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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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108790949

DOI: 10.1017/9781108807951

First published 2022
First paperback edition 2025

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data
Names: Sims, Andrea D., editor. | Morphological Typology and Linguistic Cognition (Workshop) (2019 : Lexington, Kentucky)
Title: Morphological diversity and linguistic cognition / edited by Andrea D. Sims, University of Arizona [and three others].
Description: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Chapters based on presentations held at the workshop, Morphological Typology and Linguistic Cognition, held in July 2017 at the University of Kentucky. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2021061917 | ISBN 9781108479899 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108807951 (ebook)
Subjects: LCSH: Grammar, Comparative and general – Morphology – Congresses. | Typology (Linguistics) – Congresses. | Cognitive grammar – Congresses. | BISAC: LANGUAGE ARTS & DISCIPLINES / Linguistics / Morphology | LCGFT: Conference papers and proceedings.
Classification: LCC P241 .M5985 2022 | DDC 415/.9–dc23/eng/20220105
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021061917

ISBN 978-1-108-47989-9 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-108-79094-9 Paperback

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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.

We gratefully acknowledge financial support for the workshop from the National Science Foundation (BCS-1623932, PI Andrea Sims and Co-PI Adam Ussishkin), as well as supplemental support from the following units at The Ohio State University: the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, the Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences, and the Center for Slavic and East European Studies. The Center for Slavic and East European Studies' contribution was funded by the Comprehensive National Resource Center Grant from the International and Foreign Language Education division of the U.S. Department of Education. We also thank the 2017 Linguistic Institute organizers, Rusty Barrett and Andrew Hippisley, and all of the Institute staff – especially Ali Salehi – for in-kind and logistical support. The Brigham Young University Faculty Publishing Service provided copy-editing support for the volume.

We would also like to thank a number of colleagues for their efforts in reviewing abstracts submitted for the workshop and/or chapters for this volume: Farrell Ackerman, Mark Aronoff, Outi Bat-El, Sacha Beniamine, Olivier Bonami, Christina Burani, Gabriela Caballero, Greville Corbett, Micha Elsner, Laurie Beth Feldman, Sara Finley, Laura Gonnerman, Stefan Hartman, Volya Kapatsinski, Greg Kobele, Amy LaCross, Ana Luis, Sven Mattys, Frank Mollica, Mikhail Ordnin, Ingo Plag, Kevin Schluter, Scott Seyfarth, Gregory Stump, Tim Thornes, João Veríssimo, Geraldine Walther, and Kie Zuraw.

Most of all, we are beyond grateful to Ekaterina Kolbasova. As a Graduate Research Associate on the NSF grant, she worked incredibly hard to help run the workshop and coordinated and executed most of its logistics. She was absolutely instrumental to the project, handling issues large and small in an efficient, professional, and cheerful manner. Without her dedication, the workshop would not have been nearly as successful as it was. She went above and beyond the call of duty, even learning to drive on the highway. We are also appreciative of her work to create index terms for all of the chapters in the volume, even though the timeline stretched beyond what we expected. Thank you, Katja.

Finally, we thank Helen Barton at Cambridge University Press for her guidance and support (and patience) as we developed this project, Melissa Ward and Isabel Collins for shepherding it through the publication process, and two anonymous reviewers of the full volume for their detailed comments.

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

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