

A Possible Outline for a Balanced Formal / Functional Grammatical Description

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Items followed by an asterisk (*) are considered essential. Other items may or may not appear in the grammar outline, depending on a) the intended use of the grammar, b) the special experience and interests of the author and c) the individual characteristics of the language. Of course any particular grammar may also include more headings than what are found here.

Front matter

Acknowledgements (*)

Introduction (Including theoretical assumptions and purpose of the grammar.)

List of abbreviations (*)

1. Part I: The Cultural, Ecological and Sociolinguistic Context of the Language

- 1.1. The name of the language (*)
- 1.2. Previous research (*)
- 1.3. Demography (*)
 - 1.3.1. Map(s)
 - 1.3.2. History/migrations
- 1.4. Ecology
- 1.5. Ethnography (material culture, cosmology) (*)
- 1.6. Genetic and areal affiliations (*)
- 1.7. Literary traditions
- 1.8. Dialects (including classical/written varieties if applicable) (*)
- 1.9. Sociolinguistic situation (*)
 - 1.9.1. Multilingualism and language attitudes
 - 1.9.2. Contexts of use and language choice (*)
 - 1.9.3. Viability (*)
 - 1.9.4. Loan words
- 1.10. The corpus (*)
 - 1.10.1. The nature of the research (affiliation, location, duration) (*)
 - 1.10.2. Consultants and other sources (*)
 - 1.10.3. Presentation of data (*)

2. Part II: Structural Overview (form driven approach)
 - 2.1. Typological Sketch
 - 2.2. Phonological inventory and orthography (*)
 - 2.2.1. Consonants (*)
 - 2.2.2. Vowels (*)
 - 2.2.3. Tone / stress (*)
 - 2.3. Phonetics (*)
 - 2.4. Syllable structure
 - 2.5. Word structure
 - 2.6. Major phonological and morphophonemic processes (*)
 - 2.6.1. Process 1 (*)
 - 2.6.2. Process 2 (*)
 - 2.6.3. Process 3
 - 2.6.4. Process 4
 - 2.7. Relaxed speech rules and contractions
 - 2.8. Word Classes (*)
 - 2.8.1. Nouns (*)
 - 2.8.1.1. The structure of the noun word
 - 2.8.1.2. Derivational processes
 - 2.8.1.3. Inflectional processes
 - 2.8.1.4. Count vs. mass nouns
 - 2.8.1.5. Proper names
 - 2.8.1.6. Other grammatically distinct subclasses of nouns
 - 2.8.2. Pronouns and/or anaphoric clitics (*)
 - 2.8.2.1. Personal pronouns (*)
 - 2.8.2.2. Demonstrative pronouns (*)
 - 2.8.2.3. Other (relative pronouns and question words may be more efficiently treated in the sections on relative clauses and questions.)
 - 2.8.3. Verbs (*)
 - 2.8.3.1. Verb structure (a diagram of a verb and its morphology) (*)
 - 2.8.3.2. Derivational (stem-forming) processes
 - 2.8.3.3. Inflectional processes
 - 2.8.3.4. Grammatically distinct verb subclass 1
 - 2.8.3.5. Grammatically distinct verb subclass 2
 - 2.8.3.6. Grammatically distinct verb subclass 3
 - 2.8.3.7. Grammatically distinct verb subclass 4
 - 2.8.4. Modifiers
 - 2.8.4.1. Descriptive adjectives

- 2.8.4.2. Non-numeral quantifiers
- 2.8.4.3. Numerals
- 2.8.5. Adverbs
- 2.8.6. Auxiliaries
- 2.8.7. Ad-positions (prepositions or post-positions)
- 2.8.8. Particles or other minor word classes
- 2.9. Constituent Order Typology
 - 2.9.1. Constituent order in main clauses
 - 2.9.2. Constituent order in verb phrases
 - 2.9.3. Constituent order in noun phrases
 - 2.9.4. Adpositional phrases (prepositions or post-positions)
 - 2.9.5. Comparatives
 - 2.9.6. Question particles and question words
 - 2.9.7. Summary
- 2.10. The structure of the noun phrase (*)
- 2.11. The structure of the verb phrase (*)
- 2.12. Predicate nominals and related constructions (*)
 - 2.12.1. Predicate nominals (*)
 - 2.12.2. Predicate adjectives
 - 2.12.3. Predicate locatives
 - 2.12.4. Existentials (*)
 - 2.12.5. Possessive clauses (*)
- 2.13. Intransitive clauses (*)
- 2.14. Transitive clauses (*)
- 2.15. Ditransitive clauses (*)
- 2.16. Dependent clause types (*)
 - 2.16.1. Non-finite
 - 2.16.2. Semi-finite
 - 2.16.3. Fully finite
- 3. Part III: Functional Systems (function driven approach)
 - 3.1. Grammatical relations (*)
 - 3.2. Voice and valence related constructions (*)
 - 3.2.1. Causatives

