CONTENTS

List of Figures  page ix
List of Maps  xi
List of Tables  xii
Preface  xix
Acknowledgements  xxii
Note on the Nature and Organization of the Book  xxiv
List of Abbreviations  xxiv

1 Context  1
1.1 The Mainland Southeast Asia Region  1
1.2 Mainland Southeast Asian Languages  3
1.3 Nomenclature, System Ontology, and Language Data Selection  4
1.4 History of MSEA  10
  1.4.1 Prehistory  10
  1.4.2 Hoabinhian Neolithic Tradition  12
  1.4.3 Earliest Agriculture  13
  1.4.4 Bronze and Iron Age States  15
  1.4.5 Summary: Fall of First Millennium States, Rise of Second
    Millennium States  24
  1.4.6 Away from States: Zomia  26
  1.4.7 Dynamics of Ethnolinguistic Diversity in MSEA  28
1.5 On Modern Dominant Languages  32
1.6 Resources and Developments in MSEA Linguistics  35
  1.6.1 Conferences and Publications  35
  1.6.2 New Descriptive Work  36
  1.6.3 New Methods  37

2 Language Histories and Classifications  38
  2.1 Current Developments  40
    2.1.1 Unprecedented Access to Linguistic Data  40
vi  Contents

2.1.2 Unprecedented Access to Other Sources of Relevant Information 40
2.1.3 New Methods of Historical Linguistic Analysis 43

2.2 Austroasiatic 43
  2.2.1 Austroasiatic Subgrouping 46
  2.2.2 Munda Languages 47
  2.2.3 Non-Munda (‘Mon-Khmer’) Subgrouping 49

2.3 Tai-Kadai 51
  2.3.1 Subgrouping of Tai-Kadai Languages 53
  2.3.2 The Tai Branch 59

2.4 The Chamic and Moklenic Branches of Austronesian 66
  2.4.1 Chamic 69
  2.4.2 Moklenic 70
  2.4.3 Structural Change in Chamic and Moklenic 71

2.5 Hmong-Mien 72
  2.5.1 Comparative-Historical Hmong-Mien 73
  2.5.2 Hmongic versus Mienic 74

2.6 Sino-Tibetan 79
  2.6.1 Sinitic 81
  2.6.2 Tibeto-Burman Subgroupings 85
  2.6.3 Affixes in Historical Tibeto-Burman 89

2.7 Proposed Connections among the Families 92

2.8 Problems and Challenges for Comparative-Historical Research 94

2.9 Signed Languages 96
  2.9.1 Home Sign Systems 97
  2.9.2 Village Sign Systems 97
  2.9.3 Alternate Sign Languages 99
  2.9.4 National-Level Sign Languages 100
  2.9.5 Prospects 105

2.10 Classical Languages 106

2.11 Scripts and Writing Systems 107

3 Typological Overview 118

3.1 Preliminaries 118
3.2 Typological Overview 122
3.3 Morphological Profile 123
3.4 Syntax 128

3.5 Basic Phrasal Constituent Order Patterns 129
  3.5.1 Relative Position of Verb and Object 131
  3.5.2 Relative Position of Modifier and Head in Noun Phrases 132
  3.5.3 Relative Position of Noun and Relative Clause 135
# Contents

3.5.4 Relative Position of Possessor and Possessed  137
3.5.5 Relative Position of Adposition and Noun  138
3.5.6 Relative Position of Adjective and Standard of Comparison  139
3.6 Sentence-Type Distinctions  141
3.7 Sentence-Final Particles  144
3.8 Expressive Language  146
   3.8.1 Ideophones/Expressives  146
   3.8.2 Poetic Idioms (Four-Syllable Expressions)  151

4 Phonological Systems  154
   4.1 Consonants  154
   4.2 Vowels  161
   4.3 Phonotactics  166
   4.4 Register  168
   4.5 Tone  174
   4.6 Tonogenesis  183
   4.7 Tone Sandhi  195
   4.8 Intonation  203
   4.9 Prosodic Hierarchy and Phonological Words  204

5 Word Formation  209
   5.1 Form Classes  210
      5.1.1 Noun–Verb Distinction Is Usually Clear  210
      5.1.2 ‘Adjectives’ Are Verbs, or Are Verb-Like  211
      5.1.3 ‘Adpositions’ Are Often Nouns or Verbs  214
      5.1.4 Verbs Can Act as ‘Adverbs’ without Derivation  216
   5.2 Compounding  216
   5.3 Psycho-collocations  222
   5.4 Reduplication  227
   5.5 Affixation  242
      5.5.1 Existential/Locative Marking and Impersonal Predicate  243
      5.5.2 Lexical Category Derivation  243
      5.5.3 Reciprocal/Collective Marking  246
      5.5.4 Causative  247
      5.5.5 Further Morphological Derivations  250
   5.6 Tone in Word Formation  252
      5.6.1 Tone Sandhi in Compound Formation  252
      5.6.2 Regular Grammatical Distinctions  253
      5.6.3 Forming Ideophones  255
## Table of Contents

### 6 Reference and Nominal Syntax

6.1 Nominal Modification 259
   - 6.1.1 Simple Head-Modifier Relations 259
   - 6.1.2 Relative Clause Constructions 266
   - 6.1.3 Possessive and Part–Whole Constructions 277

6.2 Nominal Classification 282
   - 6.2.1 Numeral Classifier Constructions 283
   - 6.2.2 Class Terms 300

6.3 Personal Pronoun Systems 308

6.4 Demonstrative Systems 318
   - 6.4.1 Two-Term Systems 318
   - 6.4.2 Three-Term Systems 321
   - 6.4.3 Four-Term Systems 322
   - 6.4.4 Five-Term Systems 323
   - 6.4.5 Larger Systems 324
   - 6.4.6 Comment on Demonstrative Systems 325

### 7 Predication and Clausal Syntax

7.1 Marking Syntactic Functions 326

7.2 Verbal Marking 332
   - 7.2.1 Negation 332
   - 7.2.2 Aspect and Related Marking 335
   - 7.2.3 Modality and Related Marking 340

7.3 Multi-verb Constructions 342
   - 7.3.1 Possible Number of Verbs in Series 345
   - 7.3.2 Events Occurring in Series 346
   - 7.3.3 Events or Event-Facets Occurring as Elements of a Single Event 354
   - 7.3.4 Complementation Strategies 362

7.4 Valency-Changing Strategies 368
   - 7.4.1 Participant-Adding: Syntactic Causatives and Related Constructions 368
   - 7.4.2 Single Participant in a Transitive Event: Reflexives and Related Constructions 375
   - 7.4.3 Two-Way or Distributed Action: Reciprocals and Related Constructions 384

---

Postface 393
References 396
Author Index 429
Language Index 431
Subject Index 435