83–102.
- Parameters of empathy. *J. of Linguistic Research* 1.3:40–49.
- rev. S. Koshal, *Ladakhi Grammar. Language* 57:972.
- rev. K.B. Kepping, *Sun' Tszy v Tangutskom perevodje. Language* 57:972–3.
- rev. Ng. D. Liem, *South-East Asian Linguistic Studies. Language* 57:974.

1978

- (with Lon Diehl and LaRaw Maran). A localistic account of aspect in Jinghpaw.
- (with Lon Diehl and LaRaw Maran). The Tibeto-Burman tense-aspect mechanisms. *University of Michigan Papers in Linguistics* 2.4:49–88.