Abstract

- First book-length coverage of the canonical method
- Covers key topics in syntax and morphology
- Includes discussion and data from over 200 languages

This is the first book to present Canonical Typology, a framework for comparing constructions and categories across languages. The canonical method takes the criteria used to define particular categories or phenomena (e.g., negation, finiteness, possession) to create a multidimensional space in which language-specific instances can be placed. In this way, the issue of fit becomes a matter of greater or lesser proximity to a canonical ideal. Drawing on the expertise of world-class scholars in the field, the book addresses the issue of cross-linguistic comparability, illustrates the range of areas—from morphosyntactic features to reported speech—to which linguists are currently applying this methodology, and explores to what degree the approach succeeds in discovering the elusive canon of linguistic phenomena.

Table of Contents

1: Dunstan Brown and Marina Chumakina: What there might be and what there is: an introduction to Canonical Typology
2: Oliver Bond: A base for canonical negation
3: Greville G. Corbett: Canonical morphosyntactic features
4: Nicholas Evans: Some problems in the typology of quotation: a canonical approach
5: Irina Nikolaeva: Unpacking finiteness
6: Andrew Spencer and Ana Luís: The canonical clitic
7: Anna Siewierska and Dik Bakker: Passive agents: prototypical vs. canonical passives
8: Martin Everaert: The criteria for reflexivization
9: Irina Nikolaeva and Andrew Spencer: Possession and modification - a perspective from Canonical Typology
10: Scott Farrar: An ontological approach to Canonical Typology: laying the foundations for e-linguistics

References
Author Index
Language Index
Subject Index