

Introduction

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This volume contains eight papers that are all dedicated to a functional and typological approach that contrasts with the formal approach. The functional-typological approach focuses on cross-linguistic comparison based on linguistic function, or more precisely, the relationship between function and form (structure). This cross-linguistic comparison appeals to semantic and pragmatic considerations. Since these semantic and pragmatic functions are the basis of comparison, it is inevitable that they play a role in cross-linguistic generalisation.

These eight papers analyse Korean data from the functional-typological perspective, showing how cross-linguistic generalisations can contribute to an understanding of the structures in individual languages. Cross-linguistic generalisations are significant in understanding individual languages and in gaining insight into the nature of human language. Studies in individual languages and universal grammar should complement each other. The grammar of an individual language serves as direct evidence that provides the basis for universal grammar. Cross-linguistic generalisations make it possible for us to gain insight into the nature of language in general and, in turn, help us uncover facts about particular languages.

Kaoru Horie's paper, utilising the theory of Comparative Typology developed by Hawkins (1986a, 1986b), explores the nature of morpho-syntactic contrasts between Korean and Japanese. Horie has shown that Korean is consistently more rigid than Japanese in assigning one meaning to one form (structure), whereas Japanese tends to have greater structural ambiguity.

Nam-Kil Kim's paper investigates the syntactic and semantic behaviours of cognitively related constructions in Korean, such as modal 'keyss' construction, proximative '(u)lye ko ha' construction, and 'ANA' (Action Narrowly Averted) '(u)lppen hayss' construction. He claims that the concept of 'imminence' is expressed by these grammatical constructions in Korean. Recent cross-linguistic studies show that the concept of 'imminence' is an important semantic category that can be grammatically encoded by evidential, proximative (Heine 1994, Kuteva 1998), and 'ANA' form (Kuteva 1998).

Stefan Knoob's paper argues that the established morphological analysis of Korean passive voice is inappropriate and should be abandoned in favour of a semantically based

system of basic verbal voice and constructional diathesis. His approach can be labelled an event semantic and constructional analysis, which may not be directly related to typological approaches, but can be construed broadly as a functional-typological approach.

Sang-Hwan Seong's paper investigates the prominence typology of subject and topic in Korean and Germanic Languages (German and English). The focus of this paper is on showing how the discourse frame setting strategy in a given language is correlated with the (de)grammaticalisation of syntactic rules and the lexicalisation process. Building on the tradition of Li and Thompson (1976), Seong suggests that the grammatical properties of a given language can be identified along a continuum scalar model of typology of subject and topic parameter.

Jae Jung Song's paper investigates the question as to whether or not the Korean '-ke ha' causative construction should be regarded as causative. He demonstrates from a cross-linguistic perspective that the Korean '-ke ha' type (or, more generally, the PURP type) of causative construction is widely attested in the languages of the world.

Jae-mog Song's paper tries to re-interpret the so-called retrospective suffix '-te' as an evidential marker from a typological perspective. The suffix has been analysed as a past retrospective, past imperfective, or past perception marker. Song claims that the Korean suffix '-te' is an evidential marker of past sensory observation after he examines its semantic and syntactic properties cross-linguistically and Korean language internally.

Nam Sun Song's paper compares Korean and Japanese passives, reviewing problems of previous approaches. He attempts to show why the Korean passive is so restricted while the Japanese passive is highly productive. He argues that the similarities and differences between the two languages can be best accounted for in terms of the notion of empathy-based affectedness.

My own paper observes cross-linguistic data about the causative-passive relationship, and further investigates the ambiguity of readings between the causative and the retained object passive construction in Korean. I argue that the distinction between inalienable and alienable possession is not relevant for the ambiguity in question, and the notion of contiguity plays a crucial role in explaining the retained object passive construction in Korean and other languages.

The papers in this volume were originally presented at a special 'Typology' session of the 12th International Conference on Korean Linguistics, held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 13-15 July, 2000. Subsequently, the papers were published in a special volume (N° 32) of the *Journal of the Linguistic Society of Korea* in 2002. With a view to raising the awareness among Korean linguists of the functional-typological approach to the study of Korean linguistics, the editors of Saffron Korean Linguistics Series agreed that the best way to promote functional-typological research on the Korean language would be to publish these papers in a single volume. This is the background of how this volume came into being today. I would like to express my gratitude to my colleague, Dr Jae Jung Song, who has encouraged me and offered valuable comments and suggestions. I am also grateful to Lucien Brown for his help proofreading the manuscripts.