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THE UNIVERSAL STRUCTURE OF CATEGORIES

Using data from a variety of languages such as Blackfoot, Halkomelem, and Upper Austrian German, this book explores a range of grammatical categories and constructions, including tense, aspect, subjunctive, case, and demonstratives.

It presents a new theory of grammatical categories – the Universal Spine Hypothesis – and reinforces generative notions of Universal Grammar while accommodating insights from linguistic typology. In essence, this new theory shows that language-specific categories are built from a small set of universal categories and language-specific units of language.

Throughout the book the Universal Spine Hypothesis is compared to two alternative theories – the Universal Base Hypothesis and the No Base Hypothesis. This valuable addition to the field will be welcomed by graduate students and researchers in linguistics.

MARTINA WILTSCHKO is a Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University of British Columbia.

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TOWARDS A FORMAL TYPOLOGY

MARTINA WILTSCHKO

University of British Columbia, Vancouver

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107038516

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First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Wiltschko, Martina.
The universal structure of categories : towards a formal typology / Martina Wiltschko.
pages cm – (Cambridge studies in linguistics ; 142)
ISBN 978-1-107-03851-6 (Hardback)
1. Categorial grammar. 2. Structural linguistics. 3. Language, Universal. I. Title.
P161.W58 2014
415–dc23 2014011843

ISBN 978-1-107-03851-6 Hardback

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Dedicated to my elders
Gertrude, Thea
Yámelot, Th'áth'elexwot
and Tootsinaam

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Martina Wiltschko
Frontmatter
More information

Contents

List of figures *page* xi
List of tables xii
Acknowledgements xiv
A note on the core languages of investigation xvi
List of abbreviations xvii

1 The universal structure of categories **1**
1.1 What is a category and how do we find one? 1
1.2 The Universal Base Hypothesis 10
1.3 The No Base Hypothesis and its problems 19
1.4 The Universal Spine Hypothesis 23
1.5 Methodological implications 29
1.6 Overview 36

2 A history of ideas behind the spine **39**
2.1 Structure 39
2.2 Labels in the structure: functional categories 52
2.3 The areas of the spine and their functions 62
2.4 When do the units of language associate with the spine 79

3 The universal spine as a heuristic for the identification of grammatical categories **84**
3.1 Units of language associate with the spine 84
3.2 The logic of Associate 86
3.3 Categorizing the Units of Language 89
3.4 Identifying grammatical categories 95

4 Anchoring categories in independent clauses **98**
4.1 Tense as an anchoring category 98
4.2 The Universal Base Hypothesis 100
4.3 The No Base Hypothesis 114
4.4 The Universal Spine Hypothesis 118
4.5 The universal structure of the anchoring category 139

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-03851-6 - The Universal Structure of Categories: Towards a Formal Typology
Martina Wiltschko
Frontmatter
More information

5 Anchoring categories in dependent clauses 145
5.1 Introduction 145
5.2 The Universal Base Hypothesis 147
5.3 The No Base Hypothesis 153
5.4 The Universal Spine Hypothesis 156
5.5 Towards a formal typology of subjunctives 183

6 Nominal anchoring categories 188
6.1 Introduction 188
6.2 The Universal Base Hypothesis 189
6.3 The No Base Hypothesis 202
6.4 The Universal Spine Hypothesis 207
6.5 The essence of nominal anchoring 246

7 Categories that introduce a point of view 249
7.1 Introduction 249
7.2 The Universal Base Hypothesis 254
7.3 The No Base Hypothesis 268
7.4 The Universal Spine Hypothesis 270
7.5 Towards a typology of viewpoint aspect 295

8 Towards a formal typology 299
8.1 Introduction 299
8.2 Linguistic typology and formal grammar 300
8.3 Why do we need a formal typology of categorization? 303
8.4 Classic criteria for formal classification and their problems 305
8.5 Formal classification criteria based on the Universal Spine Hypothesis 309
8.6 Conclusions and open questions 316
8.7 The Universal Spine Hypothesis as a research agenda 325

