

Band 53 · 2000 · Heft 2

STUF

# Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung

*Language Typology  
and Universals*

**Colloquium Linguisticum, Bremen**

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Manuskripte sind zu richten an die Redaktion der Zeitschrift: Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung, Redaktion, Universität Bremen, Fachbereich 10, Postfach 33 04 40, D-28334 Bremen, e-mail: skettler@uni-bremen.de

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## **Zeitschrift „Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung“**

Herausgeber: TH. STOLZ.

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Verlag: Akademie Verlag GmbH, Palisadenstraße 40, D-10243 Berlin; Telefon: (0 30) 42 20 06 40, Telefax: (030) 42 20 06 57; <http://stuf.akademie-verlag.de>; Bank: Bayerische Vereinsbank AG, München, Kto.-Nr.: 50 841 812, BLZ 700 202 70; Deutsche Bank AG, München, Kto.-Nr.: 2 250 710, BLZ 700 700 10.

Geschäftsführer: Dr. Gerd Giesler, Johannes Oldenbourg.

Anzeigenannahme: Ulrike Staudinger, R. Oldenbourg Verlag, Telefon (089) 45 05 12 11, Telefax: (089) 45 05 12 66. Satz: deutsch-türkischer fotosatz, Berlin.

Druck und buchbinderische Weiterverarbeitung: GAM MEDIA GmbH, Berlin.

Erscheinungsweise: Die Zeitschrift erscheint jährlich in einem Band mit 4 Hefen. Jahresbezugspreis 2000 Inland DM 412,-; Ausland DM 428,-; Studenten: Inland DM 102,-; Ausland DM 110,-. Preis für Mitglieder von Fachgesellschaften DM 148,- jeweils zuzüglich Versandkosten. Einzelheft DM 119,- zuzüglich Versandkosten.

Das Abonnement verlängert sich jeweils um ein weiteres Jahr, falls es nicht 8 Wochen vor Ablauf eines Kalenderjahres gekündigt wird.

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Gedruckt auf alterungsbeständigem Papier.

Der Akademie Verlag ist ein Unternehmen der R. Oldenbourg-Gruppe.

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## Preface

In the summer semester 1999 and in the winter semester 1999/2000 two series of lectures (“Areallinguistik; Arealtypologie/Areal Linguistics; Areal Typology”; “Prädikation/Predication”) were held within the framework of the Colloquium Linguisticum Bremen at the university of Bremen. The lectures of NORBERT BORETZKY and MARIA EUGENIA VAZQUEZ-LASLOP were given in the series Areal Linguistics/Areal Typology. The articles of J. BATEMAN and B. WÄLCHLI are scripts of the lectures given in the winter semester 1999/2000 as part of the series Predication.

In the article “Multilinguality and multifunctionality in linguistic description – and some possible applications” J. BATEMAN is pursuing the more general methodological question, as to what extent the independently evolved traditions of contrastive language description and language typology, which both examine the varieties as well as the similarities of languages, could profit from each other. He describes in particular the approaches of multilingual natural language generation, which were developed within the computational linguistics.

N. BORETZKY examines in his contribution “Natural Morphology and the development of the Slavic present paradigm” the changes, that the present paradigm has undergone in the Slavic languages. He parts from the Old Bulgarian paradigm, for lack of other sources, as representative of a supposed common Slavic language and states that neighboring Slavic languages are more similar to one another than languages spoken at distance and that the degree of innovation increases from northeast to southwest but decreases towards southeast. He gives explanations for the processes within the individual languages by referring to markedness considerations (GREENBERG) as well as to principles of Naturalness (MAYERTHALER). Regarding the areal point of view of the changes he brings to bear in the first instance the contact argument, furthermore sociolinguistic considerations (influence of the sacral and literary languages) and the actualness argument.

M. VAZQUEZ-LASLOP tries to explain in her contribution “Deontic meaning and subject selection: a common problem of modal auxiliaries and control verbs” the selection of the subject in sentences with deontic verbs, i.e. verbs which signify some kind of social commitment. She suggests to include the pragmatic and the semantic-syntactic dimension in a schema. Within this schema the manifestations of speech-event participants and narrated-event participants could make the discursive strategies of the speaker more comprehensible.

In the article “Infinite predication as a marker of evidentiality and modality in the languages of the Baltic region” B. WÄLCHLI discusses two moods or mood-like constructions: The evidential in Estonian, Livonian, Latvian and Lithuanian and the debitive expressing modality in Latvian and Livonian. B. WÄLCHLI asks the question to what extent the two moods, which occur in neighboring but not genetically related languages, represent parallel grammaticalizations. There is some evidence from Latvian that the evidential could have

spread from Estonian and Livonian. Furthermore, the debitive in Latvian and Livonian is a clear case of partial parallel grammaticalization, since there is a clear diachronic evidence and some structural and functional isomorphism.

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