Preface and acknowledgements

The present volume aims to fill in the gap in the description of a long-neglected or even ignored class of words – onomatopoeia. It provides a systematic description of 88 languages of the world – systematic in the sense that each chapter is structured in the same way, which results in a comprehensive description of onomatopoeia in each language at the phonetic, morphological, syntactic, and semantic levels. In addition, each language-descriptive chapter contains an appendix with onomatopoeia for the same list of 32 sound events. The structure of these chapters thus facilitates the comparison and evaluation of languages based on compatible data. The language-descriptive chapters are organized according to three principles:

(i) by geographical areas as specified in the World Atlas of Language Structures (WALS) and the Glottolog;
(ii) by language families within these geographical areas;
(iii) alphabetically within language families.

Given the numerous examples in individual chapters captured by the system of Leipzig Glossing Rules, each chapter also includes a List of abbreviations.

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