References 327
Index 352

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978-1-107-03851-6 - The Universal Structure of Categories: Towards a Formal Typology
Martina Wiltschko
Frontmatter
More information

Figures

Figure 1.1	Multifunctionality as homophony	*page* 4
Figure 1.2	Categorial identity mediates the relation between a UoL and its interpretation	6
Figure 1.3	Categorial identity mediates between form and interpretation	9
Figure 1.4	Direct mapping between a UoL and interpretation	10
Figure 1.5	κ mediates the relation between a UoL and its interpretation	27
Figure 1.6	The universal structure of categories	30
Figure 1.7	Universal categories as prototypes	34
Figure 1.8	Substance-based comparisons	35
Figure 1.9	Comparison based on κ	35
Figure 2.1	The base and the transformational component	80
Figure 2.2	Separating the lexicon from the syntactic component	80
Figure 2.3	Lexicalism	81
Figure 2.4	Weak lexicalism (split morphology)	82
Figure 2.5	Distributed morphology	83
Figure 3.1	Comparison based on κ	85
Figure 4.1	Blackfoot verbal template	119
Figure 4.2	Blackfoot clause-types	119
Figure 4.3	Halkomelem clause-types	128
Figure 5.1	Blackfoot clause-types	175
Figure 7.1	Blackfoot verbal template	261
Figure 7.2	Blackfoot verbal template	285
Figure 8.1	The universal structure of categories and their language-specific instantiations	310
Figure 8.2	Valuation typology for κ	312
Figure 8.3	Typology of association relations	313
Figure 8.4	κ mediates between UoL and its interpretation	324
Figure 8.5	Syntax mediates between form and interpretation	325

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Martina Wiltschko
Frontmatter
More information

Tables

Table 1.1	A paradigmatic contrast	*page* 7
Table 1.2	An interpretive contrast	7
Table 1.3	Two ways of being unmarked	8
Table 2.1	Patterns of nominalization	77
Table 3.1	Two ways of being unmarked	89
Table 3.2	Surface effects of κ-contrast	90
Table 4.1	Standard German present and past	107
Table 4.2	Upper Austrian German present; past forms not attested	107
Table 4.3	Correlation between order and person prefixes	121
Table 4.4	Order paradigms	124
Table 4.5	Distribution of auxiliaries across clause-types	128
Table 4.6	Subjunctive marking in Upper Austrian German weak verbs	131
Table 4.7	Subjunctive marking in Upper Austrian German strong verbs	132
Table 4.8	Subjunctive marking in Standard German weak verbs	132
Table 4.9	Subjunctive marking in Standard German strong verbs	133
Table 4.10	Distribution of independent subjunctives	138
Table 5.1	Halkomelem agreement paradigm	169
Table 5.2	Blackfoot subjunctive marking	173
Table 5.3	Clause-type paradigms	175
Table 5.4	Distribution of independent subjunctives	179
Table 5.5	Formal and distributional properties of subjunctives	184
Table 5.6	A typology for UoLs used to construct subjunctives	186
Table 6.1	The Squamish demonstrative system	193
Table 6.2	The Blackfoot demonstrative system	193
Table 6.3	Derived Blackfoot demonstratives	194
Table 6.4	Morphological case is not a homogeneous category	197
Table 6.5	German personal pronouns	210

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978-1-107-03851-6 - The Universal Structure of Categories: Towards a Formal Typology
Martina Wiltschko
Frontmatter
More information

