

Preface

It was clear to us that we – as (former) students and current colleagues of Thomas Stolz – wanted to honour this outstanding linguist with an edited volume to reflect his passion for writing and reading linguistic publications. However, it was less clear to us which topic would do justice to his broad field of expertise and interests. We aim at reflecting his wide range of interests in the title of this volume, while at the same time providing a thematic focus. We also wanted the volume to go beyond a mere collection so that the featured papers would contribute to current research in structural linguistics. Publishing this volume with De Gruyter highlights Thomas Stolz's long-standing relationship with this publishing house, both as an editor and an author of numerous works. We are indebted to Barbara Karlson and Birgit Sievert at De Gruyter Mouton who made this whole project possible in the first place.

Thomas Stolz's interest in linguistics was already awakened in his teenage years when he stumbled upon Benjamin Lee Whorf's "Language, Thought and Reality" in a box of books that belonged to his sister. After this fateful discovery, his career path was set. In 1977, he began his studies in linguistics at the Ruhr University Bochum and graduated in 1985 with a PhD in General and Comparative Linguistics. In his PhD dissertation (prized by the Ruhr University Bochum as the year's best), he explored issues of the grammar of Creole languages. His research interests broadened rapidly, and in his early publications, he covered not only issues of creolistics but also topics such as verbal and nominal morphology in individual languages, e.g. Icelandic, Latvian, Lithuanian, Welsh, and Romanian. In this early period of his linguistic career, Thomas Stolz focused on different aspects of grammaticalization as well as Markedness and Naturalness theories (*Markiertheits- und Natürlichkeitstheorien*). This is where his interest in linguistic typology and language contact arose. Thomas Stolz finished his habilitation on secondary inflection formation (in the context of morphologization) in 1991. In 1995, his outstanding research work was honoured with the Karl Arnold Prize of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences. His outstanding academic achievements enabled him to become the awardee of the Heisenberg program of the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) for the period of 1991–1995. This was when his work on two large typologically oriented research projects started, which resulted in numerous talks and publications – *Hispanization* (and *Romancization* in a wider sense) and *Typology of Comitatives*.

In 1998, Thomas Stolz became a full professor of General and Comparative Linguistics at the University of Bremen, after serving two years as an interim professor at the university. During his 27 years as Chair of Linguistics, he was in charge of the remarkable transformation of this discipline in Bremen, particularly in the fields

of typology and language contact. His teaching and mentoring activities supported and promoted young academics; in 2010, he established the working group and young scholars' network *Language Contact and Comparison (Sprachkontakt und Sprachvergleich)* at the University of Bremen. Thomas Stolz supervised ten PhD dissertations that were completed successfully, and he is currently supervising four dissertations that are still in preparation.

Besides the large typological projects mentioned above, Thomas Stolz conducted (and continues to conduct) other large research projects concerning – among others – various aspects of areal phonology, possession, reduplication, the areal typology of comparatives, gender assignment in loan words, function-word borrowing, the typology of spatial interrogatives, and special onymic grammar. The latter research project along with his research on the (absence of) place names in Northern Mariana's *gāni*-islands unites two disciplines which did not have many points of intersection until then – structural linguistics and onomastics. Overall, Thomas Stolz was able to obtain funding for ten of his research projects from the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)*. In collaboration with Ingo H. Warnke, Thomas Stolz also established a new paradigm in linguistic research – *Colonial and Postcolonial Linguistics*; his special interest in this area lies in *Colonial Toponomastics*, which resulted in numerous talks and publications.

Until the beginning of 2025, Thomas Stolz authored 376 publications (including 14 monographs) and has given 315 talks on different occasions, most of which were international conferences and workshops. His contributions on various aspects of language contact, areal linguistics, and typology are pivotal, ground-breaking, and frequently cited as foundational.

Being a typologist, Thomas Stolz investigated hundreds of different languages from a typological perspective. However, he also authored various contributions on structural issues in individual languages such as Afrikaans, Classic Aztec, Faroese, Icelandic, Latvian, Lithuanian, and Romanian. He has a particular interest in Welsh (Celtic), Chamorro (Austronesian), and Maltese (Semitic), to which he has dedicated many publications and is considered one of the world's leading experts, especially on the latter two languages. Thomas Stolz is active in promoting Maltese linguistics and linguistic studies on the Maltese language through his numerous publications, talks, collaborations, teaching activities, and a funded research project. He initiated a cooperation between the universities of Bremen and Malta. In 2007, he founded the *International Association of Maltese Linguistics / L-Ghaqda Internazzjonali tal-Lingwistika Maltija (GHILM)*. He has been the president of the association up to the present day. Since its launch in 2012, he is also the director of the Malta Centre at the University of Bremen – the only institution devoted to Maltese linguistics outside of Malta.

Thomas Stolz is the editor-in-chief of the leading A-rated typological journal *STUF – Language Typology and Universals* and its supplementary series *Studia Typologica*. He is a co-editor of several linguistic book series, one of them being *Koloniale und Postkoloniale Linguistik / Colonial and Postcolonial Linguistics*. During his career at the University of Bremen, he organised dozens of national and international linguistic conferences and workshops including the Annual Meeting of the *Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE)* and the Annual Meeting of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS)*.

Thomas Stolz is one of the world's leading typologists and experts on language contact. His contributions have been, and continue to be, significant for the advancement of linguistics as a discipline, particularly in the aforementioned fields. His publications were inspiring and thought-provoking for many of his colleagues and students, some of whom took the opportunity to honour Thomas Stolz by taking part in this endeavour to acknowledge his achievements in linguistics.

