Preface

The current project – a complete edition of the grammatical and lexical data of the database DiACL (Diachronic Atlas of Comparative Linguistics), in the form of an atlas – was launched in 2013, during a conversation with Birgit Sievert at Mouton DeGruyter during the conference ICLC 12 in Edmonton, Canada. Since then, numerous people have been involved in the compilation, contribution, checking, analyzing, and visualization of the data. Several people have contributed by solutions, ideas, conclusions, methods, models, and proposals for research questions and hypotheses. Several people ought to be mentioned here.

First, I would like to thank my family for their endurance and support: my husband Tomas, my son Herman, my parents and in particular my father Hans, who unfortunately passed away during the phase of completing the manuscript. During the process, we have had many fruitful discussions on the content of this book.

Further, I wish to thank, above all, Sandra Cronhamn, Astrid Zimmermann, Elnur Aliyev, Karina Vamling, Niklas Johansson, and Rob Farren, who worked very hard, day and night, weekends and holidays, in the final phase before the initial submission of the manuscript.

For the resubmissions of the manuscript, I wish to thank Chundra Cathcart, Harald Hammarström, Astrid Zimmermann, Johan Frid, Sandra Cronhamn, Olof Lundgren, Ante Petrović and Victor Bogren Svensson, whose efforts enabled an extension of the content to meet the demands of the reviewers.

I wish to acknowledge the anonymous reviewers for their suggestions.

I also wish to thank all of the caucasologists who have contributed with their knowledge and data; in particular Merab Chukhua, who shared his etymological material with us, but also Acherdan Abregov, Teimuraz Gvatseladze, Lelía Avidzba, Madzhid Khalilov, Tamar Lomadze, Revaz Tchantouria, Maka Tetradze, and Larisa Tuptsokova.

I wish to thank the contributors that have been working with compiling, contributing and checking of data in various phases of the project: Anne Goergens, Josien Greidanus, Filip Larsson, Kajsa Söderqvist, and Anastasia Karlsson. I thank Ola Wikander for his valuable contribution with ancient Semitic languages, Arthur Holmer for sharing his knowledge on a number of languages, including the tricky Basque language, and Marit Julien for helping us with North Saami.

I thank Erich Round, Chundra Cathcart, Harald Hammarström, and Johan Frid for crucial input on methods and models and contributions with statistical and evolutionary analyses.

I am also grateful to everyone involved in solving technical issues connected to programming and statistics: first of all Rob Verhoeven, our main programmer and database designer, as well as Johan Åhlfeldt, Edin Kukovic, Johan Dahl, people at Lund University GIS Centre, in particular Karin Larsson, people at the Library of the Centre for Languages and Literature, in particular Ann-Sofi Gren, and Johan Frid and Mikael Novén at the Department of Linguistics, Lund University.

I wish to acknowledge Václav Blažek for sharing with us his manuscript drafts with valuable data.

I thank Briana Van Epps for proofreading the English text.

We decided in an early phase of the production of this book to postpone the South American data, which was very important in the initial phase of our project. However, I want to acknowledge our South American colleagues for ideas and inspiration when it comes to model and method, including Chris Sinha, Vera da Silva Sinha, Ana Suely Arruda Cámara Cabral, Alf Hornborg, and Love Eriksen.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my former supervisors, Folke Josephson and in particular Georges-Jean Pinault, who has contributed with a number of ideas and solutions in the manuscript.

That said, I want to emphasize that the responsibility for any mistake, be it a misspelling, a misinterpreted etymology, or incorrect geographical information, remains entirely my own. Further, any theoretical proposals and suggestions for evaluations are entirely on my account.

Lund, July 11, 2019, Gerd Carling

https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110367416-202