Table 6.6	Reflexives and 1st person across languages	213
Table 6.7	French pronouns	215
Table 6.8	Blackfoot pronoun paradigm	215
Table 6.9	Blackfoot possessor constructions	216
Table 6.10	English reflexive pronouns	217
Table 6.11	Halkomelem pronoun paradigm	217
Table 6.12	The Squamish deictic determiner paradigm	219
Table 6.13	English and Squamish determiners	224
Table 6.14	Squamish demonstratives	227
Table 6.15	Differences between determiners and demonstratives	228
Table 6.16	Halkomelem determiner paradigm	237
Table 6.17	German demonstratives inflect for case	238
Table 6.18	The nominative/accusative determiner paradigm of Standard German	239
Table 6.19	Classical Armenian: NOM/ACC syncretism	243
Table 6.20	Lak: ERG/GEN syncretism	243
Table 7.1	Morphological markedness in aspectual contrasts	258
Table 7.2	Control marking without a contrast in control	267
Table 7.3	The paradigm of direct inverse marking in matrix clauses	283
Table 8.1	Formal grammar vs. linguistic typology	301
Table 8.2	Morphological typology	308
Table 8.3	Interaction between valuation strategies and timing of association	315

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Martina Wiltschko
Frontmatter
More information

Acknowledgements

First and foremost I wish to thank the speakers of the main languages that I discuss here. They provided the data as well as their expertise, their comments, and insight into their fascinating languages. For Upriver Halkomelem, this was the late Rosaleen George (*Yámelot*) and the late Dr. Elizabeth Herrling (*Th'áth'elexwot*). I wish I could tell them how much they taught me. For Blackfoot, this is Beatrice Bullshields (*Tootsinaam*). She opened up yet another world for me, the prairie world of Blackfoot. One day we will have a conversation in Blackfoot. I do hope that the way I have come to analyse the data is true to these speakers' insights.

The theoretical ideas that I develop here did not emerge in isolation. Many people have shaped my thinking: my mentors, my collaborators, and my students.

My mentors from the days when I was only working on German (Martin Prinzhorn, Edwin Williams, and Wolfgang U. Dressler) have shaped the ways I identify and approach problems. And the mentors I have found at the University of Bitish Columbia have helped me to find my way into the Salishanist and the Algonquianist world (the late M. D. Kinkade, Henry Davis, Lisa Matthewson, and Rose-Marie Déchaine).

I feel very fortunate to have ongoing collaborative relations with two linguists I admire immensly: Rose-Marie Déchaine and Betsy Ritter. Their ways of thinking about language have shifted mine many times in important ways. This book would look much different if I hadn't had the opportunity to work with them so closely. I am grateful for their intellectual generosity as well as their friendship.

I also have benefitted greatly from the annual meetings with some of my friends and colleagues across Canada: Jila Ghomeshi, Diane Massam, Éric Mathieu, and Ileana Paul.

My students were essential in the way my thinking about categories has evolved: Solveiga Armoskaite, Heather Bliss, Christiana Christodoulou, Atsushi Fujimori, Peter Jacobs, Olga Steriopolo, Sonja Thoma, and James

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Thompson. While I hope I have taught them a thing or two, I know that they have taught me much more than they would ever imagine. Much of their work is reported here.

Special thanks are due to Heather Bliss, Erin Guntley, and the brave first-year undergraduate student Eric Laylock for taking the time to proofread the manuscript, catching typos, errors, inconsistencies, and lots of superfluous hyphens.

I also wish to thank the anonymous reviewer for constructive feedback.

Finally, I am most grateful to my family. Konrad who thought it was cool that I worked on my book manuscript during our vacation in Guatemala. I do hope he will find his passion. And Strang-Dr.-Dexterous-Burton, linguist, thinker, radical skeptic, inventor of the "kobe-beef-approach to writing," and strict enforcer of the "you-have-to-write-every-day-at-least-for-15-minutes-rule." I would not think the way I do, let alone have written a book without him. *Thank you, eh!*

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More information

A note on the core languages of investigation

There are four main languages I investigate here: Blackfoot, Halkomelem, Squamish, and Upper Austrian German. If not otherwise indicated, the data from these languages come from my own fieldwork. All data are presented in the practical orthography of each language. The key to the Blackfoot orthography can be found in Frantz (1991); the key to the Halkomelem orthography can be found in Galloway (1993).

