



TEN YEARS
ACHIEVEMENTS

1996 - 2006



The Research Centre for Linguistic Typology was established at the Australian National University on 18th December 1996 as a home for Professor Aikhenvald, Professor Dixon and their growing team of researchers. It relocated to La Trobe University on 1st January 2000.

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Intra-University links

La Trobe has been designated as the Australian university with specialisation in Latin American studies. Interrelating with this, one of RCLT's major focuses is on the languages of Amazonia (we also have a Postdoctoral Research Fellow working in Mexico and a PhD student in Panama). Professor Aikhenvald played a major role in the establishment of reciprocal arrangements between this university and (a) the University of Campinas, and (b) the Ministry of Education of the State of Amazonas, both in Brazil.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, La Trobe had one of the leading linguistics departments in Australia (indeed, this was a major reason that RCLT sought to relocate here). The Department was then considerably weakened by retirements and resignations. RCLT played a major role in assisting the resuscitation of the department and now works closely with it. The new professor, Randy LaPolla, had previously been a Visiting Fellow and the new lecturer, Tonya Stebbins, had previously been a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at RCLT.

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Outside Funding Sources — Grants and Fellowships

Professor R. M. W. Dixon, PhD, LittD, FBA, Director

- ARC Senior Research Fellowship: 1996-2001 (second term); 2001-6 (third term)
 - ARC Large Grant (Dixon and Aikhenvald) 'The categories of human languages', \$120,000 p.a. for 1996-8
 - ARC Special Investigator Award, \$140,000 p.a. for 1997-8, \$200,000 for 1999
 - ARC Large Grant 'Endangered languages: Australia and Amazonia', \$225,500 over 2000-2
 - ARC Large Grant 'Basic linguistic theory', \$87,000 for 2001, \$83,000 for 2002, \$82,650 for 2003
 - ARC Discovery Grant (Dixon & Aikhenvald) 'Basic linguistic theory', \$100,000 p.a. for 2004-6
 - ARC Discovery Grant (Aikhenvald & Dixon) 'Grammars in contact', \$207,000 over 2005-7
 - ARC Discovery Grant (Dixon and Aikhenvald) 'Are some languages better than others?', \$380,000 over 2007-10
 - ARC Linkage International Fellowship (Aikhenvald, Dixon and Matras) 'A cross-linguistic perspective on grammatical borrowing', \$81,931 for 2007
- plus three ARC Small Grants, 1996-2000

Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, PhD, DLitt, FAHA, Associate Director

- ARC Small Grant 'The structure of the Manambu language of New Guinea', \$15,000 over 1996-7
- ARC Small Grant 'Language contact in northern Amazonia', \$10,000 for 1998
- ARC Senior Research Fellowship: 1999-2004 (second term)
- ARC Small Grant 'Areal diffusion in northwest Amazonia', \$12,972 for 2000
- Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Small Grant 'Multilingualism in Amazonia', US\$18,000 (AU\$27,302) over 1999-2001
- Australian Academy of the Humanities Grant, 'Collaboration with the countries of the ex-USSR', to sponsor the visit of Prof. Ago Künnap, Tartu University, Estonia, \$3,500 for 2001.
- Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Individual Grant, 'Arawak languages: reconstruction and culture history', US\$24,500 (AU\$43,306) over 2003-5
- ARC IREX Fellowship for Prof. Dr. F. Serzisko, 'Typology of tense and time', \$61,133 for 2000
- ARC Large Grant 'Language contact and the typology of borrowing: the case of Amazonia', \$145,200 over 2001-3
- ARC Large Grant 'Basic linguistic theory', \$87,000 for 2001, \$83,000 for 2002, \$82,650 for 2003
- ARC Discovery Grant (Dixon & Aikhenvald) 'Basic linguistic theory', \$100,000 p.a. for 2004-6
- ARC Discovery Grant (Aikhenvald & Dixon) 'Grammars in contact', \$207,000 over 2005-7
- ARC Discovery Grant (Dixon and Aikhenvald) 'Are some languages better than others?', \$380,000 over 2007-10
- ARC Linkage International Fellowship (Aikhenvald, Dixon and Matras) 'A cross-linguistic perspective on grammatical borrowing', \$81,931 for 2007

