

BRILL'S STUDIES IN THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

Multi-verb Constructions

A View from the Americas

Edited by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
& Pieter C. Muysken

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CONTENTS

Preface	vii
Language Map	ix
List of Abbreviations	xi
About the Contributors	xvii
 1. Multi-verb Constructions: Setting the Scene	 1
<i>Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald</i>	
 2. Dimensions of Northern Paiute Multi-verb Constructions ...	 27
<i>Tim Thornes</i>	
 3. Lexical, quasi-inflectional, and inflectional compounding in Upper Necaxa Totonac	 63
<i>David Beck</i>	
 4. The Grammar of Teribe Verb Serialization in a Cross-Chibchan Perspective	 107
<i>J. Diego Quesada</i>	
 5. Multi-verb Constructions in Ecuadorian Quechua	 133
<i>Pieter Muysken</i>	
 6. Desiderative Verb Sequences in Uchumataqu	 157
<i>Katja Hannß</i>	
 7. Multi-verb Predicates and Transitivity Harmony in Shipibo-Konibo	 185
<i>Pilar M. Valenzuela</i>	
 8. 'Derivational Verbs' and Other Multi-verb Constructions in Awetí and Tupí-Guaraní	 213
<i>Sebastian Drude</i>	
 9. Multi-verb Constructions in Yurakaré	 255
<i>Rik van Gijn</i>	

10. Movima Phasal Verbs	283
<i>Katharina Haude</i>	
Author Index	307
Language Index	309
Subject Index	311

PREFACE

In many languages of the world, two or three verbs combine to form one predicate. The verbs vary in their form, and the resulting constructions vary in their functions and their meanings. Multi-verb constructions include serial verbs in their varied guises, predicates with an auxiliary verb or a converb, and many more kinds. Each of these describe what can be conceptualized as one event. One kind can develop out of another, and each represent a specific way of cognitive packaging of information. The multiplicity of constructions including more than one verb can be presented as a multidimensional continuum, reflecting a minute classification of event types. Their occurrence interrelates with typological properties of languages, linguistic areas and language families. Multi-verb constructions have been in the focus of linguistic analysis for a long time. They have been widely recognised as a prominent phenomenon in languages of the Americas. This volume is the first attempt to draw together in-depth studies on this phenomenon in the Americas, so as to create an inductive basis for further generalizations.

This volume evolved out of a one-day workshop titled 'Multi-verb constructions: a view from the Americas', conducted by the editors on 20 October 2008, and sponsored jointly by MPI Nijmegen and Radboud University. This built on the editors' areas of expertise which are largely complimentary: Muysken's work centres on the languages of the Andes, while Aikhenvald's focuses on those of Amazonia and the Pacific, with both having experience in cross-linguistic analysis of multi-verb structures. A short 'Call for papers' detailing the major parameters of variation for multi-verb constructions was announced. An earlier version of Chapter 1 was then circulated among participants of the workshop, so as to ensure that the contributions be cast in terms of a common set of typological parameters.

Following the discussion at the workshop, the editors decided to expand the original set of languages and areas within the Americas, casting it in a wider perspective and going beyond just South America.

All the studies in this volume are based on first-hand intensive fieldwork and meticulous analysis of the existing sources. Each paper

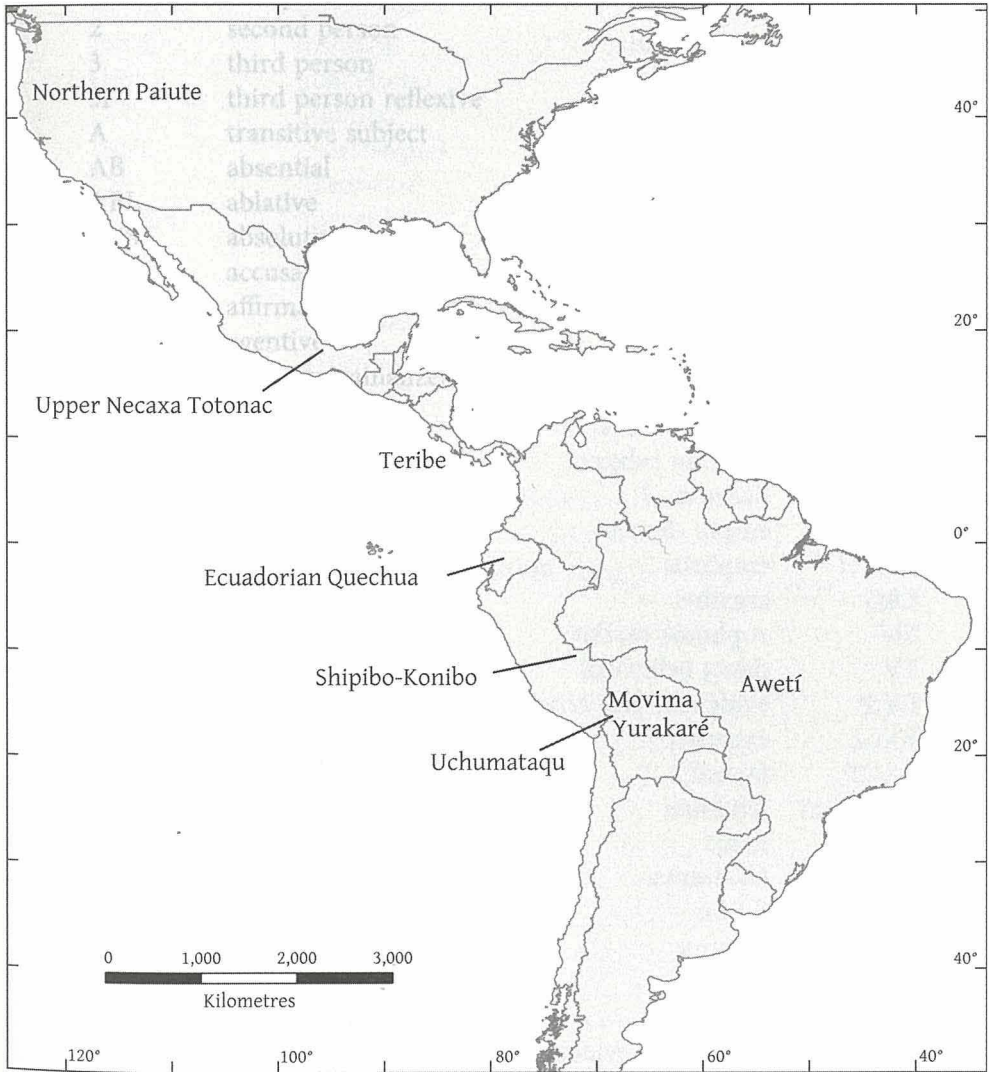
formulates typological generalizations, and addresses historical comparative issues and problems of areal diffusion of forms and of functions. All this contributes to the reliability and comparability of the inductive generalizations within this volume.

It is our hope that the volume will provide a consolidated conceptual, factual and analytic framework covering the major parameters for multi-verb constructions in their varied guises. It lays the foundation for further work on hitherto undescribed or poorly known languages in the Americas, and beyond.

We thank the authors for taking part in the workshop, and then submitting and revising their papers. Special thanks go to Joshua Birchall, without whose painstaking work as Assistant Editor this volume would not have been possible. We would also like to thank Adella Edwards from James Cook University for drawing the map. We owe a debt of gratitude to our native speaker teachers of languages of the Americas who opened the treasure chest of multi-verb constructions to us, field-linguists.

Research for this volume was supported by the ERC Grant 'Traces of contact' for Muysken and Birchall, and the Australian Research Council Discovery Project 'Are some languages better than others?' for Aikhenvald. We are grateful to the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics for initial support with the workshop.

LANGUAGE MAP



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
3r	third person reflexive
A	transitive subject
AB	absential
ABL	ablative
ABS	absolutive
ACC	accusative
AF	affirmative
AG	agentive
AN	action nominalizer
AND	andative
AO	A-oriented
APPL	applicative
APPR	apprehensive Future
ART	article
ASP	aspectual
AUX	auxiliary
BDP	bodily process
BEN	benefactive, purposive
BR	bound root
CAUS	causative
CE	conjunct event
CIRCNR	nominalizer of circumstance
CIS	cislocative
CL, CLF	classifier
CL.1/3	clitic for first / third person
CMPL	completive aspect
CNTRST	contrastive
COLL	collective
COM	comitative
CONN	connective, linker
CONT	continuous
CONV	converbal suffix

CTP	complement-taking predicate
D	dummy
DCS	deceased
DECAUS	decausative
DE	disjunct event
DEC	declarative
DEM	demonstrative
DEPREC	deprecative
DES	desiderative
DIR	directional
DISC	discontinuous
DIST	distal
DISTR	distributive
DL	dual
DR	direct
DR2	direct 2 (incorporation)
DISC	discontinuous
DM	demonstrative
DS	different subject
DUR	durative
EE	empty element
EMPH	emphatic
ERG	ergative
EU	euphonic marker
EV	direct evidential
EV.P	evidential past tense
EXCL	exclusive
FACT	factual
FEM, fem	feminine
FOC	focus
FRUST	frustrative
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
GER	gerund
HAB	habitual
HSY	reportative evidential
HSY2	short reportative evidential
IDEO	ideophone
IDF	indefinite voice
IM	imperative

IMM	immediate past
IMP	imperfect
IMPERFV	imperfective
IN	in-group marker
INC	incompletive aspect
INCH	inchoative
INCL	inclusive
IND	indicative
INF	infinitive
INST	instrumental
INT	intentional
INTEN	intensifier
INTR	intransitive
INV	inverse
IP	instrumental prefix
IPFV	imperfective
IRR	irrealis
ITR	intransitive
LIG	ligature
LN	linking nasal
LOC	locative
LOGO	logophoric possession
LV	linking vowel
MAL	malefactive
MASC	masculine
MID	middle
MLT	multiple event
MNS	means
MOD	modal
N	noun
NEG	negation
NF, NONFEM	nonfeminine
NMLZ	nominalizer
NOM	nominative case
non-SG	non-singular
NREL	non-relational
NSTD	nonstanding
NTR	neutral
NUM	numeral
O=S/A	dependent object coreferential with matrix subject

OBJ	object
OBL	oblique
OBV	obviative
ONOM	onomatopoeic
OO	object-oriented
OPT	optative
ORGN	origin
P	previous event
PATNR	patient nominalizer
PAUS	pausal
pers	person
PF	perfect
PFV	perfective
PH	phasal suffix
PL, pl	plural
PNC	punctual aspect
PO	possessor
POSIT	positional verb
POSS	possessive
POT	potential
PP1	present/incompletive participle
PP2	past/completive participle
PRC	process
PRED	predicative'
PRES	present
PRO	free pronoun
PROG	progressive
PROPR	propriative
PTG	Proto-Tupí-Guaraní
PTL	particle
PURP	purposive
Q	question marker
R/R	reflexive/reciprocal
RE	repetition
REASS	reassured future
REC.PAST	recent past
RED	reduplication
REL	relativizer
REM.PAST	remote past
REM.P.REP	remote past reported

REP	reportative
RES	resultative
RNDM	random motion
S	intransitive subject
sby	somebody
SEQ	sequential
SG, sg	singular
SIM	simultaneous
SIM.EVENT	simultaneous event
SIML	similative
SJ	subject
SO	S-oriented
SPK	nearby speaker
SPL	suppletive form
STAT	stative
STD	standing
sth	something
SUB	subordinate
SUBJ	subjunctive
SVC.MARKER	marker of a serial verb construction
TAM	tense-aspect-mood
TEMP	temporal
TER	terminative
TNS	tense
TO	topic
TR	transitive
TRNSL	translocative
TRNZ	transitivizer
VBZ	verbalizer
VC	voluntary comitative
VEN	venitive
VPL	verbal plural
VTI	vitative
YEST.PAST	yesterday part

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