

1. Message from the president, Jeff Good

After a several-year hiatus, I am happy to say that ALT is reviving the tradition of occasional newsletters. Since the beginning of 2016, I have had the pleasure of serving as President of the Association alongside Kristine Hildebrandt as Secretary and Dmitry Idiatov as Treasurer. We have also been fortunate that Ljuba Veselinova has stayed on as webmaster.

The end of the current year will mark a significant transition for the Association as Frans Plank, the founding Editor of *Linguistic Typology*, steps down from this position after more than twenty years. His efforts have established *Linguistic Typology* as a leading international journal and greatly enhanced the place of typology within linguistics. His contributions to the success of the journal, and to typology itself, cannot be overestimated. ALT was exceptionally fortunate to have had an Editor of his calibre for so many years is equally fortunate that the journal will remain in excellent hands in the coming years under the direction of the new Editor, Maria (Masha) Koptjevskaja Tamm, a longtime member of the journal's Editorial Board and a well-known figure among typologists. I hope everyone will join me in wishing her the best of luck as she takes on this important task. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the search committee for the new Editor, which consisted of Claire Bower, Nick Enfield, Pattie Epps, Guillaume Jacques, and Johan van der Auwera. Claire's service as Chair of the committee deserves special recognition here.

The end of this year will also be the occasion of the Association's first meeting in Australia, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Given the contribution of Australian linguists—and Australian languages—to the field of typology, this is an exciting location for the meeting. The local organizing committee has put together a top-notch program, and it is certain to be a very memorable event.

2. ALT 12 in Canberra

2.1. Website. The date is quickly approaching! Please visit the conference page for more information: <http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/alt-conference-2017/>

2.2. New Publications for Asia-Pacific Linguistics. Pacific Linguistics wishes to announce the following new publications, all freely downloadable through its A-PL (Asia-Pacific Linguistics) imprint:

- Åshild Næss - A short dictionary of Äiwoo

This is a short dictionary of the Äiwoo or Reefs language, which belongs to the Reefs-Santa Cruz group spoken in Solomon Islands' Temotu Province. It includes around 3,500 words in the Äiwoo language with English translations and examples of use, as well as an English-Äiwoo reversal list.

Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/112469>

- Sonja Riesberg - A Yali (angguruk) - German Dictionary

Yali is a Trans-New Guinea language, spoken in the highlands of Papua, Indonesia. This book comprises two parts: an introductory section (written in English) that presents a Yali grammar sketch, and the second part a Yali-German dictionary.

Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/127381>

- John Giacon: Yaluu. A recovery grammar of Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay: a description of two New South Wales languages based on 160 years of records

This volume builds on a wide range of sources, including materials from the 19th century and audio recordings from the 1970s to present a grammatical description of Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay, two closely related languages of northern New South Wales, Australia.

Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/132639>

3. ALT 13 will be in Pavia! Watch for future newsletters for developments and details

4. Jury reports for the ALT awards

4.1 Jury report for the Greenberg Award (Sonia Cristofaro, Chair)

The 2017 *Joseph Greenberg Award*, for the best typological dissertation defended between 2015-2016, goes to Ksenia Shagal, University of Helsinki, for her thesis “Towards a typology of participles”. Her advisor was Seppo Kittilä.

Shagal’s dissertation proposes a typology of participles, defined as clause-like nominal modifiers. The study has been carried out explicitly in a Greenbergian spirit, based on an impressive set of 100 languages. The first two chapters provide a general background to the topic and discuss several foundational and methodological issues. Chap. 3 discusses orientation, that is, the range of participant roles that can be relativized by participles in the language of the sample. In particular, a distinction is made between inherent orientation (the participial form can only relativize specific participant roles) and contextual orientation (the participial form can be used to relativize different participant roles depending on the context). Chap. 4 describes several parameters that have been used in the study in order to assess the relative degree of desententialization of participial clauses, including the encoding of TAM distinctions, the expression of negation, verbal subject agreement, nominal agreement with the modified noun (e.g. in terms of gender, number, or case), and the encoding of participants other than the relativized participant. Chaps. 5 and 6 provide an overview of the types of participial clauses that have been identified in the languages of the sample based on these parameters. Chap. 7 deals with participial systems: whether the language has one or more participial forms, and the possible types of functional opposition between different participial forms within the same language (for example in terms of TAM and orientation). Chap. 8 summarizes and discusses prospects for future research, with particular regard to the investigation of the genealogical and geographical distribution of different participial forms and the status of these forms in terms of parts of speech distinctions. The study is supplemented with appendixes providing references and data about the participial constructions attested in each of the languages taken into account.

