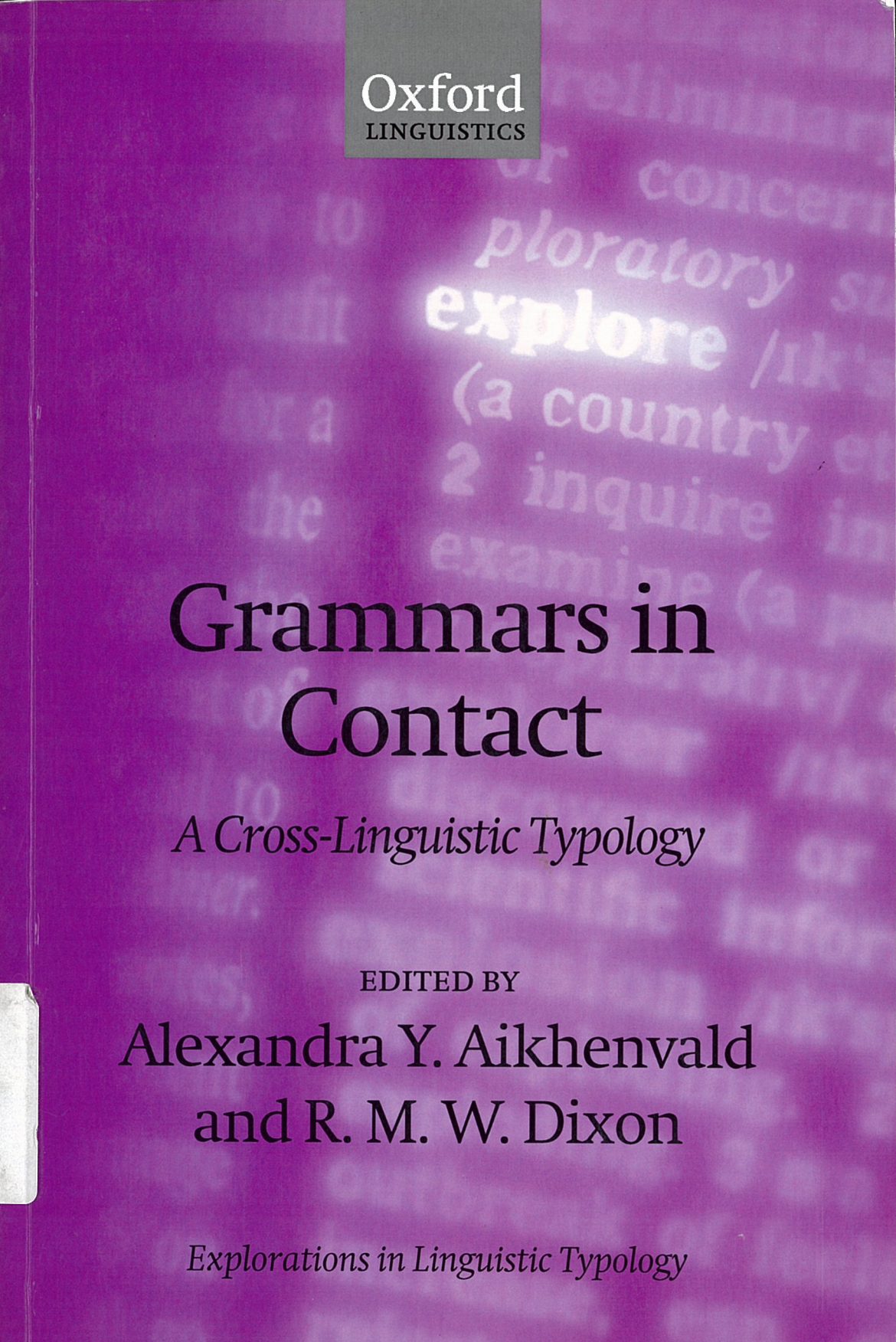


# Grammars in Contact

## *A Cross-Linguistic Typology*

EDITED BY

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
and R. M. W. Dixon

*Explorations in Linguistic Typology*

# Grammars in Contact

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# Grammars in Contact

*A Cross-Linguistic Typology*

edited by
ALEXANDRA Y. AIKHENVALD and
R. M. W. DIXON
Research Centre for Linguistic Typology
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# Preface

Languages can be similar in many ways—they can resemble each other in categories, constructions, and meanings, and in the actual forms used to express these. A shared feature may be based on common genetic origin, or result from geographic proximity and borrowing. Some aspects of grammar are spread more readily than others. The question is—what are they? When languages are in contact with each other, what changes do we expect to occur in their grammatical structures? Only an inductively based cross-linguistic examination can provide an answer. This is what this volume is about.

