

Partizipation. Das sprachliche Erfassen von Sachverhalten. Ed. by HANSJAKOB SEILER and WALDFRIED PREMPER. Tübingen: Gunter Narr, 1991. Pp. vi, 698. Cloth DM 178.00.

The latest publication of the Cologne Project on Language Universals and Linguistic Typology (UNITYP) contains twenty-one papers on issues of syntactic typology (eleven in English and ten in German with an English summary at the beginning of the book). Some of the papers have been republished in the project's working papers (*Arbeiten des Kölner Universalienprojekts, AKUP*), and some go back to the early 1980s. It's a pity that their definitive publication has taken so long.

The common denominator of the papers is the 'dimension of participation', the functional domain of language where—from a cognitive-conceptual point of view—'participants' (actants, arguments) participate in a 'participatum' (situation/event, predicate). Unfortunately, the book does not contain a general introduction to the theoretical framework of the UNITYP group with respect to what they call 'Participation'; such an introduction is announced as a separate publication (3). The journal *Función* (Guadalajara, Mexico) published Hansjakob Seiler's preliminary version of it in 1988 (no. 7: *The dimension of Participation*).

The papers in the present volume are ar-

anged into four sections. The first is an introductory section containing a general introduction by JÜRGEN BROSCHEART ('On the sequence of the techniques on the dimension of Participation', 29–61), who outlines the theoretical arguments developed in subsequent papers. The other paper in this section is a stimulating theoretical inquiry into 'Relationality and the grammatical operation', by CHRISTIAN LEHMANN (13–28), who discusses such fundamental concepts as dependency and government. Although this paper is both interesting and insightful, it does not fit completely into the overall concept of the book.

Section II deals with the noun-verb distinction, verb classes, and valency. Broschart, in 'Noun, verb, and Participation' (65–137), shows that the distinction between nouns and verbs is a matter of degree. His examples from Tongan and Iroquoian are particularly convincing. In the same vein, ULRIKE MOSEL argues for a 'continuum of verbal and nominal clauses in Samoan' (138–49). On the basis of actant ('participant') roles (initiator, undergoer, experiencer, etc.) and their relations, WERNER DROSSARD establishes verb classes from a typological viewpoint ('Verbklassen', 150–82). The relation between participants and the participatum forms the basis for Christian Lehmann's classification of situations and predicates ('Predicate classes and Participation', 183–239). The section ends with two papers on valency: a typological study by Ulrike Mosel (240–51), with data from German, Dyirbal, Tolai, and Tok Pisin, and PAUL O. SAMUELSDORFF's study of valency change through suffixes in Swahili (252–70).

Section III deals with diathesis, transitivity, and case marking. Under the cover term 'orientation' ('Orientierung', 273–308), FRITZ SERZISKO looks for the common denominator of diathesis, inverse inflection, and ergativity, and finds it in the 'centrality' or 'promotion' ('bevorzugte Behandlung', 290) of a participant. This article is followed by a detailed investigation into 'The function of the Japanese passive' by YOSHIKO ONO (309–80). The transition between the field of orientation and transitivity is treated in two short language-internal studies: 'Transitive Konstruktionen und Verbdiathese im Indonesischen' (381–99), by ULRIKE KÖLVER, and 'Abstufungen der Transitivität im Palaulaischen' (400–407), by Ulrike Mosel. Note the recurring mentions of gradedness and continuity, a characteristic feature of the whole ap-

proach. The central typological studies on transitivity ('Transitivität ... und Transitivity', 408–45) and case marking ('Kasusmarkierung', 446–81) are undertaken by Werner Drossard.

The final section deals with serial verbs, causatives, and complex sentences, thus shifting the focus to the predicate or—in the cognitive-conceptual terms of the Cologne project—the 'participatum'. Ulrike Kölver explores how verb serialization in Thai serves to introduce participants in the domain of local relations ('Local prepositions and serial verb constructions in Thai', 485–508). WALTER BISANG follows with a landmark study of 'Verb serialization, grammaticalization and attractor positions in Chinese, Hmong, Vietnamese, Thai and Khmer' (509–62).

The next four papers present language-internal studies of causative constructions or, to refer to the cognitive level, of causation: HILARY CHAPPELL, 'Causativity and the *ba* construction in Chinese' (563–84); Werner Drossard, 'Kausativierung und Transitivityierung im Tagalog' (585–600); TAKAYUKI MATSUBARA, 'Zur Behandlung der Kausationsausdrücke des Japanischen' (601–34); and WALDFRIED PREPPER, 'Lexical causation as a fundamental characteristic of the Arabic verbal system' (635–57). The volume closes with GUNTER BRETTSCHEIDER's study of the relationship between the dimension of participation and the field of complex sentences ('Partizipation verknüpft mit Nektion', 658–85), with evidence mainly from Basque. The language index at the end of the book contains over 150 entries; another index lists the scholars mentioned in the book.

Most of the papers in this volume should be of great interest to typologists as well as to specialists in the particular language(s) or language group treated. The chapters can be read independently without a deeper knowledge of the theoretical framework that unifies them. One hopes, however, that they will stimulate some interest in the framework, a synthesis of which still remains a desideratum. [MARTIN HAASE, *University of Osnabrück, Germany.*]