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Review of What's in a verb? Studies in the verbal morphology of the languages of the Americas, G. J. Rowicka and E. B. Carlin (eds.).

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both men and women (p. 72), while the speakers I have consulted state that this element is used exclusively by women.

In sum, this grammar is a valuable addition to the bookshelf of anybody interested in the linguistic exploration of Lakota.

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WHAT'S IN A VERB? STUDIES IN THE VERBAL MORPHOLOGY OF THE LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS. Edited by Grażyna J. Rowicka and Eithne B. Carlin. LOT Occasional Series no. 5. Utrecht: LOT, Netherlands Graduate School of Linguistics, Utrecht University, 2006. Pp. ii + 252. €24,49 (paper).

This book contains 12 papers on different aspects of the verbal morphology of Native American languages, written by Dutch linguists or linguists working at Dutch institutions. It is divided into two sections, “Part I: North and Central America” and “Part II: South America.” Within each section, the articles are ordered alphabetically by author. The languages covered in part I are (in this order) Plains Cree, Lillooet, Tahltan, Upper Chehalis, and Metzontla Popoloc. The South American languages covered are Tarma Quechua, Trio, Itonama, Leko, Sateré-Mawé, Uchumataqu, and Lakondê. I briefly summarize each article.

“Algonquian Verb Structure: Plains Cree” by Peter Bakker (pp. 3–27) evaluates the existing accounts of Cree affix order and presents a new, nearly complete template of the Plains Cree verb. This is then compared to typological approaches to affix order. Observing a semantic distinction between prefixes and suffixes, Bakker suggests that Algonquian languages may have shifted from suffixing to prefixing due to language contact.

Jan P. van Eijk investigates “Typological Aspects of Lillooet Transitive Verb Inflection” (pp. 29–51). He notes that Lillooet uses a combination of “slot assignment” and “case marking” to indicate the syntactic functions of the bound personal

pronouns, and he compares this strategy to those employed by other North American languages, basically direct/inverse marking and “feature nesting.”

In his article “Athabascan Verb Stem Structure: Tahltan” (pp. 53–73), Hank Nater investigates Tahltan verb stem alternation from a historical perspective, reconstructing the historical development of 40 verb stems of different morphophonological classes.

The paper “The Transitive Linker in Upper Chehalis (Salish)” by Grażyna J. Rowicka (pp. 73–92) provides a convincing historical account of the appearance of a linking vowel in Upper Chehalis, which the existing literature has so far failed to explain satisfactorily.

“Valency-Changing Devices in Metzontla Popoloc” by Annette Veerman-Leichsenring (pp. 93–118) is the only article that deals with a Mesoamerican language. It demonstrates that the applicability of valency-changing affixes in Metzontla Popoloc depends on the inflectional class of the verb, which, in turn, is based on whether the verb takes a human or a nonhuman patient.

The first article of part II, “The Vicissitudes of Directional Affixes in Tarma (Northern Junín) Quechua” by Willem F. H. Adelaar (pp. 121–41), describes the historical development of directional affixes in a group of Quechua dialects of Central Peru. Besides focusing on directional affixes, Adelaar provides a detailed account of the order, function, and historical development of verbal affixes in these dialects.

Eithne Carlin’s contribution, “The Verbalizers in Trio (Cariban): A Semantic Description” (pp. 143–57), illustrates how the choice and function of grammatical elements in a language can reflect the worldview of its speakers: this can, for example, be seen from the combinability of certain nouns with certain verbalizers.

In her article “Verbal Number in Itonama” (pp. 159–70), Mily Crevels describes Itonama, a nearly extinct, unclassified language of the Bolivian Amazon area, as a language where number marking is not a nominal but rather a verbal category. Here, verbal morphemes indicate plurality of events and/or of participants.

Simon van de Kerke discusses “Object Cross-Reference in Leko” (pp. 171–88), an unclassified and almost extinct language of the Eastern slopes of the Bolivian Andes. He shows that object cross-reference and case marking in Leko are governed by a saliency hierarchy.

“Stative Verbs vs. Nouns in Sateré-Mawé and the Tupian Family” by Sérgio Meira (pp. 189–214) demonstrates that the Tupian languages vary in their treatment of “stative words,” which have been analyzed as either verbs or nouns by various authors. Meira provides evidence that due to their similar behavior with regard to these words, Tupí-Guaraní, Mawé, and Awetí can be established as a Tupian sub-branch of their own.

In their article “Verbs in Uchumataqu” (pp. 215–33), Pieter Muysken and Katja Hanns describe the verbal structure of an extinct language that was formerly spoken by the Uru people of the Bolivian highlands. They compare their results to closely related Chipaya and provide a first reconstruction of the Uru-Chipaya verb system.

Stella Telles and Leo Wetzels discuss “Evidentiality and Epistemic Mood in Lakondê” (pp. 235–52). Lakondê, a Nambikwaran language of Western Brazil, has two sets of evidential/epistemic markers that differ both in form and function. One set

consists of derivational morphemes and marks secondhand information. The other is inflectional and distinguishes different types of firsthand information.

This book is an important contribution to research on American Indian languages. It should be highly useful for readers with previous knowledge on the respective languages, while others can gain an impression of the characteristics of the language in question and may be motivated to consult the indicated literature for further reference.

Since the articles deal with a wide range of grammatical phenomena in diverse languages, the editors might have ordered them thematically rather than alphabetically by name of author. However, since this is not a book one would read from beginning to end, and given the high quality of the articles, this is a minor quibble. The volume points to some striking commonalities between the different languages. The editors themselves point out (pp. i–ii) that the fact that four out of the 12 articles deal with topics related to transitivity reflects the significance of this category in Amerindian languages. Even though this is not the primary topic of any of the contributions, it becomes apparent that, in one way or another, saliency hierarchies play a crucial role in the grammar of many Native American languages. The familiar direct/inverse opposition in Plains Cree is only one instance of this: similar patterns occur in Salishan languages (p. 48); the distinction between the inflectional verb classes in Metzontla Popoloc reflects the human/nonhuman distinction; Leko obviously displays animacy-based differential object marking; Itonama seems to use inverse marking when the actor is lower in the saliency hierarchy (note example (18) on p. 166); and last, but not least, the person marker sets in Sateré-Mawé are restricted to speech-act participants. Thus, it becomes clear that this linguistic trait occurs again and again all over the Americas.

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TIMBISHA (PANAMINT). By John E. McLaughlin. Munich: Lincom Europa, 2006. Pp. 65. (Paper.)

Timbisha (Panamint) presents data on a moribund language of the Central Numic branch of the Numic subfamily of Uto-Aztecan. There is very little information available on the structure of this interesting language, with the exception of the author's dissertation (McLaughlin 1987) and one fairly comprehensive description (Dayley 1989). As such, this slender volume represents an important contribution to our overall picture of Timbisha.

The author's fieldwork on Timbisha has included work with speakers of its three principal dialects—which McLaughlin describes as Eastern, Central, and Western Timbisha—and incorporates earlier fieldwork conducted by the late Wick Miller. This book is also informed by McLaughlin's work on Shoshone and Comanche, the other languages of the Central Numic branch, and his ongoing comparative work on