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Tunguso-Sibirica

Herausgegeben von Michael Weiers

39: Dolgor Guntsetseg

Differential Case Marking in Mongolian

2016. XIV, 204 pages, 16 diagrams, 10 ill.,
26 tables, pb
170x240 mm
ISBN 978-3-447-10611-5
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each € 48,- (D)

Mongolian is a regular DOM (Differential Object Marking) language: the accusative case does not always occur on direct objects. This book investigates the phenomenon starting from the research question of how the Mongolian pattern is influenced by factors that cross-linguistically trigger DOM, such as referentiality, animacy, and topicality. It shows that the examination of any one of these factors on its own is not sufficient, but rather that DOM emerges from a complicated interaction of these features. In addition to DOM, Mongolian also exhibits a specific type of Differential Subject Marking (DSM), in which the subjects of embedded clauses (including adverbial clauses) occur with the accusative case. This is the second issue investigated in the study. Apart from the features already mentioned, sentence structure turns out to be relevant here. More specifically, the adjacent occurrence of main and embedded subjects is identified as a crucial factor for triggering DSM. Both observations about DOM and DSM in Mongolian can be brought together in the generalization that the accusative case in Mongolian is used to distinguish between two arguments not only within a clause but also across clause boundaries. The book provides a detailed analysis of the relevant components of Mongolian grammar, and its findings are supported by extensive experimental studies with a large number of native speakers to ensure the highest quality of linguistic evidence.

40: Andrew Shimunek

Languages of Ancient Southern Mongolia and North China

A Historical-Comparative Study of the Serbi or Xianbei Branch of the Serbi-Mongolic Language Family, with an Analysis of Northeastern Frontier Chinese and Old Tibetan Phonology

2017. L, 519 pages, hc
170x240 mm
ISBN 978-3-447-10855-3 Ca. € 98,- (D)
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This is the first book on the Serbi-Mongolic language family and the first modern linguistic study of the Serbi (Xianbei 鮮卑) peoples, whose conquest of North China took place at approximately the same time as the Germanic and Hunnic Völkerwanderung into the former Western Roman Empire. The findings presented in this book – the first rigorous and systematic unified theory on the origins of the Mongolic and Serbi languages – add substantially to our understanding of the linguistic geography of Eastern Eurasia, and to the ethnolinguistic history of the Mongolic peoples and their neighbors, including speakers of Chinese, Japanese-Koguryoic, Tibeto-Burman, Tungusic, possibly Indo-European, and later, Turkic. This book also enhances our understanding of attested Middle Chinese, Early Old Mandarin, and Old Tibetan phonology. Moreover, it is the first study to present linguistic sketches of Taghbach (Tuoba 拓跋), Tuyuhun 吐谷渾 ('Azha 𐰽𐰺𐰍), and Kitan (Qidan 契丹), and to systematically compare Kitan and Mongol morphological and syntactic paradigms, resulting in the first reconstruction of Common Serbi-Mongolic phonology, morphology, lexicon, and syntax. Readers interested in Mongolia, the Mongols, North China, Central Eurasia, the Tibetan Empire, languages of Asia, historical linguistics, and history will find this book to be a useful resource.

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