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Review of: An Introduction to Syntax

Edward J. Vajda

Western Washington University, edward.vajda@wwu.edu

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tion of S's brilliant demonstration (Gregory Stump, 'Templatic morphology and inflectional morphology', *Yearbook of morphology 1996*, ed. by Geert Booij and Jaap van Marle, 217–41, Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1997) that some forms of derivation, as well as all forms of inflection, are 'templatic' in the ways first defined by Jane Simpson and Meg Withgott ('Pronominal clitic clusters and templates', *Syntax and semantics 19: The syntax of pronominal clitics*, ed. by Hagit Borer, 149–74, Orlando, FL: Academic Press, 1986). The interface between lexeme and inflection for 'templatic' stems remains unresolved. No study of morphosyntax, or of inflectional paradigms in particular, can really be considered definitive without a rigorous, theoretically sound demarcation of stem from inflection and between derivation and inflection in particular. But whoever hopes to extend S's study of inflectional paradigms from this vantage point will have to live up to his standards of argumentation. [EDWARD J. VAJDA, *Western Washington University*.]

An introduction to syntax. By ROBERT D. VAN VALIN, JR. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Pp. xvi, 239. \$65.00.

Written by a scholar known for his innovative analyses of genetically and typologically varied languages, this comprehensive introduction will not disappoint the student or teacher yearning for a more diverse sampling of languages. At the same time, the discussion is attentive to various competing syntactic formalisms and offers a firm grounding in contemporary linguistic theory along with exposure to a wide range of typological variation. Engaging and logical from beginning to end, it opens with the practical, yet intriguing question, 'How does an Aborigine from central Australia, a Basque from Spain or an inhabitant of the island of Madagascar put a sentence together?' (xiii). The answer to this deceptively simple question occupies the rest of the book.

The discussion is arranged in six chapters. Ch. 1, 'Syntax, lexical categories, and morphology' (1–20), introduces the book's holistic approach to syntactic phenomena which includes as much attention to morphosyntax and semantic factors as to phrase structure per se. Ch. 2, 'Grammatical relations' (21–85), provides a crosslinguistic survey of the syntactic notions 'subject', 'direct object', and 'indirect object'. Ch. 3, 'Dependency relations' (86–109), explores head and modifier relationships. This chapter also introduces the notion of valence, making a clear distinction between semantic roles such as AGENT OF PATIENT and purely syntactic categories such as SUBJECT and OBJECT. Ch. 4, 'Constituent structure' (110–43), discusses phrase structure and form classes across lan-

guages. Ch. 5, 'Grammar and lexicon' (144–71), examines the relationship between syntax and lexeme. The final chapter, 'Theories of syntax' (172–226), provides a refreshingly balanced comparison of four important syntactic models of language: relational grammar, lexical-functional grammar, the government-binding version of principles and parameters theory, and, finally, the author's own role and reference grammar. Each chapter closes with suggestions for further reading and a set of problems that test student comprehension.

The language index on pp. 234–35 contains reference to 60 languages from over three dozen families distributed on five continents—a mere fraction of the world's linguistic diversity. Still, anyone tired of syntax descriptions limited to dueling formalisms, and applied mostly to simple English sentences, ought to be well satisfied. The book's attention to morphosyntax, in particular, makes it of great practical value for anyone interested in typology. I used the book as an auxiliary text in a course on morphology and appreciated its clear differentiation between syntactic and semantic valence. The only significant defect is the lack of a glossary; my students often found it difficult to locate clear and concise definitions of key terms. However, the book's pedagogical benefits far outweigh this single shortcoming. [EDWARD J. VAJDA, *Western Washington University*.]

Language and its functions: A historicocritical study of views concerning the functions of language from the pre-humanistic philology of Orleans to the rationalistic philology of Bopp. By PIETER A. VERBURG. Translated by PAUL SALMON, in consultation with ANTHONY J. KLIJNSMIT. (Amsterdam studies in the theory and history of linguistic science 84.) Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1998. Pp. xxxiii, 577. \$121.00.

This is the first published English translation of Pieter Verburg's classic study *Taal en Functionaliteit* (Wageningen: Veenmann & Zonen, 1952), originally published in Dutch as the commercial edition of his doctoral dissertation (submitted to the Free University of Amsterdam in 1951). *Language and its functions* is a historiographical study that charts conceptions of functions of language in philosophical and linguistic theories from the twelfth century until the beginning of the nineteenth century. A possible source of confusion for readers is the fact that Verburg's use of the term 'function' is different from the sense that is most widespread nowadays (as also