The volume starts with a typological introduction outlining principles of contact-induced change and factors which facilitate diffusion of linguistic traits. It is followed by revised versions of twelve of the fifteen presentations from the International Workshop 'Grammars in contact', held at the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe University, 13–18 June 2005. An earlier version of Chapter 1 had been circulated to the contributors, to ensure that the detailed studies of contact-induced phenomena in individual languages were cast in terms of a common set of typological parameters. (This is the fourth monograph in the series *Explorations in linguistic typology*, devoted to volumes from the International Workshops sponsored by RCLT.)

The week of the workshop was an intellectually stimulating and exciting time, full of discussions and cross-fertilization of ideas. All of the authors have first-hand experience of intensive, fieldwork-based investigation of languages, as well as in dealing with linguistic typology, historical comparative issues, and problems of areal diffusion. The analysis is cast in terms of basic linguistic theory—the cumulative typological functional framework in terms of which almost all descriptive grammars are cast—and avoids formalisms (which provide reinterpretations rather than explanations, and come and go with such frequency that any statement made in terms of them is likely soon to become inaccessible).

The volume covers languages from a wide variety of areas where the impact of language contact has been particularly noticeable but relatively undescribed—these include Amazonia, East and West Africa, Australia, East Timor, and the Sinitic domain. More familiar languages include those of the Balkans, Pennsylvania German influenced by English, and Basque in contact with Romance languages. In view of the considerable number of

extensive studies of language contact in South and South-East Asia, and in North America, it seemed unnecessary to include a special chapter on each of these in this volume.

It is our hope that this volume will provide a consolidated conceptual and analytic framework covering the major parameters and preferences in contact-induced change and its effects on grammar. The chapters follow a unified typological approach. All this contributes to the reliability and comparability of the inductive generalizations suggested throughout the volume.

We thank all the authors for taking part in the Workshop, for getting their papers in on time, and for revising them according to recommendations of the editors.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to Siew-Peng Condon and May Tan, Executive Officers of RCLT, for organizing the Workshop in a most efficient and caring manner, and to Rosemary Purnell for editorial assistance.

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# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1st person |
| 2 | 2nd person |
| 3 | 3rd person |
| A | transitive subject |
| ABL | ablative |
| ABS | absolutive |
| ACC | accusative |
| ACT | active |
| ADJ | adjective |
| ADV | adverb |
| ADVZ | adverbalizer |
| AFF | affective |
| AG | agentive |
| AGR | agreement |
| ALL | allative |
| AN | Austronesian |
| ANA | anaphoric |
| ANAPH | anaphoric |
| ANIM | animate |
| AOR | aorist |
| APPLIC | applicative |
| APPR | apprehensive |
| ASP | aspect |
| ASS | assertive |
| ASSOC | associative |
| ATR | Advanced Tongue Root |
| AUG | augmentative |
| AUX | auxiliary |
| BCS | Bosnian/Croatian/ Serbian |

| | |
|---|---|
| BEN | benefactive |
| CAUS | causative |
| CL | classifier |
| CM | class marker |
| CMPL | class marker plural |
| COLL | collective |
| COMIT | comitative |
| COMP | complement |
| COMPAR | comparative |
| COMPL | completive |
| COP | copula |
| COREF | coreferential |
| DAT | dative |
| DEC | declarative |
| DEF | definite |
| DEM | demonstrative |
| DESID | desiderative |
| DET | determiner |
| DIM | diminutive |
| DIR | directional |
| DISC | discourse marker |
| DIST | distal |
| DISTR | distributive |
| DS | different subject |
| DST | distributive |
| DST.CNTR | distant past contrast |
| DT | Duff-Tripp |
| du, DU | dual |
| DUR | durative |
| E | English |
| EMPH | emphasis |
| ERG | ergative |
| EVID | evidential |
| exc | exclusive |

