READINGS IN LANGUAGE TYPOLOGY/LANGUAGE UNIVERSALS

Linda Schwartz
Indiana University

The bibliography presented here was developed as a reference bibliography for a single-semester graduate course in language typology/language universals at Indiana University. Its main orientation is toward the type of work represented by the Stanford University Language Universals Project. It does not, for the most part, include recent research primarily focused on formal universals of grammar. It also does not include, for the most part, references to works which deal primarily with single languages.

The course for which this bibliography was compiled was organized into two main sections: (i) the logic and methodology of modern typological/universal research and explanation of language universals and (ii) a series of specific topics spanning phonological, syntactic and lexical typologies. While the topic of language change was first conceived of as a third section, it was found to be better treated in relation to issues in (i) and (ii). The first section served as background for the examination, construction and evaluation of specific proposals considered in the second section. The main task of students for the first section was reading and discussion. In the second section, each student was responsible for providing the class with a synopsis and exemplification drawn from a language familiar to the student for each topic, along with any special comments on its relevance to the issues being considered. Thus, at the end of the course, each student had a collection of data from a range of languages on each topic; part of the value of the course can be measured by the range and quality of the language samples collected.

Students were required to submit research projects, first in the form of a proposal or proposals followed by consultation with the instructor, presentation to the class for discussion, and finally as a written research paper. Collaboration was encouraged, and two projects were submitted under joint authorship. Some examples of the kinds of projects selected are: (a) a comparison of the morphology and syntax of honorifics in Korean and Japanese; (b) a phonetic and phonological comparison of palatalization in Japanese and Canadian French; (c) a cross-language comparison of raising and lowering processes in nasalized vowels; (d) an investigation of the morphology, syntax and accepted usage of imperative constructions in a cross-genetic sampling of African languages.

Specific topics covered in the course with readings from the bibliography are suggested below; selections were chosen to provide current views on these topics which complement or challenge each other.
A. **Logic, Methodology, Explanation**


B. **Phonological Inventories**

Crothers (1978). Typology and universals of vowel systems.


C. **Phonological Processes**


D. **Prosody**


E. **Case**


F. **Agreement**


Greenberg (1978). How does a language acquire gender markers?


G. Person


H. Relative Clauses


I. Constituent Order


Hawkins (1979). Implicational universals as predictors of word order change.


J. Lexical Universals


The following bibliography is presented in two forms: (i) a complete alphabetic listing, and (ii) an abbreviated topic listing. In some instances, a choice was made to list an article under a given topic though it may have relevance to more than one area; I hope that this has not obscured the usefulness of the topic listing.
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TYPOLOGIES/UNIVERSALS REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY (Alphabetical)

Abbreviations: BLS Papers from the Meetings of the Berkeley Linguistic Society
CLS Papers from the Meetings of the Chicago Linguistic Society
UL Universals of Language, J. Greenberg, ed.
UHL Universals of Human Language, Greenberg, Ferguson and Moravcsik, eds.
WPLU Stanford University Working Papers in Language Universals


--- 1971. Acquisition-significant and transmission-significant universals. WPLU 5.


1978. Typology and universals of vowel systems. UHL 2.93-152.


——. 1971. Agreement. WPLU 5.

——. 1971. Some crosslinguistic generalizations about yes-no questions and their answers. WPLU 7.


——. 1978. Language contact. UHL 1, 93-122.

——. 1978. Agreement. UHL 4, 331-374. (Revised version of Moravcsik 1971.)


_____ 1977. Word order universals and grammatical relations. In Syntax and Semantics 8, Cole and Sadock, eds., 249-278.


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---. 1975. Figure and ground in complex sentences. *WPLU* 17.


---. 1978. Figure and ground in complex sentences. *UHL* 4, 625-652. (Revised version of Talmy 1975.)


**TYPOLOGIES/UNIVERSALS REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY (Topic):** Please refer to preceding alphabetical bibliography for full entries.

I. GENERAL/THEORETICAL

Bell, A. 1971. Acquisition-significant and transmission-significant universals.


Ferguson, C. 1971. A sample research strategy in language universals.

____. 1978. Historical background of universals research.


Hervas y Panduro. 1800. Catalogo de las lenguas de las naciones conocidas.


Hoenigswald, H. 1963. Are there universals of linguistic change?


II. PHONOLOGY

A. PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEMS/INVENTORIES


________. 1978. Typology and universals of vowel systems.


____. 1978. Some generalizations concerning initial and final consonant clusters.


B. PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES


_____ 1971. A typological view of metathesis.


C. PROSODY


McCawley, J. 1978. What is a tone language?


D. DIACHRONIC PHONOLOGY

Bell, A. 1970. Development of syllabic nasals: the case of the Bantu noun class prefixes mu-, mi-, and ma-.


E. OTHER


III. SYNTAX

A. GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES


Steele, S. 1978. The category AUX as a language universal.

B. PERSON, NUMBER, GENDER


Forscheimer, P. 1953. The Category of Person in Language.


     1978. How does a language acquire gender markers?


Moravcsik, E. 1971. Agreement.
     1978. Agreement.


     1977. Person, number and gender in Chinook: syntactic rule and morphological analogy.


C. GRAMMATICAL RELATIONS/CASE


Comrie, B. 1975. The anti-ergative: Finland's answer to Basque.


Hjelmslev, L. 1935. La catégorie des cas.


Johnson, D. 1977. On Keenan's definition of 'subject of'.


Keenan, E. 1976. Towards a universal definition of 'subject'.

Li, C., ed. 1976 Subject and Topic.


Schachter, P. 1976. The subject in Philippine languages.

____. 1977. Reference-related and role-related properties of subjects.

Shibatani, M. 1977. Grammatical relations and surface cases.


D. CONSTITUENT ORDER


Greenberg, J. 1963. Some universals of grammar with particular reference to the order of meaningful elements.

____. 1975. Dynamic aspects of word order in the numeral classifier.

Hawkins, J. 1979. Implicational universals as predictors of word order change.

Hetzron, R. 1975. The presentative movement or why the ideal word order is VSOP.


____. 1975. A discussion of compound and word order.


____. 1977. Word order universals and grammatical relations.


Sanders, G. 1975. On the explanation of constituent order universals.


Steele, S. 1975. On some factors that affect and effect word order.


E. RELATIVE CLAUSES


____. 1978. Some universals of relative clause structure.


F. CAUSATIVES


G. DIACHRONIC SYNTAX


Moravcsik, E. 1978. Language contact.


H. OTHER


____. 1971. Some crosslinguistic generalizations about yes-no questions and their answers.


----- 1973. The basis for a crosslinguistic typology of motion/location: part II.


Ultan, R. 1969. Some general characteristics of interrogative systems.

----- 1970. Toward a typology of substantival possession.


----- 1972. Some features of basic comparative constructions.

IV. LEXICON/SEMANTICS/PRAGMATICS


Bartsch, R. 1973. The semantics and syntax of number and numbers.


Brandon, F. 1976. Quantification, negation and the semantic isolation of sentence.


Kay, P. and C. McDaniel. 1978. The linguistic significance of the meaning of basic color terms.


Steele, S. 1975. Is it possible?

Talmy, L. 1975. Figure and ground in complex sentences.


---. 1978. Figure and ground in complex sentences.

---. 1978. Relations between subordination and coordination.


Zimmer, K. 1971. Some general observations about nominal compounds.

---. 1972. Appropriateness conditions for nominal compounds.

---. 1972. Postscript to "Some general observations about nominal compounds".