Complex Predicates

Complex predicates are multi-predicational, but monoclusal structures. They have proven problematic for linguistic theory, particularly for proposed distinctions between the lexicon, morphology, and syntax. This volume focuses on the mapping from morphosyntactic structures to event structure, and in particular, the constraints on possible mappings. The volume showcases the ‘coverb construction’, a complex predicate construction which, though widespread, has received little attention in the literature. The coverb construction contrasts with more familiar serial verb constructions. The coverb construction generally maps only to event structures such as those of monomorphemic verbs, whereas serial verb constructions map to a range of event structures differing from those of monomorphemic verbs. The volume coverage is truly cross-linguistic, including languages from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, East Africa and North America. The volume establishes a new arena of research in event structure, syntax, and cross-linguistic typology.

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Complex Predicates
Cross-linguistic Perspectives on Event Structure

Edited by

MENGISTU AMBERBER, BRETT BAKER,
AND MARK HARVEY
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Preface

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