

HENGEVELD, Kees. **Non-verbal Predication. Theory, Typology, Diachrony.** Functional Grammar Series 15. Berlin and New York: Mouton de Gruyter. 1992. Pp. xxiii, 321.

Within the model of Functional Grammar the concept of *non-verbal predication* encompasses all those cases in which a non-verbal lexeme or a non verbal-construction is used predicatively; this approach implies that copular constructions are treated as phenomena of the same type as nominal, possessive, locative and existential constructions. The present book is devoted to the study of all these structures in a wide range of languages, as it is expressed in the introductory chapter. Given the premise that such a study is approached from a Functional Grammar perspective, originally devised by Simon C. Dik and later developed by himself and others in what by now is a great variety of works, the author of this book devotes its first chapter to a brief description of the structure of that model. Chapter 2 is an explanation of the method of selection of the languages that constitute the sample for this investigation. Such method was proposed in Rijkhoff et al.'s "A method of language sampling" (*Studies in language*; in press at the moment of publication of this book). The main aim of this computerized method is to create samples where the differences among languages are maximal. The first discriminating factor will be, then, genetic diversity. This is achieved—in the first place—by making sure that every major phylum is represented in the sample by at least one language, and—secondly—by ensuring that the number of languages chosen from every phylum correlates with the linguistic diversity within that phylum. To obtain this, the sampling method assigns a "Diversity Value" for each phylum, which takes into consideration its internal complexity

(number and depth of branchings). A further restriction is to avoid the selection of geographically contiguous languages. The application of this method yields an ideal sample of forty languages, which—for the present study—becomes reduced to 37, after the exclusion of Etruscan, Meroitic and Hurrian, because of the lack of sufficient information about these extinct languages.

In chapter 3 there is a general characterization of the concepts which are basic for this investigation: *non-verbal predication*, *non-verbal predicates*, *copula*, *semi-copula* and *pseudo-copula*. Of special interest are: (i) the section that demonstrates the main predicate status of the non-verbal predicates, even for those languages that always require a copula in these constructions; and (ii) the description of the different types of expression rules that account for the introduction of copulas (support rule) and semi-copulas (replacive rules). Chapter 4 draws a crucial distinction between parts of speech and predicates. In Functional Grammar there is usually the identification between basic predicates and contentive lexemes (nouns, adjectives and verbs); in contradistinction to this view, Hengeveld proposes to consider the lexemes (adding adverbs to these) as heads of predicates. This permits a clear differentiation between lexical and syntactic units. After introducing and explaining the potential explanatory power of a variable for predicates (syntactic units), he provides a definition for each type of predicate in functional terms. The application of such definitions permits a classification of languages based on their parts-of-speech systems. Chapter 5 presents the different types of non-verbal predicates and non-verbal predications. There is also a reflection on the differences of meaning that are imposed by the different types of arguments that participate in non-verbal predicational structures, which leads to the study of the concept of *predicability*, or combinatorial pos-

sibilities between arguments and predicates. The study of these possibilities allows the author to establish a classification of the various semantic relations that are conveyed in non-verbal predications.

The next chapters pay special attention to the way all the notions described previously appear implemented in the languages of the sample. Thus, Chapter 6 is dedicated to the application of the notion of *non-verbal predicability*, or the extent to which ontologically predicable non-verbal predication is in fact linguistically predicable via non-verbal predications across the language sample. The results of this study yield different predicate hierarchies for adscriptive and equative predications, another more general predication hierarchy, and two additional hierarchies for deixis and quantification. Chapters 7 and 8 can be considered a continuation of the consequences of applying the concept of predicability to the languages of the sample. In chapter 7 there is a detailed description of the alternatives that languages use for non-predicable predication types, and of the distribution of those alternatives, which seems to be related to the parts-of-speech systems of the languages, on the one hand, and to the degree of predicability of non-verbal predication types, on the other.

Chapter 8 presents the different expression formats of predicable non-verbal predication types. Attention is paid to the classes of copulas and the way they relate to those expression formats. Chapter 9 shows the correlations of the expression formats with the parts-of-speech system and with the morphological realizations of non-verbal predications across languages.

The diachronic perspective, announced in the title of the book, is more apparent in chapter 10, where an explanation is given for the development of copularization systems in terms of four different strategies used in several languages. Chapter 11 accounts for what the

author labels *auxiliary predications*, which are to be understood as non-verbal predications types that have some specialized use; such specialized uses concern the expression of tense, aspect, mood or polarity distinctions.

Finally, and by way of a conclusion, chapter 12 briefly exposes two major generalizations drawn from the results of the previous chapters: (i) the parts-of-speech systems of a language influences the organization of the systems of non-verbal predications; it has a relevant role in the organization of the subordination systems, and in the word-order conditions of a language as well; (ii) the three major types of non-verbal predications are the localizing, property assigning and equative types. Of these, property-assigning non-verbal predications are of decisive importance for several aspects of the copularization processes.

This is a very valuable book both from a typological and a theoretical perspective, as it gives new insights to the study of a very wide range of phenomena, which run from the old and controversial question of the classification of parts of speech to a more innovative approach based on the interrelations between functional, diachronic and typological analyses. [Francisco J. CORTÉS RODRÍGUEZ, *Universidad de La Laguna*]

HERNÁNDEZ CAMPOY, Juan Manuel. **Sociolingüística británica. Introducción a la obra de Peter Trudgill.** Barcelona: Octaedro. 1993. Pp. 273.

La obra de Peter Trudgill ocupa un lugar destacado en los estudios sociolingüísticos y dialectológicos desarrollados en Europa durante el último cuarto de siglo. Las razones son varias. De un lado, ha introducido en nuestro continente las bases