Morphological Diversity and Linguistic Cognition

Morphological structures interact dynamically with lexical processing and storage, with the parameters of morphological typology being partly dependent on cognitive pathways for processing, storage, and generalization of word structure, and vice versa. Bringing together a team of well-known scholars, this book examines the relationship between linguistic cognition and the morphological diversity found in the world's languages. It includes research from across linguistic and cognitive science subdisciplines that looks at the nature of typological diversity and its relationship to cognition, touching on concepts such as complexity, interconnectedness within systems, and emergent organization. Chapters employ experimental, computational, corpus-based, and theoretical methods to examine specific morphological phenomena, and an overview chapter provides a synthesis of major research trends, contextualizing work from different methodological and philosophical perspectives. Offering a novel perspective on how cognition contributes to our understanding of word structure, it is essential reading for psycholinguists, theoreticians, typologists, computational modelers, and cognitive scientists.

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Preface

The idea for this volume began with a workshop, *Morphological Typology and Linguistic Cognition*, that we organized in July 2017 in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America's Linguistic Institute at the University of Kentucky. The workshop featured sixteen oral presentations and eight poster presentations by scholars representing twenty-five universities in nine countries. A select group of presenters was invited to submit chapters for this volume, based on thematic connections among their presentations. In most cases the chapters in the present volume reflect further developments in the authors' research since their presentations at the workshop, and the chapters engage with more recent developments in the field. The authors also discuss their ideas in more depth than was possible at the workshop. The present volume is thus an outgrowth of the workshop more than a proceedings volume.

Several core questions emerged as themes at the workshop, three of which form the organizational structure for the volume:

- 1. In what ways is language processing tuned to the morphological structure of a language?
- 2. What role does cue informativity play in learning and how the lexicon evolves over time?
- 3. How do system-level principles of morphological organization emerge?

The chapters all engage with one or more of these questions in some manner. In broad terms, the central hypothesis of the volume is that morphological structures interact dynamically with lexical processing, storage, and learning. Nine of the ten chapters present original research exploring the nature of this interaction from different perspectives. The remaining chapter, which serves as an introduction, highlights connections among the chapters and gives an overview of historical trends in the field that are reflected in the chapters. By bringing together research by different types of linguists – experimentalists, computational modelers, and formalists – our goal was to encourage discussion across subdisciplinary boundaries, to highlight the current state of research, and to help shape a research agenda that integrates these different methods and approaches.

xvi Preface

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Abbreviations

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
ADJ	adjective
AG	agent
ANIM	animate
APPL	applicative
CAUS	causative
CER	certainty
CL	end of clause particle
CL	noun class
CONJ	conjunct
DESID	desiderative
DIM	diminutive
DU	dual
EV	evidential
EXCL	exclusive
FUT	future
IMP	imperative
INCH	inchoative
INCL	inclusive
INT	intensifier
MOD	modality
N3	non-third-person
NANIM	non-animate
NDIM	non-diminutive
NONSG	non-singular
NINCL	non-inclusive
OBJ	object
PASS	passive
PAT	patient
PL	plural

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xviii	List of Abbreviations
POSS	possessive
POT	potential
PROG	progressive
PROX	proximal
PST	past
PTCP	participle
REV	reversive
SG	singular
SUB	subordination
SBJ	subject
TAM	tense, aspect, mood
TR	transitive
VBLZ	verbalizer