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PREFACE

The twenty-third volume of the Work Papers of the Summer Institute of
Linguistics at the University of North Dakota contains five working papers
written by staff and advanced students. Comments are invited on these
reports of work in progress inasmuch as the authors may wish to revise and
publish at a later date.

Each of the papers is based on data collected in field work and contains
significant amounts of data for illustrative purposes. The first paper
reports on the evidence accumulated during the past two years which shows
the likely existence of twelve languages with object-initial basic order,
contrary to what had been generally predicted in the literature on word
order typology until 1977. The second paper suggests a possible diachronic
explanation for the emergence of OVS as a basic order in Carib languages,
citing evidence from the OVS languages Hixkaryana of Brazil and Makúsi of
Guyana, Venezuela and Brazil and the SOV language Carib (or Galibi) of
Surinam. The next two papers, written within the framework of generative
phonology, propose analyses of complicated phonological aspects of two
languages spoken in Mexico. By positing underlying vowel length and open
syllables, accent can be predicted for all forms in Southeastern Tepehuan
and phonetic forms of all stems can be predicted by a set of phonological
rules derived from accent. In the second phonology paper a case is made
for positing an abstract segment in Seri and the motivation for the analysis
is shown to be multiple and the abstract solution to be preferable to a
concrete analysis. The final paper discusses passive constructions in
Seri. A comparison is made of alternative treatments by making them explicit
in terms of relational grammar.

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