- 3.2.2. Applicatives
- 3.2.3. Dative shift
- 3.2.4. Dative of interest
- 3.2.5. 'Possessor raising' or external possession
- 3.2.6. Reflexives and reciprocals
- 3.2.7. Passives
- 3.2.8. Inverses
- 3.2.9. Middle constructions
- 3.2.10. Antipassives
- 3.2.11. Object demotion and/or omission
- 3.2.12. Object incorporation
- 3.3. Nominalization
 - 3.3.1. Action nominalization
 - 3.3.2. Participant nominalizations
 - 3.3.2.1. Agent nominalizations
 - 3.3.2.2. Patient nominalizations
 - 3.3.2.3. Instrument nominalizations
 - 3.3.2.4. Location nominalization
 - 3.3.2.5. Product nominalizations
 - 3.3.2.6. Manner nominalizations
 - 3.3.3. Clausal nominalization
- 3.4. Tense/aspect/modality (*)
 - 3.4.1. Tense
 - 3.4.2. Aspect
 - 3.4.3. Modality
 - 3.4.4. Location/direction
 - 3.4.5. Evidentiality, validationality and mirativity
 - 3.4.6. Miscellaneous
- 3.5. Pragmatically marked structures (*)
 - 3.5.1. Constituent order variation
 - 3.5.2. Contrastive/emphatic particles
 - 3.5.3. Contrastive/emphatic intonation patterns
 - 3.5.4. Cleft constructions
 - 3.5.5. Negation (*)
 - 3.5.6. Questions (*)
 - 3.5.6.1. Yes/No Questions (*)
 - 3.5.6.2. Question word (information, content) questions (*)

- 3.5.7. Imperatives (*) (including subtypes)
- 3.6. Clause Combinations (*)
 - 3.6.1. Serial verbs
 - 3.6.2. Complement clauses (*)
 - 3.6.3. Adverbial clauses (*)
 - 3.6.4. Clause chaining, medial clauses and switch reference
 - 3.6.5. Relative clauses (*)
 - 3.6.6. Coordination
- 3.7. The Language in use
 - 3.7.1. Lexical Typology
 - 3.7.1.1. Space, direction and motion
 - 3.7.1.2. Causation
 - 3.7.1.3. Valence
 - 3.7.1.4. Salience of semantic features
 - 3.7.2. Continuity (cohesion) and discontinuity
 - 3.7.2.1. Topic (referential) continuity
 - 3.7.2.2. Thematic continuity
 - 3.7.2.3. Action continuity
 - 3.7.3. Episodic prominence
 - 3.7.3.1. Climax/peak
 - 3.7.3.2. Intensification
 - 3.7.4. Genres
 - 3.7.4.1. Conversation
 - 3.7.4.2. Narrative
 - 3.7.4.2.1. Personal experience
 - 3.7.4.2.2. Historical
 - 3.7.4.2.3. Folk stories
 - 3.7.4.2.4. Mythology
 - 3.7.4.3. Hortatory
 - 3.7.4.4. Procedural
 - 3.7.4.5. Expository
 - 3.7.4.6. Descriptive
 - 3.7.4.7. Ritual speech
 - 3.7.5. Miscellaneous and conclusions
 - 3.7.5.1. Idiomatic expressions / proverbs
 - 3.7.5.2. Sound symbolism
 - 3.7.5.3. Summary of typological findings

End matter:

Text with interlinear translation

Glossary

References cited (*)

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