**Abstracts – Key Words – Academic Biography for ‘Flexible word classes’**

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Parts-of-speech system as a basic typological determinant

Kees Hengeveld

**Abstract (130 words)**

This paper studies the question to what extent the parts-of-speech system of a language determines the morphosyntactic properties of that language. Taking the parts-of-speech hierarchy as originally proposed in Hengeveld (1992a, 1992b) and especially its distinction between flexible and rigid parts-of speech systems as its point of departure, the paper shows that languages with a high degree of lexical flexibility show a high degree of morphosyntactic rigidity, while languages with a high degree of lexical rigidity may or may not show a high degree of morphosyntactic flexibility. The paper furthermore shows that the flexibility and rigidity typical of parts-of-speech systems may extend to other areas of grammar, especially in the processes of lexical and syntactic derivation, and in the behaviour of classes of lexemes not covered by the parts-of-speech hierarchy.

Keywords (5-10)

Academic biography (75-100 words)

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Derivation and categorization in flexible and differentiated languages

Jan Don and Eva van Lier

Abstract (100-150 words)

Keywords (5-10)

Academic biography (one each: 75-100 words)

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Riau Indonesian: a language without nouns and verbs

David Gil

Abstract (100-150 words)

Keywords (5-10)

Academic biography (75-100 words)

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Parts of speech in Kharia: a formal account

John Peterson

Abstract (100-150 words)

Keywords (5-10)

Academic biography (75-100 words)

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Proper names, predicates, and the parts-of-speech system of Santali

Felix Rau

Abstract (100-150 words)

Keywords (5-10)

Academic biography (75-100 words)

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Unidirectional flexibility and the noun–verb distinction in Lushootseed

David Beck

Abstract (100-150 words)

Keywords (5-10)

Academic biography (75-100 words)

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Lexical categories in Gooniyandi, Kimberley, Western Australia

William B. McGregor

Abstract **(139 words)**

This paper proposes that the parts-of-speech of Gooniyandi (non-Pama-Nyungan, Kimberley, Western Australia) can be defined by reference to the grammatical relations they prototypically fulfill, and/or the grammatical units they typically occur in; this extends on the analysis suggested in McGregor (1990). The Gooniyandi parts-of-speech system shows a considerable amount of flexibility in the sense that the mapping between the categories and grammatical relations is many-to-many. It is possible to place the parts-of-speech on a partially ordered hierarchy according to their degree of flexibility. Verbs, interjections and sound effects emerge as the most restricted and most marked parts-of-speech, and show least flexibility. The remainder can be ordered as follows: nominals, adverbs, adverbials, and particles. It is suggested that the approach taken in this paper is applicable to other languages, though doubts remain concerning the cross-linguistic comparability of the part-of-speech categories.

Keywords **(6)**

Gooniyandi, non-Pama-Nyungan, Australian Aboriginal languages, grammatical relations, grammatical units, flexibility hierarchy

Academic biography **(97 words)**

William B. McGregor is professor of linguistics at Aarhus University, Denmark. One of his primary research interests is in the languages of the Kimberley region; he has recently begun working on Shua, a language of Botswana. He has published grammars and sketch grammars of a number of the languages of the region, most recently a two-volume grammar of Nyulnyul, as well as books on themes such as verb classification andlanguage relatedness. He has published many articles on grammar, semantics, pragmatics, typology, discourse structure, historical linguistics. He is a fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

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Jack-of-all-trades: the Sri Lanka Malay flexible adjective

Sebastian Nordhoff

**Abstract (166 words= a bit too long: 100-150 words)**

This paper presents the parts-of-speech system of Sri Lanka Malay, which consists of verbs, nouns and adjectives, and argues that the latter are fully flexible parts of speech, which can be used for any discourse function without further measures being taken. The presence of the additional lexical categories of noun and verb distinguishes the Sri Lanka Malay system from other languages with maximally flexible parts of speech, which are monocategorial.

This paper argues that noun and verb in Sri Lanka Malay are recent innovations and a result of influence from the adstrates Sinhala and Tamil, which have rigid parts-of-speech systems. This influence triggered the closer association of object-denoting lexemes with the act of reference and action-denoting lexemes with the act of predication.   
Property-denoting lexemes were left unconstrained as to their possible functions. This closer association was assisted by already existing derivational processes to restrict discourse function. Comparing Sri Lanka Malay to other languages, it appears that the forerunners of specialized parts of speech are derived lexemes.

Keywords (5-10)

Academic biography (75-100 words)

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Word-class systems between flexibility and rigidity: an integrative approach

Walter Bisang

**Abstract (232 words=too long: 100-150 words)**

This paper is based on the Typology of Flexibility as it is defined by the lexical parameter (L) and the grammatical parameter (G) and their values of flexible and rigid (Van Lier and Rijkhoff, *this volume*). Its aim is a descriptive one. It will look at four languages that represent extreme parameter values (Late Archaic Chinese, Khmer, Nahuatl and Tagalog) in order to find out to what extent the Typology of Flexibility is able to account for the word-class specificities of these languages. The analysis of these languages will reveal the following problems:

(i) The G parameter is not a necessary parameter (Late Archaic Chinese) and it may take different values depending on whether the relevant markers are looked at from their overall functional range or from the function they express in combination with an individual lexical base (Khmer).

(ii) Extreme type 4 languages (Lrigid/Grigid) do not necessarily consist only of verbs. Even though this type is attested in omnipredicative languages such as Nahuatl (Launey 1994) there are other extreme languages such as Tagalog which basically consist of nouns that are used in copular constructions. The Tagalog type contradicts the parts-of-speech hierarchy.

(iii) Even in extreme type 4 languages with their rigid only-verbs or only-nouns properties, morphology does not follow the linking rules that operate from the lexicon to syntax. Both, Nahuatl and Tagalog show noun/verb distinction at the level of morphology.

Keywords (5-10)

Academic biography (75-100 words)