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Lexical Categories

For decades, generative linguistics has said little about the differences between verbs, nouns, and adjectives. This book seeks to fill this theoretical gap by presenting simple and substantive syntactic definitions of these three lexical categories. Mark C. Baker claims that the various superficial differences found in particular languages have a single underlying source which can be used to give better characterizations of these "parts of speech." These new definitions are supported by data from languages from every continent, including English, Italian, Japanese, Edo, Mohawk, Chichewa, Quechua, Choctaw, Nahuatl, Mapuche, and several Austronesian and Australian languages. Baker argues for a formal, syntax-oriented, and universal approach to the parts of speech, as opposed to the functionalist, semantic, and relativist approaches that have dominated the few previous works on this subject. This book will be welcomed by researchers and students of linguistics and by related cognitive scientists of language.

MARK C. BAKER is Professor of Linguistics and Chair of the Department of Linguistics at Rutgers University and a member of the Center for Cognitive Science. He is the author of *Incorporation: a theory of grammatical function changing* (1988), *The polysynthesis parameter* (1996), and *The atoms of language: the mind's hidden rules of grammar* (2001), as well as of numerous articles in journals such as *Linguistic Inquiry* and *Natural Language and Lingustic Theory.*

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LEXICAL CATEGORIES

Verbs, Nouns, and Adjectives

MARK C. BAKER
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To the memories of John S. Baker (1934–1968)

Gary Clay (1940–2001)

and Kenneth Hale (1934–2001).

I wish our earthly father figures could be a little more eternal.

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Abbreviations

Agreement morphemes in Mohawk and other languages are glossed with a complex symbol consisting of three parts. The first is an indication of the person (1, 2, 3) or gender (M [masculine], F [feminine], N [neuter], Z [zoic], or a number indicating a noun class). The second is an indication of number (s [singular], d [dual], p [plural]; the latter two can be further specified as in [inclusive] or ex [exclusive]). The third is an indication of which grammatical function the morpheme cross-references (S [subject], O [object], P [possessor], A [absolutive], E [ergative]). When two agreement factors are expressed with a single portmanteau morpheme, their features are separated with a slash. Thus "MsS/1pinO" would indicate a masculine singular subject agreement together with a first person plural inclusive object agreement.

Other abbreviations used in the glosses of morphemes are as follows. Readers should consult the original sources for more on what these categories amount to in particular languages. When I could do so with relative confidence, I have changed the abbreviations used in the original source so that the glosses of the examples in this book would be more internally consistent.

ABS	absolutive case
ACC	accusative case
ADV	adverb
AFF	inflectional affix (especially on As in Japanese)
AN	adjectival noun (Japanese)
APPL	applicative
ART	article
ASP	aspect
ASSOC	associative
BEN	benefactive
CAUS	causative
CIS	cislocative
CL	classifier

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COMP	complementizer
COP	copula
DAT	dative case
DEM	demonstrative
DESID	desiderative
DET	determiner
DIR	directional
DUP	duplicative
DYN	dynamic tense (Abaza)
ERG	ergative case
FACT	factual mood (Mohawk)
FEM	feminine gender
FOC	focus particle
FUT	future
FV	final vowel (Bantu)
GEN	genitive case
HAB	habitual
HSY	hearsay
IMPER	imperative
IMPF	imperfective aspect
INCEP	inceptive
INCH	inchoative
INCL	inclusive
INDEF	indefinite
INDIC	indicative
INF	infinitive
INSTR	instrumental
INTEROG	interrogative
INV	inverse
LK	linker
LOC	locative
MASC	masculine gender
NCL	noun class prefix
NE	prenominal particle (Mohawk)
NEG	negative
NEUT	neuter gender
NOM	nominative case
NOML	nominalizer
NSF	noun suffix

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PART	partitive
PASS	passive
PAST	past
PERF	perfect or perfective
PL, PLUR	plural
POSS	possessive
PRED	predicative functional head
PRES	present
PRT	particle
PUNC	punctual
REAL	realis
RED	reduplication
REL	relative marker
SE	reflexive clitic (Italian)
SG	singular
STAT	stative aspect
SUBJN	subjunctive mood
TNS	tense
TOP	topic
TRAN	transitive
TRANS	translocative
VALID	validator (Quechua)
VBZR	verbalizer
VEG	vegetable gender (Jingulu)

The following are abbreviations of linguistic terms: names of principles, grammatical categories, theoretical frameworks, and the like:

Ag	agent theta-role
AP	adjective phrase
Arb	arbitrary interpretation
C	complementizer
CSR	canonical structural realization
D, Det	determiner
ECP	empty category principle
Go	goal theta-role
HMC	head movement constraint
LFG	lexical-functional grammar
LVC	light verb construction

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NLC	noun licensing condition
NP	noun phrase
P&P	principles and parameters theory
PHMG	proper head movement generalization
PP	prepositional or postpositional phrase
RPC	reference-predication constraint
SM	subject-matter theta-role
Spec, XP	specifier of XP
SVC	serial verb construction
T	tense
Th	theme theta-role
UTAH	uniformity of theta-assignment hypothesis
VP	verb phrase

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