Other fellowships and grants obtained include:

ARC Postdoctoral Fellowship

—Dr Timothy Curnow (2000-3)

Endangered Languages Documentation Program (University of London), Postdoctoral Fellowships

—Dr Knut Olawsky (2003-5)

—Dr Birgit Hellwig (2003-5)

—Dr Cartriona Hyslop (2004-6)

—Dr Stephen Morey (2005-7)

German Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship

—Dr Ulrike Zeshan (2001-3)

Swedish Royal Academy of Letters and Australian Academy of the Humanities Fellow

—Professor Östen Dahl (2003)

Swiss Academy of Sciences

—Dr Fernando Zúñiga (2004)

RCLT's Mission Statement

1 Our prime objective is to maintain the highest international standards of linguistic research. This is demonstrated by the quality (and quantity) of published research outputs, in international refereed journals and in books from leading publishing houses. It is reflected in the laudatory reviews and high citation index for our publications.

Building up an impressive track record for each member of the Research Centre enables us to continue with our success in obtaining competitive research funding in terms of grants and fellowships.

2 Members of RCLT undertake comprehensive theoretically-informed documentation of a previously undescribed (or scarcely described) language, producing an analytic reference grammar, a collection of texts, and an outline dictionary. They also provide literacy materials as requested by the language community.

3 We follow the most effective methodology of field study. This involves 'immersion fieldwork', living as part of a language community and being involved in everyday language interaction. Each study is based primarily on the analysis of recorded texts (rather than on elicitation through a contact language).

4 We undertake typological investigations, following an inductive methodology, putting forward generalisations concerning the nature and mechanism of the human language ability and associated cognitive capacities.

5 We investigate relationships between languages, both in terms of historical development and genetic links, and the influence of contact phenomena between geographically contiguous languages within a linguistic area. This enables us to lay the foundation for scientific understanding concerning the 'why' and the 'how' of language evolution.

Academic achievements of RCLT, 1996 – 2006

RCLT began taking PhD students only in 2000. During the past six years, there have been **12 PhD students** (three have gained the degree — two theses are to be published, and one has just been submitted, eight are continuing). They have come from Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, and the USA. Each has worked or is working on a comprehensive theoretically-informed linguistic description of a previously undescribed language based on original field work. The field locations have been in Bolivia, Brazil, India, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Peru, the Philippines and Taiwan.

Over the ten year period, RCLT has had **24 Postdoctoral Research Fellows**, most of them working on a comprehensive description of a previously undescribed language. These RFs have, in all, published (or have in press or forthcoming) **26 books**, either while with us or based on work done while at RCLT. The RFs have come from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Nigeria, and the USA. They have undertaken fieldwork in Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Sudan, Turkey, and Vanuatu. Most Research Fellows have been funded by the ARC, the German Science Foundation, the Endangered Languages Documentation Program (based in London), and La Trobe University Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme.

Each year, four or five leading International Scholars are invited to spend 3-6 months at RCLT as a Visiting Fellow in order to undertake a substantial piece of work. We have hosted **45 Visiting Fellows**, from Australia, Botswana, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Mexico, Russia, Sweden, the UK, the USA, and Venezuela. In all, **27 books** have been identified by them as having been completed, or substantially written, or edited, during their term at RCLT. These Visiting Fellows, when they return to their home universities, play a major role in informing the academic world of the achievements and excellence of RCLT.

We receive many enquiries from scholars wishing to spend a sabbatical at RCLT; they are seeking just a room to work in, within our intellectual ambience. We accept about one-third of applications received. We have hosted **48 Honorary Visiting Fellows**, from 15 nations, and they have identified **15 books**, substantial parts (sometimes all) of which were written at RCLT.