The particular choice of these languages is based on my expertise: Blackfoot and Halkomelem are the two languages I have conducted extensive fieldwork on. Blackfoot is a Plains Algonquian language, consisting of four mutually intelligible dialects, spoken on three reserves in southern Alberta and one reservation in northwestern Montana. In Alberta, the three dialects are Siksiká (aka Blackfoot), Kainää (aka Blood), and Piikani (aka Peigan), and in Montana, the dialect is Blackfeet. Data from my own fieldwork stems from the Kainää dialect. I wish to thank Heather Bliss for help with fieldwork, data glossing, formatting, and proofreading the data.

Halkomelem is a Central Coast Salish language, consisting of three mutually intelligible dialects: Halq'eméylem (aka Upriver Halkomelem), Hən̓q̓əmin̓əm (aka Downriver Halkomelem), and Hulq'umín'um' (aka Island Halkomelem). It is spoken in the lower mainland of British Columbia and on Vancouver Island. Data from my own fieldwork stem from the Upriver dialect. I wish to thank Strang Burton for proofreading the data.

As for Squamish (Sk̲wx̲wu7mesh), another Central Coast Salish language, I was fortunate enough to supervise Peter Jacobs' (2011) UBC dissertation on control in Squamish. Most data on Squamish come from his fieldwork.

And finally Upper Austrian German is my native language. It is spoken in the province of Upper Austria (Oberösterreich). The judgments reported here are my own; they have been confirmed with four other speakers of the same dialect.

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Abbreviations

1	1st person
2	2nd person
3	3rd person
4	4th (obviative) person
acc	accusative
accom	accompany
adhort	adhortative
agr	agreement
ai	animate intransitive
Asp	Aspect
AspP	AspectPhrase
assert	assertion
aux	auxiliary
caus	causative
cl	clitic
clas	classifier
cnj	conjunction
cn	common noun connective
coin	coincidence
comp	complementizer
conj	conjunct
D	determiner
dat	dative
deic	deictic
dem	demonstrative
deon	deontic
dep	dependent tense
det	determiner
dir	direct
dist	distal
DP	determiner phrase

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ds	different subject
ECM	Exceptional Case Marking
emph	emphatic
EPP	Extended Projection Principle
erg	ergative
Ev	event
Eval	evaluation world
evid	evidential
excl	exclusive
exis	assertion of existence
fe	final event
fem	feminine
FOC	focus
fut	future
gen	genitive
hab	habitual
horiz	horizontal
ic	initial change
Ident	identity
ie	initial event
ii	inanimate intransitive
imp	imperative
impf	imperfective
imprs	impersonal
inan	inanimate
inch	inchoative
incl	inclusive
ind	indicative
inf	infinitive
int	intensifier
inv	inverse
irr	irrealis
lc	limited control
LCA	Linear Correspondence Axiom
LF	logical form
link	linker
loc	local person
locv	locative
masc	masculine

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mid	middle
NBH	No Base Hypothesis
neg	negative
neut	neuter
nmlz	nominalizer
nm.term	nominal terminative
nom	nominative
nonaff	non-affirmative
nonfact	non-factive
nonloc	non-local person
NP	noun phrase
nv	non-visible
obj	object
obl	oblique
obv	obviative
om	object marker
part	participle
pass	passive
perc	perceived
perf	perfective
PF	phonological form
pl	plural
pnp	perfective non past
poss	possessive
PoV	point of view
prep	preposition
pres	present
prn	pronoun
prosp	prospective aspect
prox	proximate
prt	particle
prtv	partitive
pst	past
q	question
redup	reduplicant
refl	reflexive
rep	reportative
rl	realis
s	subject

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sg	singular
SpecDP	specifier of Determiner phrase
SpecIP	specifier of IP
SpecKP	specifier of Kase phrase
ss	same subject
subj	subjunctive
ta	transitive animate
TAM	tense aspect mood
ti	transitive inanimate
top	topic
TP	tense phrase
tr	transitive
UBH	Universal Base Hypothesis
UG	Universal Grammar
unr	unreal
UoL	Unit of Language
USH	Universal Spine Hypothesis
Utt	utterance
VP	verb phrase
WALS	*World Atlas of Language Structures*

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