Junktion: Eine Dimension der Sprache und ihre Realisierungsformen zwischen Aggregation und Integration. By Wolfgang Raible. (Sitzungsberichte der Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, philosophisch-historische Klasse: 1992, 2.) Heidelberg: Carl Winter, 1992. Pp. 119, 1 fold-out table. Paper DM 110.00.

This highly readable book sets out as a study of adpositional phrases and sentence connexion ('Junktion'). But it is far more: it touches on a number of topics which are of interest to functionally oriented linguists, and especially to those interested in language universals and typology—finiteness, grammatical relations, verb serialization, switch reference, case, the nounverb distinction, written vs. spoken language, language change, and many others.

The first part of the book is devoted to the intralinguistic analysis of French complex prepositions, resulting in a large overview table which is attached to the book. This is the starting point for the interlinguistic comparison in Ch. 2. The semasiological analysis of the first two chapters is then complemented by the onomasiological perspective of the third chapter, where R tries to order the inter- and intra-clausal

relations with the help of conceptual constructs ('noemes'). Ch. 4 treats aspects of language change, in particular with respect to finiteness, and discusses several instances of grammaticalization in the field of sentence connectors. R then analyzes the techniques of sentence connexion in relation to the opposition between spoken and written language (Ch. 5). In Ch. 6 he orders the observed phenomena on a central scale and on several concomitant scales of finiteness, and considers general issues of typology and language universals. Ch. 7 provides interesting insights into the genesis of the present study. Here and in the footnotes throughout the book, the reader gains a lot of bio-bibliographical information about present-day functional linguistics in Germany, with special reference to the field of Romance studies. R discusses data from a wide range of languages, reaching from Latin, Greek, German, and Romance (including a thorough discussion of several Romance-based creoles) to Finnish, Hopi, Kilivila, and Ewe.

R's semasiological approach to typology is convincing: he starts with the analysis of only one language (French), where the category under investigation (complex prepositions as sentence connectors) is highly developed. This analysis results in a two-dimensional field of (ordered) techniques, which is then confronted with data from a great variety of languages. R's scalar ordering principle (clause aggregation vs. integration) and his philological discussion of details yield interesting insights not only into the problem of sentence connexion, but also into the overall organization of language systems.

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