Turning now to the **Directorate**, Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald has published seven scholarly monographs in English and one in Portuguese during the ten-year period, and Professor R. M. W. Dixon has published six (one of which has been translated into Japanese). They have jointly edited ten volumes.

In sum, **scholarly monographs** identified as having been wholly or largely produced by PhD students, Postdoctoral Research Fellows, Visiting Fellows, Honorary Visiting Fellows and the Directors at RCLT over the ten year period are listed on pages 14-18; they number **more than ninety**. In addition, **scholarly papers** (in refereed journals, or chapters in refereed books) over this period number **more than four hundred**. (Full details of all papers — and of books — are in our annual newsletters.)

Summary

RCLT was established at the ANU in December 1996 and had made an auspicious beginning by the time of its relocation to La Trobe University in January 2000. The Research Centre has been nurtured by La Trobe University and has now flowered into an absolutely major research strength, at the cutting-edge of international enquiry.

The quality of staff and students, the quality and quantity of publications, the excellence of International Workshops, grant-getting power, the intellectual ambience, and the inspired soundness of training provided for PhD students and Research Fellows are all quite notable.



Prof Aikhenvald (right) with Chancellor, Mrs Sylvia Walton, AO, at the Doctor of Letters degree ceremony in April 2006.

Language documentation by PhD students, Research Fellows and the Directorate

BOLIVIA

Araona, Carola Emkow
Cavineña, Antoine Guillaume
Chacobo, Oliver Iggesen

BRAZIL

Jarawara, R. M. W. Dixon
Kanamari, Stefan Dienst
Kulina, Stefan Dienst
Marubo, David Fleck
Parkatêjê, Marília Ferreira
Tucano, Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
Tariana, Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

PERU

Aguaruna (Jivaro), Simon Overall
Awa Pit, Tim Curnow
Matses, David Fleck
Urarina, Knut Olawsky
Yine (Piro), Rebecca Hanson

MEXICO

Southern Zapotec, Rosemary Beam

PANAMA

Cuna, Raoul Zamponi

FIJI

Boumaa Fijian, R. M. W. Dixon

VANUATU

North-east Ambae, Catriona Hyslop
Vurës, Catriona Hyslop

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Anamuxra, Andrew Ingram
Barok, Jingyi Du
Dom, Tida Syuntaro
Dumo, Andrew Ingram
Iatmul, Gerd Jendraschek
Kuot, Eva Lindström
Kwoma, Renée Lambert-Brétière
Mali-Baining, Tonya Stebbins
Manambu, Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
Taulil, Tonya Stebbins
Vinitiri, Sheena Van Der Mark

AUSTRALIA

Dyirbal, R. M. W. Dixon
Karajarri, Janet Sharp
Nyangumarta, Janet Sharp

INDONESIA

Tetum Dili, John Hajek

THE PHILIPPINES

N. Subanen, Josephine Daguman

TAIWAN

Bunun, Rik de Busser

MALAYSIA

Ceq Wong, Nicole Kruspe
Semelai, Nicole Kruspe

INDIA

Atong, Seino van Breugel
Galo, Mark Post
Mongsen (Ao), Alec Coupe
Tai, Stephen Morey
Turung, Stephen Morey

CHINA AND BURMA

Rawang-Dulong, Randy LaPolla
Qiang, Randy LaPolla

NIGERIA

Dagbani, Knut Olawsky
Goemai, Birgit Helwig

THE SUDAN

Katla, Birgit Hellwig

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kabba, Rosmarie Moser

ISRAEL

Mod. Hebrew, Ghil'ad Zuckermann

SIGN LANGUAGES

Arabic SL, Ulrike Zeshan
Indo-Pakistani SL, Ulrike Zeshan
Turkish SL, Ulrike Zeshan

