

OPTIMAL LINKING GRAMMAR

Supported by data from linguistic fieldwork conducted in the Faroe Islands and Iceland, this book presents a pioneering approach to syntactic analysis, Optimal Linking Grammar (OLG), which brings together two existing models, Linking Theory and Optimality Theory (OT). The latter, which assumes spoken language to be based on the highest-ranking outcome from a number of competing underlying constraints, has been central mainly to phonology; however, its application to syntax has also gained ground in recent years. Combining the models into OLG not only provides a robust account of case-marking phenomena in Faroese and Icelandic; it also explains a wide range of sentence types, including passives, ditransitives, object shift and word order variation. The book demonstrates how OLG can resolve numerous issues in competing theories of formal syntax and how it might be successfully applied to other languages in future research. It is essential reading for researchers and students in syntax, morphology, sociolinguistics and European languages.

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Optimal Linking Grammar

OPTIMAL LINKING GRAMMAR

A THEORY OF MORPHOSYNTAX

DANIEL GALBRAITH

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For Caroline, Samuel, my parents
and friends
Soli Deo Gloria

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Abbreviations

LANGUAGE ABBREVIATIONS

Dan.	Danish
Dut.	Dutch
Far.	Faroese
Fin.	Finnish
Ger.	German
Guj.	Gujarati
Hix.	Hixkaryana
Ice.	Icelandic
Kaq.	Kaqchikel
Kor.	Korean
Lav.	Lavukaleve
Lit.	Lithuanian
Nah.	Nahuatl
Nep.	Nepali
Swe.	Swedish
Yup.	Central Siberian Yup'ik

GLOSSING ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	absolutive
ACC	accusative
ACT	active
ADESS	adessive
ART	article
COLL	collective number
COMPL	completive aspect

CONT	continuative aspect
DAT	dative
DEF	definite
DISTPST	distant past tense
EMPH	emphatic particle
ERG	ergative
EXPL	expletive
F	feminine
GEN	genitive
IMP	imperative
IND	indicative
INF	infinitive
INS	instrumental
INTERROG	interrogative mood
INTRANS	intransitive
LOC	locative
M	masculine
N	neuter
NOM	nominative
O, OBJ	object
PART	partitive
PASS	passive
PERF, PFV	perfective
PL	plural
PRES	present tense
PRT	particle
PST	past tense
RECPST	recent past tense
REFL	reflexive
S, SUBJ	subject
SG	singular
SUP	supine