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RESENSI BUKU

Title: Tipologi Linguistik, Konsep Dasar dan Aplikasinya

ISBN: 978-602-5401-21-3 Authors: Ketut Artawa & Jufrizal Publisher: Pustaka Larasan, 2021

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The book consists of nine chapters; the first three of which serve as a strong introduction to essential concepts in linguistic typology research. The rest of the book delves deeper into some of these concepts, specifically grammar typology (Chapter 4), grammatical alignment (Chapter 5), information system (Chapter 6), markedness (Chapter 7) and diachronic studies in linguistic typology (Chapter 8), with the last chapter serving as a general conclusion for the book. The book is structured such that the concepts elaborated on in Chapters 4-8 are already covered briefly in the first three chapters. This stylistic choice makes the book easy to digest, as readers are not inundated with details as soon as they are introduced to new concepts. For example, when dealing with the complex theory of grammatical alignment, readers are already introduced to features such as the intransitive subject (S), transitive subject (A) and transitive object (O), as well as how these elements may be grouped together in different languages in Chapter 3 (sub-section 3.5). The authors then zoom into more details on grammatical alignment in Chapter 5, reinforcing what has already been discussed earlier in Chapter 3, but also introducing elaborations, new terminologies and more examples. This layered, step-by-step approach is in line with the authors' overall philosophy of wanting to demystify the study of linguistic typology, and to convince beginners in the field that this sub-field of linguistic study is not difficult and can be rewarding.

Additionally, it is worth noting that the authors provide a wealth of data in different languages to clarify and show how linguistic typology theories should be applied in processing linguistic data. The data provided covers a wide range of languages, from commonly studied ones like English and Japanese, to understudied languages like Malagasy and Hixkaryana, including Indonesian, as well as languages both authors are most familiar with: Minangkabau for Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, and Balinese for Prof. Dr. Ketut Artawa. This all-encompassing presentation of data showcases both the authors' depth and breadth of knowledge. At the same time, this emphasis on various data shows readers how linguistic theories and different approaches in linguistic typology can be applied directly to language data from various sources. As such, the book is not focused solely on drilling the theory but is also concerned with demonstrating how the theory can be used to analyze real data. This increases the value of this book, especially for those who are just starting out with this type of linguistic research.

Another interesting feature that makes this book useful for a wide range of audiences is its balanced presentation of different schools of thought in the discussion of various concepts related to linguistic typology. This is perhaps best demonstrated in the discussion around universality in linguistic features. While the kind of universal generalizations that would be most useful for work in linguistic typology would be the kind put forth by Greenberg, based on

meticulous study of a sample of large data from various languages, the authors of the book include explanations of other types of universality. For instance, the one put forth by Chomsky, that is often based on a much smaller set of data, due to some of the assumptions underlying this specific theory. The authors present such opposing schools of thought in a very neutral tone, clearly stating which assumptions are crucial for work in the field of linguistic typology, while situating them within numerous academic conversations, without dismissing other views that are not immediately useful in linguistic typology work. This elevates the book and makes it exciting not only for beginning typologists but also for other experts who might be interested in more complex issues in language typology, making this a riveting read for both students and other linguistics scholars.