| | |
|---|---|
| FACS | facsimile |
| FACT | factive, factitive |
| FEM, F, f | feminine |
| FLR | filler |
| FOC | focus |
| FRUST | frustrative |
| FUT | future |
| GEN | genitive |
| GENL | general |
| HAB | habitual |
| HG | High German |
| IDEO | ideophone |
| IMP | imperative |
| IMPER | imperfect |
| IMPERS | impersonal |
| IMPERV | imperfective |
| INAN | inanimate |
| inc | inclusive |
| INCH | inchoative |
| INDEF | indefinite |
| INFER | inferred |
| INFIN | infinitive |
| INST | instrumental |
| INT | intentional |
| INTENS | intensifier |
| INTER | interrogative |
| INTERJ | interjection |
| IO | indirect object |
| IT | itive |
| ITER | iterative |
| JUSS | jussive |
| L1 | first language |
| L2 | second language |
| LIG | ligature |
| LOC | locative |
| LOG | logophoric pronoun |
| MASC, M, m | masculine |

| | |
|---|---|
| MR | modifier |
| N | noun |
| NAN | non-Austronesian |
| NCL | noun class |
| NEG | negation |
| NEUT, N, n | neuter |
| nf | non-feminine |
| NFIN | non-finite |
| NFUT | non-future |
| NOM | nominative |
| NOMZ | nominalizer |
| NON.A/S | non-subject |
| NP | noun phrase |
| NPAST | non-past |
| nsg, NSG | non-singular |
| NUM.CL | numeral classifier |
| NVIS | non-visual |
| O | transitive object |
| OBJ | object |
| OBL | oblique |
| OOM | Old Order Mennonites |
| OPT | optative |
| PART | particle |
| PARTIC | participle |
| PASS | passive |
| PC | particle of concord |
| PERSIST | persistive |
| PERV | perfective |
| PG | Pennsylvania German |
| pl, PL | plural |
| PM | Progressive Mennonite |
| PN | pronoun |
| Port | Portuguese |
| POSS | possessive |
| POSSN | possession marking |

| | |
|---|---|
| POT | potential |
| PRES | present |
| PRIV | privative |
| PROG | progressive |
| PROHIB | prohibitive |
| PROX | proximal |
| PRTV | partitive |
| PURP | purposive |
| QUANT | quantifier |
| QUOT | quotative |
| REC | recent |
| RECIP | reciprocal |
| REDUP | reduplicated |
| REFL | reflexive |
| REL | relative |
| REM | remote |
| REP | reported |
| RES | resultative |
| S | intransitive subject |
| $S_a$ | 'active' S, marked like A |
| SCR | subject cross-reference marker |
| SEQ | sequential |
| SF | stem formative |
| sg, SG | singular |
| SGVE | singulative |
| SIMIL | similative |
| SING | singulative |
| $S_o$ | 'stative' S, marked like O |
| SP | subordinating particle |
| SR | subordinator |
| SS | same subject |
| STAT | stative |
| SUBJ | subjunctive |
| SUBORD | subordinate |
| SUPER | superlative |

| | |
|---|---|
| SVC | serial verb construction |
| TAM | tense-aspect-mood |
| TD | Tetun Dili |
| TF | Tetun Fehan |
| TM | Traditional Mennonite |
| TMP.NOMZ | time, manner, place nominalizer |
| TOP | topic |
| TP | today past tense |
| TR | transitive |
| TT | Tetun Terik |
| UFP | utterance final particle |
| UNP | uninvolved mode of non-past tense |
| UP | uninvolved mode of 'before today' past tense |
| V | verb |
| VBZR | verbalizer |
| VENT | ventive |
| VIS | visual |
| VP | verb phrase |
| WIT | witnessed |
| WRT | West Rumelian Turkish |