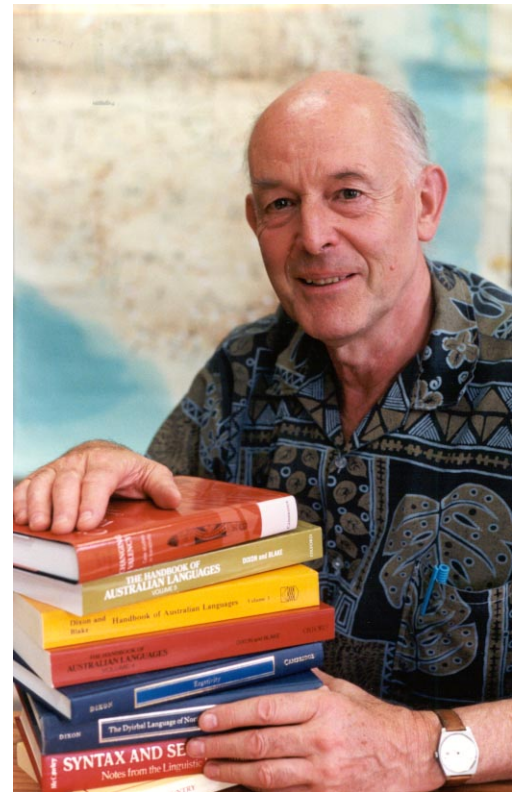
Profile of the Director

Professor R. M. W. Dixon

PhD, LittD, FBA

Born in Gloucester on 25th January 1939 and brought up in Nottingham. After gaining a BA in mathematics from Oxford University, he went to Edinburgh as Research Fellow in Statistical Linguistics (1961-3).

Dixon soon realised that the only way to really learn linguistics was to undertake extensive fieldwork and on that basis write a grammar of a language. He spent a year in North Queensland (1963-4), studying five dialects of Dyirbal. Over the next 30 years, Dixon made 22 further field trips to the region. He published long grammars of Dyirbal (1972) — a revision of his 1968 London PhD dissertation — and Yidiñ (1977) plus shorter grammars of Warrgamay (1981), Nyawaygi (1983) and Mbabaram (1991), in addition to a volume of texts and dictionary in Yidiñ (1991), and a study of Dyirbal song poetry (1996). His survey volume *The languages of Australia* (1980) was replaced by a more comprehensive account, *Australian languages: their nature and development* (2002).



Dixon was Lecturer in Linguistics at University College London (1964-70) and Visiting Lecturer on Linguistics at Harvard University (1968-9). In 1970 he was appointed Professor of Linguistics at the Australian National University. Over the twenty year period that Dixon served as head, he built and nurtured one of the best linguistics departments on the world. In 1991, the ANU awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters, by examination of his published work.

In between teaching, administering, and grammar-writing, he has also been responsible for important theoretical advances — in the understanding of noun classes and classifiers, of adjective classes, of ergativity, of causatives, of the nature of word, of complementation, and of demonstratives, among other topics. His monograph on English grammar (1991, translated into Korean) was reprinted five times and then reissued in a revised and enlarged edition as *A semantic approach to English grammar* (2005). His best-selling essay, *The rise and fall of languages* (1997, translated into Japanese) describes a 'punctuated equilibrium' hypothesis of language evolution.

Expanding his horizons, in 1988 Dixon published *A grammar of Boumaa Fijian*, based on fieldwork in a monolingual village. Then, in 1991 he commenced a 12-year study of a language from the small Arawá family, spoken deep in the Brazilian jungle. *The Jarawara language of southern Amazonia* (2004) won the Linguistic Society of America's Leonard Bloomfield Award, for the best monograph published worldwide, across all fields of linguistics, over a two-year period.

