

THE LANGUAGE LOTTERY

TOWARD A BIOLOGY OF GRAMMARS

DAVID LIGHTFOOT

AN HIT PRESS CLASSIC

The Language Lottery Toward A Biology Of Grammars

Ans van Kemenade, Bettelou Los



The Language Lottery Toward A Biology Of Grammars:

The Language Lottery David Lightfoot, 1982-01-01 At last A lucid but not superficial book that explains what linguistics is about as well as how linguists go about their business Reference Grammars and Modern Linguistic Theory Gottfried Graustein, Gerhard Leitner, 2011-11-21 Over the past few decades the book series Linguistische Arbeiten Linguistic Studies comprising over 500 volumes has made a significant contribution to the development of linguistic theory both in Germany and internationally The series will continue to deliver new impulses for research and maintain the central insight of linguistics that progress can only be made in acquiring new knowledge about human languages both synchronically and diachronically by closely combining empirical and theoretical analyses To this end we invite submission of high quality linguistic studies from all the central areas of general linguistics and the linguistics of individual languages which address topical questions discuss new data and advance the development of linguistic theory *The Foundations of Linguistic Theory (RLE Linguistics B: Grammar)* Nigel Love, 2014-02-03 For Roy Harris the fundamental problem about linguistics is that it has been led astray by the fact that we are capable intellectually of decontextualising our own verbal behaviour A whole interlocking system of doctrines about forms meanings and communication has arisen designed to support the idea that one particular kind of decontextualising analysis is a prerequisite for rather than a retrospective reflection on that behaviour Against this in 13 essays collected here for the first time Harris argues for a fresh start which recognises that we create language as we go both as individuals and as communities just as we create our social structures forms of artistic expression moral values and everything else we call civilisation If Harris s thought can be put in a nutshell it is that all utterances whether written or spoken have to appear in a context and that context is an integral part of the utterance There is no such thing as a contextless utterance *Natural Language and Universal Grammar: Volume 1* John Lyons, 1991-09-12 Volume 1 **The Second Time Around □ Minimalism and L2 Acquisition** Julia Herschensohn, 2000-02-15 Linking recent advances in theoretical syntax and empirical research in language development the book claims that second language acquisition is not totally distinct from first language acquisition but rather is a replay a relearning of language It argues that Universal Grammar is a template guiding acquisition of L1 while constraining acquisition of L2 Assuming that a syntactic distinction crucial for language and its acquisition is the division between lexical and functional categories it argues that the key to L2 as well as L1 acquisition of syntax is the mastery of morphological features and their linking to functional categories It thus supports the availability of UG to the second language learner and the minimalist claim that cross linguistic variation is morpholexical Constructionism the hypothesis of L2A proposed in this account argues for a period of feature underspecification after loss of the L1 value followed by a progressive building of the L2 value through specific constructions **Aspects of Argument Structure Acquisition in Inuktitut** Shanley Allen, 1996-11-22 This book discusses the first language acquisition of three morphosyntactic mechanisms of transitivity alternation in arctic Quebec Inuktitut Data derive

from naturalistic longitudinal spontaneous speech samples collected over a nine month period from four Inuit children Both basic and advanced forms of passive structures are shown to be used productively by Inuktitut speaking children at an early age relative to English speaking children but consistent in age with speakers of non Indo European languages reported on in the literature potential explanations of this difference include frequency of caregiver input and details of language structure Morphological causatives appear slightly later in the acquisition sequence and their first instances reflect use of unanalyzed routines Lexical causatives are present from the earliest ages studied Evidence of a period of overgeneralization of lexical causatives in one subject at the same time as the morphological causative shows signs of being productively acquired suggests that the seeming overgeneralization may reflect nothing more than as yet unstable use of the morphological causative Noun incorporation structures are shown to be used productively by Inuktitut speaking children at an early age relative to Mohawk speaking children potential explanations of this difference include details of language structure and relative language use in the environments of the learners Findings are considered in light of current debates in the literature concerning continuity versus maturation of grammatical structure and concerning the functional categories available to the child at early stages of acquisition Data presented argue against late maturation and suggest that all functional categories may be accessed by the Inuktitut speaking child early in the acquisition process

Nonfinite Structures in Theory and Change D. Gary Miller, 2002 This book investigates the precise nature of nonfinite structures and explores the ways in which they change Gary Miller examines a broad range of structures including traditional infinitives gerunds and participles across different Indo European and some non Indo European languages now and in the past As structures which are nonfinite in some languages are not so in others the question arises whether the concept nonfinite has any meaning or explanatory power In seeking an answer to this conundrum the author shows that infinitives with subject person agreement such as in West Greenlandic Modern Greek Portuguese Welsh and Hungarian share properties with prototypical nonfinite formations Professor Miller examines languages with morphologically marked tense on infinitives including Ancient Greek and Latin and Modern Turkish He demonstrates that nonfinite structures that can be assigned non structural inherent or semantic case differ systematically from those with either structural or no case The book concludes with a substantial history of infinitives gerunds and participles in Old and Middle English which reveals why and how nonfinite structures change and vary over time Gary Miller's innovative theoretical reasoning and the wide range of evidence on which it is brought to bear make this book a considerable contribution to the understanding of grammatical change and its formal expression as well as to the history of English

An Introduction to Syntactic Analysis and Theory Dominique Sportiche, Hilda Koopman, Edward Stabler, 2013-12-04 An Introduction to Syntactic Analysis and Theory offers beginning students a comprehensive overview of and introduction to our current understanding of the rules and principles that govern the syntax of natural languages Includes numerous pedagogical features such as practice boxes and sidebars designed to facilitate understanding of both the

how and the whys of sentence structure Guides readers through syntactic and morphological structures in a progressive manner Takes the mystery out of one of the most crucial aspects of the workings of language the principles and processes behind the structure of sentences Ideal for students with minimal knowledge of current syntactic research it progresses in theoretical difficulty from basic ideas and theories to more complex and advanced up to date concepts in syntactic theory

The Handbook of the History of English Ans van Kemenade, Bettelou Los, 2009-02-09 The Handbook of the History of English is a collection of articles written by leading specialists in the field that focus on the theoretical issues behind the facts of the changing English language organizes the theoretical issues behind the facts of the changing English language innovatively and applies recent insights to old problems surveys the history of English from the perspective of structural developments in areas such as phonology prosody morphology syntax semantics language variation and dialectology offers readers a comprehensive overview of the various theoretical perspectives available to the study of the history of English and sets new objectives for further research

Word Order Jae Jung Song, 2012-03-29 Word order is one of the major properties on which languages are compared and its study is fundamental to linguistics This comprehensive survey provides an up to date critical overview of this widely debated topic exploring and evaluating word order research carried out in four major theoretical frameworks linguistic typology generative grammar optimality theory and processing based theories It is the first book to bring these theoretical approaches together in one place and is therefore a one stop resource covering the current developments in word order research It explains word order patterns in different languages and at different structural levels and critically evaluates and where possible compares the theoretical assumptions and word order principles used in the different approaches Also highlighted are issues and problems that require further investigation or remain unresolved This book will be invaluable to those investigating word order and researchers and students in syntax linguistic theory and typology

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