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WORK PAPERS

of the

Summer Institute of Linguistics

University of North Dakota

Volume 23

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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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	iii
Object Initial Languages Desmond C. Derbyshire and Geoffrey K. Pullum	1
A Diachronic Explanation for the Origin of OVS Desmond C. Derbyshire	35
Reduplication and Accent in Southeastern Tepehuan Elizabeth Willett	47
The Abstract Consonant in Seri Stephen A. Marlett	66
Personal and Impersonal Passives in Seri Stephen A. Marlett	99