Dixon obtained three successive five-year Senior Research Fellowships (1991-2006) from the Australian Research Council, in addition to ARC Large Grants each year from 1972. Dixon and Aikhenvald together established the RCLT on 18th December 1996. This was the culmination of everything Dixon had been working for, over several decades — a linguistic group of the highest quality, dedicated to producing comprehensive, theoretically-informed descriptions of previously undescribed languages, hand-in-hand with inductively-based generalisations concerning the intrinsic nature of human language.

Profile of the Associate Director

Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

PhD, DLitt, FAHA

Born in Moscow on 1st September 1957, great-grand-daughter of the renowned Russian literary critic Y. I. Aikhenvald, and daughter of poet, literary critic and historian Yuri A. Aikhenvald. After her MA from Moscow State University on Anatolian languages, she completed her PhD at the Institute of Oriental Studies on Berber languages. This was published, in three parts (1986-7), and won two of the annual prizes awarded for the best publication in Oriental Studies. In 1990, she published *Sovremennyj ivrit (Modern Hebrew)*, the first grammar of this language in Russian, whose print run of 10,000 sold out almost immediately. She also published on Afroasiatic reconstruction, on Guanche, and on Finno-Ugric languages.

In 1988, at an unusually early age of 31, she became a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Oriental Languages of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Moving to Brazil in 1989, she became Professor Titular at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Florianopolis at the age of 33. She was enticed by the challenging complexity of the many indigenous languages which were still spoken in Amazonia but had scarcely been described. In 1990, Aikhenvald began fieldwork on languages of the far-flung Arawak family. She worked with the last speaker of Bare (short account in 1995), and then published a lengthy grammar of Warekena (1998). For Tariana, she produced a 700-page grammar (2003), a volume of texts (1999) and a hefty bilingual dictionary (2002).

Intrigued by the language situation of the multilingual Tariana, who only marry those who speak a different language, she produced a well-received case-study *Language contact in Amazonia* (2002) which investigates how languages influence each other and why. She has also reconstructed a fair amount of Proto-Arawak.

She moved to the English-speaking world in 1994, after being awarded a five-year ARC Senior Research Fellowship, in the rank of Professor (her second Fellowship was awarded in 1999). In 1996 she co-founded RCLT.

Aikhenvald has produced several theoretical studies, acknowledged as trend-setters. Her comprehensive study, *Classifiers: a typology of noun categorization devices*, was published in 2000 (paperback in 2003). This was followed by *Evidentiality* (2004, paperback 2006). She has also published important papers on clitics, serial verbs and verb compounding, the impact of language contact, and direct and indirect speech, among other topics. Her *Imperatives and commands* is due to be published by Oxford University Press. In 2006, La Trobe University awarded her the Degree of Doctor of Letters by examination of her published work.

Moving into a new field-area, she has recently completed a comprehensive grammar of Manambu, a Ndu language from the Sepik area in Papua New Guinea.

The undoubted highlight of her career was, together with Dixon, the establishment of RCLT in 1996. This Research Centre is devoted to the most vital task of linguistics today — comprehensive documentation and theoretically-informed description of languages which have particularly interesting structural profiles. She devotes herself to advising PhD students and Postdoctoral Fellows, so that they may produce work which is of the highest quality and of lasting value.



Profile of the Executive Officer

Ms Siew-Peng Condon

BA (Hons), Grad Dip (TESOL)

Originally from Malaysia, Siew-Peng has a first-class Honours degree in Linguistics and a Graduate Diploma in TESOL; both from La Trobe University. Siew-Peng began her career in Student Administration at RMIT. She left her position as Faculty Student Administration Co-ordinator to join the Centre when it relocated to La Trobe University in December 1999.

Siew-Peng looks after the day-to-day matters at the Centre, taking care of issues relating to finance, human resources, travel, IT and other administrative requirements.

When Siew-Peng took maternity leave in 2001, **Ms Abby Chin** took over as Executive Officer for 12 months. In 2004, when Siew-Peng was on maternity leave again, **Ms May Tan** filled the position, also for 12 months.



