

Acknowledgements

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Pages x–xii of

The Linguistics of Temperature

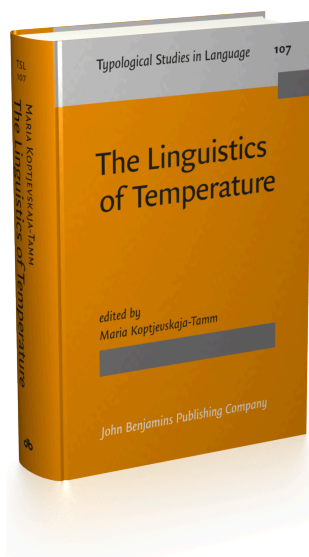
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Acknowledgements

This book contains 30 chapters written by 40 researchers currently affiliated with 17 countries, and covering more than 50 genetically, areally and typologically diverse languages. Some of the contributions to the volume originate from the talks given at the workshop “Temperature in Language and Cognition” in Stockholm, March 2010. Most have, however, been written directly for the volume. Their origin also varies quite a lot: some have been solicited, primarily by myself, while others have been written by people who have become interested in the project, having heard related talks. Most tragically, one of the contributors, Regina Pustet, died on February 21st 2013. She had sent her revisions to me just three days before her death. Regina was very excited about her temperature study and about the whole volume.

It goes without saying that an enterprise of this scale is quite demanding in terms of time and effort. I would like to express my warmest thanks to all the contributors for their cooperation, hard work, enthusiasm, encouragement, and forbearance. Things always take a much longer time than one would have wished, and each of the chapters has gone through several revisions. I am more than indebted to the numerous anonymous reviewers for their willingness to assist us in this process, to start with, and for their well-informed, constructive, friendly and often quite long reviews that have undoubtedly and significantly raised the overall quality of the volume. The contributors have also been most active in commenting on each other’s chapters. This generosity, so indispensable for our scientific activities, is truly amazing, in particular given the fact that reviewers are anonymous and their hard work remains hidden from the surroundings.

The book could hardly have been completed without the wonderful, clever, skilful and efficient copy-editing by Angela Terrill. Angela has been an infinite source of support, friendliness, warmth and inspiration. My colleague Ljuba Veselinova has designed most of the maps in the volume. They are the most beautiful and informative set of maps I have ever seen in a linguistic volume, a real work of art, but also based on an impressive amount of data. I am endlessly grateful to Ljuba for all the time, effort, love and attention to the minute details she has invested into this project, carrying it out alongside with her other demanding obligations. It has been a privilege to have these two great linguists, Angela and Ljuba, as friends and collaborators in this enterprise!

The work on this volume has been possible thanks to the generous support from the Swedish Research Council, which funded the project “Hot and cold – universal or language specific?” (2009–2013), and the workshop “Temperature in Language and Cognition”, Stockholm, March 2010), and has offered an additional grant for the final preparation of the manuscript. This support is gratefully acknowledged. Susanne Vejdemo, my research assistant in the project, has done a terrific job at its various stages, always in a most efficient and creative way and always with a friendly smile on her face. I am also extremely thankful to Spike Gildea and to Kees Vaes at John Benjamins, for their enthusiasm and support, both for the initial proposal and for the final product, which has grown much bigger and has taken a much longer time than was anticipated at the start.

The volume has a long (pre-)history and there are many more people who have in one or another way contributed to it, apart from those mentioned above. My initial interest in the temperature domain was sparked by my close friend and colleague and an outstanding semanticist Ekaterina Rakhilina (now at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow), when she spent a couple of weeks as guest researcher at Stockholm University in 1998. We wrote a paper on the comparison of the Russian and Swedish temperature systems as a joint contribution to the festschrift for our (now late) teacher Aleksandr Kibrik, which we called “S samymi teplymi čuvstvami (po gor’ačim sledam Stokgol’mskoj èkspedicii)” [With warmest regards (hot on the heels of the field trip to Stockholm)].² A much revised English version of this study was later published as Koptjevskaja-Tamm, Maria and Ekaterina Rakhilina (2006), ““Some like it hot”: on the semantics of temperature adjectives in Russian and Swedish”³. Ekaterina had in turn been inspired by the cross-linguistic work on the temperature domain by Urmas Sutrop and Frans Plank at Konstanz University – which has remained a source of inspiration and wisdom both for the two of us and for all the contributors to the present volume. This initial work then led in different directions – a few talks in different constellations and in different languages given at different places, as well as several attempts to collect cross-linguistic data by means of various questionnaires, in most cases not particularly successful.

1. cf. <http://ling-asv.ling.su.se/mediawiki/index.php/Main_Page>

2. Published in Rakhilina E.V., Testelefs Ya.G. (eds). *Tipologija i teorija jazyka. Ot opisanija k objasneniju. K 60-letiju A. E. Kibrika* (Typology and linguistic theory. From description to explanation. For the 60th birthday of Aleksandr E. Kibrik), 462–487. Moscow: Jazyki russkoj kul’tury.

3. Published in *Lexicon in a Typological and Contrastive Perspective*, Giannoula Giannoulou & Torsten Leuschner (eds), *STUF (Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung)* 59(2): 253–269.

The definite impetus for launching an in-depth large-scale collaborative cross-linguistic study of the temperature domain came from my talks at the Max-Planck-Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen and at the final meeting of the joint French-German project on adjectives in African languages at the picturesque Mediterranean island Porquerolles, both back in 2006. The overwhelming interest of all the field-workers and language experts for the topic inspired me to work on the guidelines that could be used for further research and to apply for a grant from the Swedish Research Council. I am very grateful to Nick Enfield, Asifa Majid and Martine Vanhove for the invitations, as well as to the researchers present at the talks – some of whom have contributed to the volume (Hilário De Sousa, Nick Enfield, Felix Ameka, Paulette Roulon-Doko, Olivier Le Guen, Michel-Loïc Perrin and, indirectly, Henrike Firsching).

Many more people deserve thanks for their support, both as intellectual partners and as human beings. These are too numerous to be listed here, but the following deserve a special mention: Östen Dahl, Tomas Riad, Bernhard Wälchli, Matti Miestamo, Magnus Sahlgren, Ghazaleh Vafaeian, Michelle Fruyt and Peter Koch – a dear friend who unexpectedly and tragically died two days ago. Last but not least I want to thank my husband Martin and my three children Niklas, Sandra and Katarina, who have definitely had enough of temperature talk at home.

Stockholm, Sweden
July 9th 2014

Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm