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Possession and Ownership

A Cross-Linguistic Typology

edited by

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

Explorations in Linguistic Typology

Possession and Ownership

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and R. M. W. Dixon

Possession and Ownership brings together linguists and anthropologists in a series of cross-linguistic explorations of expressions used to denote possession and ownership, concepts central to most if not all the varied cultures and ideologies of humankind. Possessive noun phrases can be broadly divided into three categories—ownership of property, whole-part relations (such as body and plant parts), and blood and affinal kinship relations. As Professor Aikhenvald shows in her extensive opening essay, the same possessive noun or pronoun phrase is used in English and in many other Indo-European languages to express possession of all three kinds—as in ‘Ann and her husband Henry live in the castle Henry’s father built with his own hands’—but that this is by no means the case in all languages. In some, for example, the grammar expresses the inalienability of consanguineal kinship and sometimes also of sacred or treasured objects. Furthermore the degree to which possession and ownership are conceived as the same (when possession is 100% of the law) differs from one society to another, and this may be reflected in their linguistic expression. Like others in the series this pioneering book will be welcomed equally by linguists and anthropologists.

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Possession and Ownership

EXPLORATIONS IN LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY

GENERAL EDITORS: Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon
Cairns Institute, James Cook University

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A Cross-Linguistic Typology

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ALEXANDRA Y. AIKHENVALD and
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Preface

Every language has a way of expressing possessive relationships. The marking and the conceptualization of these vary across languages and cultures. This volume aims at investigating the varied facets of possession and associated notions.

The volume starts with a typological introduction outlining the marking, and the meaning, of possession within a noun phrase, a clause, and a sentence, focusing on correlations between possessive structures, and cultural and social aspects of its conceptualization by speakers. It is followed by revised versions of thirteen of the fifteen presentations from the International Workshop 'Possession and Ownership', held at the Language and Culture Research Group, the Cairns Institute, James Cook University, 27 September–2 October 2010. An earlier version of Chapter 1 had been circulated to the contributors, with a list of points to be addressed, so as to ensure that their detailed studies of individual languages were cast in terms of a common set of typological parameters.

The week of the Workshop was an intellectually stimulating and exciting time, full of discussions and cross-fertilization of ideas. The authors have all undertaken intensive fieldwork, in addition to having experience of working on 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 to soon become inaccessible).

It is our hope that this volume will provide a consolidated conceptual and analytic framework covering the major parameters of variation in the expression of possession across the world, and how it correlates with cultural parameters.

We are grateful to all the participants in the Workshop who took part in the discussion and provided feedback on presentations at various stages—Ton Otto, Chia-jung Pan, Dineke Schokkin, Borut Telban, Daniela Vavrová, and Sihong Zhang. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Brigitta Flick and Elena Rhind, for helping us organize the Workshop in a most efficient manner. Brigitta Flick's editorial assistance was, as always, invaluable.

The Workshop was made possible through a grant from the International Science Linkages—Humanities and Creative Arts Programme (ISL–HCA), awarded to Aikhenvald by the Australian Academy of the Humanities. We also gratefully

acknowledge financial assistance from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and from the Cairns Institute at James Cook University.

As with previous volumes emanating from our International Workshops (also published in the series *Explorations in Linguistic Typology*), we owe a considerable debt to John Davey, our editor at Oxford University Press. His indomitable support makes volume editors, and their book, feel wanted.

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Abbreviations

1	1st person
2	2nd person
3	3rd person
A	transitive subject
ABL	ablative
ACC	accusative
ACT.FOC	action focus
ADD	additive
AGR	agreement, agreement marker
AGT.NOMZ	agentive nominalizer
ALIEN	alienator
ALL	allative
ALN.POSS	alienable possession
ALTR	alterphoric
ANAPH	anaphoric
ANIM	animate
ANTR	anterior
APP	appositive
APPL	applicative
APPLIC	applicative
APROX	addressee-proximate
AR	Arabic
ART	article
ASP	aspect
ASP:PERF	aspect perfective
ASS	assertive
ASSC	associative
ASSERT	assertedly
ASSOC	associative
ATR	Advanced Tongue Root

ATTRIB	attributive
AUG	augmentative
BEN	benefactive
C	construct marker
C.FOC	contrastive focus
CAUS	causative
CC	copula complement
CL	classifier
CM	class marker
CM.PL	class marker plural
CN	connector
CNGNT	congruent discursive stance
COLL	collective
COM	comment marker
COMIT	comitative
COMP	complementizer
COMPL	completive
COMPT	complementary
COND	conditional
CONJ	conjunction
CONS	consequence
CONT	contrastive
CONTR	contrast
COP	copula
COS	change-of-state
CQ	content question
CS	copula subject
CTEMP	contemporaneous
DAT	dative
DEC	declarative
DEF	definite
DEM	demonstrative
DEM.DIST	distal demonstrative

DEM.PROX	proximal demonstrative
DEP	dependent
DET	determiner
DIR	direct
DISJ	disjunctive marker
DS	different subject
du, DU	dual
DUB	dubitative
DUR	durative
E	extension to core
EFF	effector
EMPH	emphatic marker
ENUM	enumerative complex
EP	epenthetic
EPC	epenthetic consonant
EPV	epenthetic vowel
ERG	ergative
EV	event
EX	existential
exc	exclusive
EXCL	exclusive
EXIST	existential
F	Fula (Fulfulde)
FEM, fem, F, f	feminine
FOC	focus
FRUST	frustrative
FUT	future
FUT.CONTR.DYN	contrastive dynamic future
GEN	genitive
GENL	general
GENP	genitive phrase
GIV	'given/known information'
GO	goal

H	Hausa
H, h	human
HAB	habitual
HL	human locative
HORT	hortative
HYP	hypothetical
HYPOTH	hypothetical
HYPTH	hypothetically
ID	identifying
IDEO	ideophone
IMMED	immediate
IMP	imperative
IMPERV	imperfective
IN	inner space
INAN	inanimate
inc	inclusive
INCH	inchoative
INCL	inclusive
INCP	incipient
IND	individuator
INDIC	indicative
INST	instrumental
INTENS	intensifier
INTER	interrogative
INTERJ	interjection
INTR	intransitive
IRR	irrealis
IRR.I	irrealis, i-class verb
ITER	iterative
JUS	jussive
K	Kanuri
L.A.	locative anaphora
LIG	ligature

LINK	linker
LOC	locative
LOCP	locative phrase
MASC, masc, M, m	masculine
MATRI	matriline
MED	mediative
MIR	mirative
N	noun
NAGNT	non-agentive
NAT	natural object
NCL	noun class
NEG	negation, negative
NEUT, N, n	neuter
NF	non-final
NOM	nominative
NOMIN	nominal marking
NOML	nominal
NOMZ	nominalizer
NP	noun phrase
NPAST	non-past
nsg, NSG	non-singular
NSU	non-subject core (O or E)
NUM	numeral
NUM.CL	numeral classifier
NUMB	number
NVIS	non-visual
O	transitive object
OBJ	object
OBL	oblique
ODIR	other-directed
ON	extension 'on'
OPT	optative

PAN	Proto-Austronesian
PART	particle
PASS	passive
PATRI	patriline
PB	phrasal boundary
PBC	Proto-Benue-Congo
Pe	possessee
PER	perfect
PEPRO	possessive pronoun
PERT	pertensive
PERV	perfective
pl, PL	plural
PN	possessed noun
PNM	proper noun marker
POc	Proto-Oceanic
POL	polite
POSS	possessive
POT	potential
PPN	Proto-Polynesian
PQ	polar question
PQI	polar question intonation
Pr	possessor
PRel	possessive relation
PRED	predicative
PREP	preposition
PRES	present
PRES/PROG	present progressive
PRIID	pre-head determiner
PRIV	privative
PROG	progressive
PROHIB	prohibitive
PROP	proprietary
PROXTOP	proximal topic
PRSUFF	possessor suffix
PRT	partitive

PSHD	post-head determiner/postposition
PSYCH	psych-inchoative
PUNC	punctual
PURP	purposive
QUAL	qualifying expression
QUOT	quotative
REAL	realis
REAL.A	realis, a-class verb
REAL.I	realis, i-class verb
RECIP	reciprocal
REDUP	reduplicated
REFL	reflexive
REL	relative
RELC	relative clause
RELN	relator noun
REM	remote
REM.PAST	remote past
REV	reversative
S	intransitive subject
S _a	'active' S, marked like A
S _o	'stative' S, marked like O
SAP	speech act participants
SCR	subject cross-reference
SDIR	self-directed
SEMB	semblative
SEP	separative
sg, SG	singular
SG/INDEF	singular indefinite
SIM	simultaneous
SLEV	same topographical level
SPROX	speaker-proximate
SS	same subject
STAT	stative

SU	subject
SUBJ	subjunctive
SUF	suffix (verb derivational suffix)
T	target extension
TAM	tense–aspect–mood
THM	thematic
TMP	temporal
TOG	together extension
TOP	topic
TR	transitive
UFP	utterance final particle
UNPOSS	unpossessed
UNREAL	unrealized
V	verb
VASSIM	vowel assimilation
VCC	verbless clause complement
VCS	verbless clause subject
VEN	venitive
VENT	ventive
VIA	viative
YK	you know