Ms Jennifer Elliot was the initial Administrator for RCLT, at the ANU, from December 1996 until September 1999. **Ms Jennifer Bourke** then took over from September until December 1999.

Publications Assistants

Suzanne Kite (1997-9)

Carol El-Chaar (2000)

Dr Tania Strahan (2000-2)

Dr Anya Woods (2001-2)

Dr Adam Bowles (2002-4)

Perihan Avdi (2004-5)

Rosemary Purnell (2005-6)

Jessica Cleary-Kemp (2006-)



Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr David Fleck, with Maish, from the Chankueshbo tribe (Amazonian Peru)



Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Gerd Jendraschek getting around in a canoe (East Sepik, Papua New Guinea).

Honorary Higher Doctorates for Leading Linguists

When opening RCLT's fifth International Workshop (on adjective classes), on Monday 12th August 2002, Professor Michael Osborne, Vice-Chancellor and President of La Trobe University, announced the inauguration of an annual Distinguished Visiting Fellowship. RCLT has, each year, nominated a leading international linguist who spends two to four weeks at La Trobe, receives the degree of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*), delivers a public lecture and also presents a number of academic seminars. The honorands have been:

August 2003: **Professor Marianne Mithun**, University of California at Santa Barbara
September 2004: **Professor Bernard Comrie**, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
November 2005: **Professor Peter Trudgill**, University of Fribourg
August 2006: **Professor Brian Joseph**, Ohio State University

Local Workshop Series

Every year a series of local workshops is held at the RCLT, dealing with a specific linguistic topic. Each week two people present a talk on the topic, focusing on languages which they have studied. The following is a list of the local workshop series that have been held at RCLT:

1997	<i>Relative clauses</i>	2002	<i>Copula clauses and verbless clauses</i>
1998	<i>Non-canonical marking of subjects and objects</i>	2003	<i>Imperatives and other commands</i>
1999	<i>Questions</i>	2004	<i>Comparative constructions</i>
2000	<i>Typology of tense</i>	2005	<i>Direct and indirect speech</i>
2001	<i>Demonstratives and related items</i>	2006	<i>The semantics of clause linking</i>

International Workshops

RCLT has organised eight International Workshops on theoretical topics of current issues. The first two were at the ANU, in 1997 and 1998, then at La Trobe in each year from 2000 to 2005. They will now be held every second year; that planned for 13th-18th August 2007 is on 'The semantics of clause linking'.

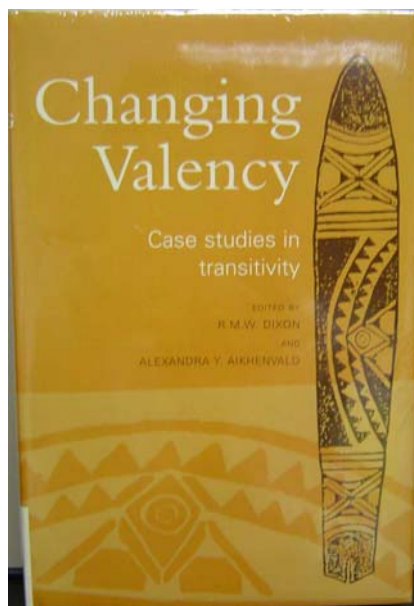
The best papers from each International Workshop are published as a 'state-of-the-art' volume. From the fifth workshop onwards, they have appeared in a special series *Explorations in Linguistic Typology*, from Oxford University Press.

These volumes have received uniformly positive reviews. For example, Edward J. Vajda in his review of *Areal diffusion and genetic relationship: problems in comparative linguistics* (in *Word*, April 2004) said:

Like previous collaborative efforts by Aikhenvald, Dixon and their colleagues at the vibrant and incredibly productive Research Centre for Linguistic Typology (now located at La Trobe University, Melbourne), this book marks a qualitative theoretical advance bound to influence linguists' thinking on important issues. At the same time, it provides a superb foundation to which future scholars of diverse theoretical persuasions can readily add their own refinements.

