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LINGUISTICS

Aikhenvald and Dixon
Commands

This book focuses on the form and the function of commands—directive speech acts such as pleas, entreaties, and orders—from a typological perspective. A team of internationally-renowned experts in the field examine the interrelationship of these speech acts with cultural stereotypes and practices, as well as their origins and development, especially in the light of language contact.

The volume begins with an introduction outlining the marking and the meaning of imperatives and other ways of expressing commands and directives. Each of the chapters that follow offers an in-depth analysis of commands in a particular language. These analyses are cast in terms of ‘basic linguistic theory’—a cumulative typological functional framework—and the chapters are arranged and structured in a way that allows useful comparison between them. The languages investigated include Quechua, Japanese, Lao, Aguaruna and Ashaninka Satipo (both from Peru), Dyirbal (from Australia), Zenzontepec Chatino (from Mexico), Nungon, Tayatuk, and Karawari (from Papua New Guinea), Korowai (from West Papua), Wolaitta (from Ethiopia), and Northern Paiute (a native language of the United States).

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Commands

A Cross-Linguistic Typology

EDITED BY

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and R. M. W. Dixon

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Language and Cultural Research Centre, James Cook University

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Edited by

ALEXANDRA Y. AIKHENVALD and

R. M. W. DIXON

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Preface

Every language has numerous means for getting someone to do something. These cover orders, pleas, entreaties, and other directives. They correlate with social conventions, existing hierarchies, and even kinship systems. This volume focuses on the form and the function of commands (or directive speech acts), their interrelationship with cultural stereotypes and practices, and their origins and development, especially in the light of language contact under different circumstances.

The volume starts with a typological introduction outlining the marking, and the meaning, of imperatives and other ways of expressing commands and directives, together with their cultural and social aspects and historical developments. It is followed by revised versions of fourteen presentations from the International Workshop ‘Commands’, held at the Language and Culture Research Centre, James Cook University, 28 September–3 October 2015. An earlier version of Chapter 1 had been circulated to the contributors, with a list of points to be addressed, so as to ensure that their detailed studies of individual languages were cast in terms of a common set of typological parameters. (This is the eighth monograph in the series *Explorations in Linguistic Typology*, devoted to volumes from International Workshops organized by the co-editors.)

The week of the workshop was intellectually stimulating and exciting, full of discussions and cross-fertilization of ideas. Each author has undertaken intensive fieldwork, in addition to experience of working on linguistic typology, historical comparative issues, and problems of areal diffusion. The analysis is cast in terms of basic linguistic theory—the cumulative typological functional framework in terms of which almost all descriptive grammars are cast—and avoids formalisms (which provide reinterpretations rather than explanations, and come and go with such frequency that any statement made in terms of them is likely soon to become inaccessible).

It is our hope that this volume will provide a consolidated conceptual and analytic framework. We aim at covering the major parameters of variation in the expression of commands and a plethora of directive speech acts in general across languages of the world.

We are grateful to all the participants in the Workshops and colleagues who took part in the discussion and provided feedback on presentations at various stages, particularly Grant Aiton, Yongxian Luo, Cassy Nancarrow, Colleen Oates, Howard Oates, Ryan Pennington, Nick Piper, and Kasia Wojtylak. We are grateful to the Honourable Jan McLucas, Labor Senator for Queensland, for her official opening of the Workshop and support. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Amanda Parsonage

and Brigitta Flick, for helping us organize the Workshop in a most efficient manner. Brigitta Flick's and Jolene Overall's support and editorial assistance were invaluable.

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