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1991
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Session

Volume 35

Editors:

Robert A. Dooley and J. Stephen Quakenbush

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Preface

The six papers in this volume represent a variety of language types and linguistic concerns as investigated by a few of the linguists associated with the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of North Dakota. Derbyshire, Director of the Summer Institute from 1982 to 1988, writes on a current issue in Amazonian linguistics – the direction of change in languages of that area with regard to ergativity. Dooley, the current Director, contributes a paper on a double-verb construction in a Tupian language of Brazil, noting its implications for the study of similar constructions cross-linguistically. It is with special pleasure that we include a paper from Alexandr E. Kibrik, of Moscow State University, who was a visiting scholar during this 1991 session. Kibrik is well-known for his work in syntactic typology, and particularly for his fieldwork on minority languages of the Soviet Union. In his paper included here, he addresses ergative phenomena from the viewpoint of a semantics-based typology. Both Levinsohn's and Parker's contributions were first presented in 1990 as part of the SIL Colloquium Series. Levinsohn sheds light on participant reference in New Testament Greek, while Parker uses a type of language play in Spanish to illuminate the phonological structure of that language. Quakenbush details an apparent sound change in progress in a Philippine language, relating its spread to both social and linguistic factors.

We would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of our colleagues – Betty Brown for her expert copy-editing, Bob Wright for his highly efficient computer assistance, and Kathie Dooley both for copy-editing and for her capable supervision of the production and distribution process.

From matters synchronic to diachronic; from South America, the Ancient Mediterranean, the Soviet Union, to Southeast Asia; from phonology, syntax, typology, semantics and pragmatics to sociolinguistics – there is a little something here for everyone.

RAD
JSQ

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