The thirteen contributions of this volume give new insights into linguistic questions with a connection to the very broad research interests of Thomas Stolz. The authors selected their topics with the aim of reflecting the broad repertoire of his work, exploring various structural aspects of language contact and/or typology. In the following, we briefly summarise each paper.

Marianne Mithun's contribution is directly connected to one of the most important fields of Thomas Stolz's expertise – language contact. In this paper, the power of contact in shaping language structure is demonstrated through the example of tense categories in the languages of Northern California. Mithun shows that mechanisms of mutual influence of languages can be explored even in cases of scarce or non-existent historical documentation.

Hispanization as a contact phenomenon between Spanish and indigenous languages world-wide is one of the most prominent aspects of Thomas Stolz's studies in the field of language contact. **Eeva Sippola's** contribution on the Spanish-based Creole Ternate Chabacano takes up the topic of Hispanization processes in the Philippines. The article examines causative constructions and highlights valency-changing operations. Influences from Tagalog, such as voice and argument systems, also shape Chabacano causative expressions.

In his contribution on Turkish as a “heritage language” (i.e. non-dominant language) in contact with the socially dominant languages German and English, **Christoph Schroeder** scrutinises contact-induced clause combining phenomena – an aspect of language contact to which Thomas Stolz also dedicated parts of his research. Schroeder also critically evaluates terminological issues in heritage language research.

The case study by **Livio Gaeta** is dedicated to the Titsch variety of Walser German – a Germanic enclave language spoken in northern Italy. The focus of his

study lies on verbal morphology, more precisely on strong and weak verb classes and their remodelling. The connections to Thomas Stolz's research can be drawn not only at the level of language contact in general but also to Stolz's interest in contact-induced aspects in another Germanic enclave variety of Italy – Cimbrian.

The impact of language contact on the Austronesian language Nalik, spoken in New Ireland (Papua New Guinea), is the subject of **Craig Alan Volker's** article. The universal bilingualism of Nalik speakers with the socially dominant Tok Pisin has led to the convergence of these two languages in phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicon, and pragmatics. Volker discusses the impact these structural contact-induced changes in Nalik can have on the speakers' identity.

The potential impact of language contact in the development of multi-verb constructions is one of the aspects that **Tom Güldemann** examines in his study on juncture-verb constructions in the now extinct click language Kwadi. By looking into the verbal morphology, Güldemann provides further evidence for the genealogical relation of this poorly documented language of southwestern Angola (once considered as an isolate) to the southern African Khoe family.

As the short summaries suggest, issues of the impact of language contact on language structures are outlined in the first half of this volume. The subsequent papers are primarily concerned with typological issues – the other central area of Thomas Stolz's research.

Julia Nintemann, Maike Vorholt, Deborah Arbes, and Kevin Behrens – coincidentally the authors of the four pending dissertations supervised by Thomas Stolz – dedicate their contribution to a recurrent topic in Thomas Stolz's career: spatial relations in typological perspective. In their paper, configurational expressions in Place, Goal, and Source constructions are explored, and a hierarchy based on the morphological complexity of these constructions is established.

The typology of aspectuality is the subject of **Johanna Mattissen's** contribution. Mattissen investigates which features, beyond aspect marking, are interacting with aspectuality in a variety of languages with aspect and aspectoid systems. In the study, Mattissen explores different types of marking of aspectual values in aspectually head-marking languages in comparison to those language that have aspectually double- and dependent-marking.

Silvia Luraghi examines the use of space prepositions for the encoding of the semantic role of agent with passive verbs in various ancient and modern European languages. Luraghi demonstrates that Metaphors – such as Origin and Source – extend spatial prepositions to agents by mapping spatial relations onto agency. These topics are related to Thomas Stolz's studies on comitatives (in the sense of Companion Metaphor) and spatial relations.

Paolo Ramat's contribution deals with another prominent topic of Thomas Stolz's research – reduplication, repetition, and iteration in typological perspective.

The focus of Ramat's paper lies on tautological constructions of the type *Whatever will be, will be* in contrast to other types of reduplication or iteration, generalized constructions, and stereotyped idiomatic constructions. Ramat compares these types of constructions in a range of languages.

Questioning the data point of the Tungusic language Uilta (aka Orok) in the WALS chapter on Adjective-Noun constituent order, **Bernard Comrie**'s contribution offers not only a correction of the claim that Uilta has dominant Noun-Adjective order but also explores a methodology for investigating such claims. Comrie comes to a conclusion that will surely be endorsed by many typologists, including Thomas Stolz: "The moral is clear: The price of typology is eternal vigilance."

One of the challenges faced by typologists is the lack of uniform terminology in linguistic works. For typological research, it is essential to develop terms and definitions that are both suitable for typological purposes and inspired by typological studies. In his paper, **Martin Haspelmath** proposes a definition of "root" which is based on the root-types in different languages: it is a contentful morph that can occur as part of a free form without another contentful morph.

In a volume dedicated to Thomas Stolz, a contribution on Maltese is a must, as he dedicated a lot of his attention in the recent two decades of his linguistic career to this language. In **Michael Spagnol**'s contribution, Maltese stative verbs are thus taken under scrutiny and classified into four distinct categories. Spagnol also addresses questions of aspectology and the role of Maltese auxiliary verbs.

We are grateful to all contributors for their willingness to honour Thomas Stolz and for providing insights into current research topics in this volume.

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