The dissertation deals with a relevant topic that has not so far been investigated in the way it is done here. While a lot of work has been done on clause linkage in general, as well as on converbs and relative clauses in particular, the category of ‘participle’ (in the sense of an

adnominal modifier) has not received the same amount of attention in typological studies. The study is comprehensive and detailed in its analyses, drawing out both overall tendencies and exceptions to tendencies. It presents new information to the field and is overall carefully executed, excellently organized and well-written, pointing out methodological challenges all the way through.

This round evaluated four submissions, and thanks are due to the jury members for their hard work: Denis Creissels, Volker Gast, Jean-Christophe Verstraete, Bernhard Waelchli, and Doris Payne.

4.2 Jury report for the Gabelentz Award (Toshihide Nakayama, Chair)

The *Georg von der Gabelentz Award* encourages and honours achievements in the field of documenting the world's linguistic diversity through the writing of reference grammars. Seven grammars were submitted for consideration for this round. The quality of these works is generally excellent, but the committee came to the unanimous conclusion that *A Grammar of Hinuq* by Diana Forker is the best among the submitted grammars (<https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/203728>).

This is the first thorough description of the Nakh-Daghestanian language Hinuq. The grammar provides a well-balanced coverage of all relevant structural aspects based on a rich set of data. The data are drawn both from careful elicitations and from the extensive corpus of texts including relatively unusual types like poetry. Forker demonstrates excellent control of the Hinuq data, general understanding and knowledge of Daghestanian languages, and good scholarship.

This work provides a comprehensive and well-contextualized analysis of Hinuq grammar with reference to other Nakh-Daghestanian languages, to Caucasian studies and to typological and general linguistic topics. Forker effectively addresses problems of particular interest and especially needing clear argumentation for a Daghestanian language, including gender agreement, different valence classes, biabsolutive constructions, logophoric and other anaphora, and long-distance reflexivization.

This grammar is exemplary also in its organization, presentation and formatting. The data are presented and explained clearly, and the translations are good and show an excellent balance of literal and figurative translation. The glosses are consistent with the Leipzig glossing rules, and the additional glosses are all clear. The approach builds on existing traditions in Daghestanian descriptions and can serve as an example for future work on languages of the area. Additional notable features include: detailed and useful index; discussion on the orthographical conventions; a list of main derivational affixes and clitics with cross-referencing to the sections where these affixes and clitics are addressed.

Overall, this grammar is outstanding in its detail and thoroughness and has raised the standards for Nakh-Daghestanian grammars.

Thanks are due to the jury members for their hard work: Bernd Heine, Johanna Nichols, Maria Polinsky, Bernard Comrie, Ekaterina Gruz, Honore Watanabe.

5. Linguistic Typology, and a Message from Frans Plank and from Maria (Masha) Koptjevskaja-Tamm

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It was a pleasure (well, mostly) bringing LT to you for 21 years, and I hope the feeling is reciprocated among our readers (well, some of them some of the time).

I'm glad to be able to report that the editorial transition is going smoothly, and I wish Masha Koptjevskaja-Tamm a long and happy future at the helm of LT and vice versa.

--Frans Plank

It is a great honour, responsibility and challenge to take over the editorship of LT after Frans Plank, who both founded (and INSISTED on founding) the journal and the whole ALT and has led the journal for all these years. Frans has created a unique warm, collaborative atmosphere among the members of the Editorial Board and has always ensured that the issues of LT would make their regular appearance, filled with high-quality publications, no matter the circumstances. I am looking forward towards keeping on with all this and developing the journal further, making sure that LT will be filled with interesting, useful, provocative and excellent stuff. But remember that the journal is for you – not only as readers, but also as writers, reviewers, and people whose opinions matter! So, we at the Editorial Board are very much looking towards your submissions, your assistance and feedback.

--Maria (Masha) Koptjevskaja-Tamm