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978-1-107-00712-3 - The Aesthetics of Grammar: Sound and Meaning in the Languages of Mainland Southeast Asia

Edited by Jeffrey P. Williams

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The Aesthetics of Grammar

The languages of Mainland Southeast Asia evidence an impressive array of elaborate grammatical resources, such as echo words, phonaesthetic words, chameleon affixes, chiming derivatives, onomatopoeic forms, ideophones, and expressives. Speakers of these languages fashion grammatical works of art in order to express and convey emotions, senses, conditions, and perceptions that enrich discourse.

This book provides a detailed comparative overview of the mechanisms by which aesthetic qualities of speech operate as part of speakers' grammatical knowledge. Each chapter focuses on a different language and explores the grammatical information of a number of well- and lesser-known languages from Mainland Southeast Asia. The book will be of great interest to syntacticians, morphologists, linguistic anthropologists, language typologists, cognitive scientists interested in language, and instructors of Southeast Asian languages.

JEFFREY P. WILLIAMS is Professor of Anthropology and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas Tech University.

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Abbreviations and conventions

AFF	affirmative
ALL	allative
ANAPH	anaphora
ANT	anterior
APP	applicative
AUG	augmentative
AUGVCL	augmentative verbal classifier
AUX	auxiliary
BEN	benefactive
CAUS	causative
CHIME	chiming constituent
CLF	classifier
COM	comitative
COMP	complementizer
COMPL	completive aspect
CONT	continuous aspect
COP	copula
CRS	constative modality, current relevant state
CS	conjunctive suffix
DAT	dative
DEIC	deictic
DEM	demonstrative
DIM	diminutive
DIMVCL	diminutive verbal classifier
DM	discourse marker
DSW	decorative ‘servant word’ (<i>bo’ri’va:sap</i> KHMER)
ECHO	echoant
ELAB	elaboration
EMOT	emotive
EMPH	emphatic
EVID	evidential
EXP	expressive

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FGD	foregrounder
GEN	genitive
IDEO	ideophone
IMPFV	imperfective
INCEPT	inceptive
INDIC	indicative
INJ	injunction
INST	instrumental
INT	word-specific intensifier
INTERJ	interjection
INTERR	interrogative
INTNS	intensifier
IRR	irrealis
ITER	iterative aspect
LOC	locative
M	masculine
NEG	negative
NMLZ	nominalizer
OBJ	object
PFV	perfective
PL	plural
POL	politeness
POT	potential
PRF	perfect
PRS	present
PRT	particle
PST	past
PUNC	punctative
PURP	purposive
Q	question
QUOT	quotative
REAL	realis
RESP	respectful
S	source of the action (ablative or nominative)
SBJ	subject
SG	singular
SEQ	sequential
sfx	suffix
SUB	subordinator
SUPR	surprise
TOP	topic

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List of abbreviations and conventions xv

VOC	vocative
VCBL	vocable
1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
♂	male speaker
♀	female speaker
(.)	brief pause