Details of the first eight International Workshop volumes are on the following pages.

1997 : Valency-changing derivations
Held 18th – 23rd August



Papers from the workshop are contained in the volume ***Changing valency: case studies in transitivity***, edited by Dixon and Aikhenvald and published by Cambridge University Press in early 2000. Following the editors' Introduction and 'A typology of causatives: form, syntax and meaning' by Dixon, there are the following chapters:

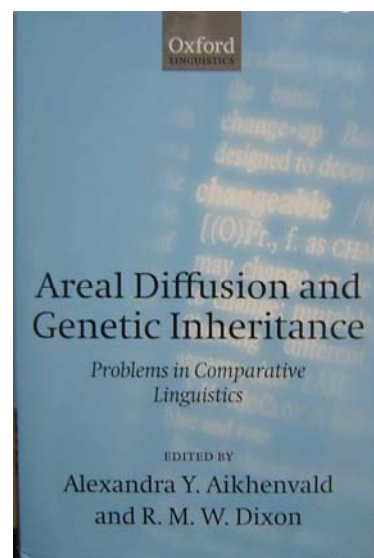
- on Central Alaskan Yup'ik, by Marianne Mithun
- on Motuna, by Masayuki Onishi
- on Tariana, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
- on the Athapaskan family, by Keren Rice
- on K'iche', by Lyle Campbell
- on Dulong/Rawang, by Randy J. LaPolla
- on Amharic, by Mengistu Amberber
- on Ngan'gityemerri, by Nicholas Reid
- on Tsez, by Bernard Comrie
- on Creek, by Jack Martin

1998 : Connection between areal diffusion and the genetic model of language relationship
Held 17th – 22nd August

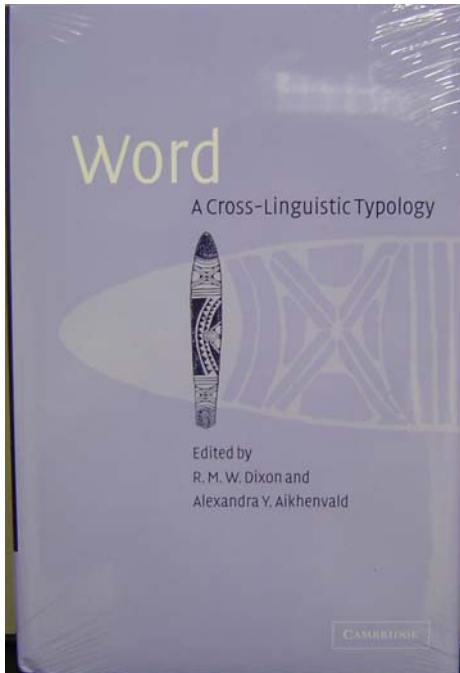
A volume including revised versions of papers presented at the workshop, ***Areal diffusion and genetic inheritance: problems in comparative linguistics*** edited by Aikhenvald and Dixon, was published in October 2001 by Oxford University Press (reissued in paperback in 2006). Following the editors' Introduction there are the following chapters:

- on archaeology and language family origins, by Peter Bellwood
- on Indo-European linguistic area in ancient Anatolia, by Calvert Watkins
- on the Australian linguistic area, by R. M. W. Dixon
- on the Pilbara situation, Western Australia, by Alan Dench
- on Oceanic languages in northwest Melanesia, by Malcolm Ross
- on North Arawak languages, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
- on present day East Anatolia, by Geoffrey Haig
- on the Sino-Tibetan language family, by Randy LaPolla
- on mainland Southeast Asia, by Nicholas J. Enfield
- on Southeast Asian languages, by James A. Matisoff
- on Sinitic languages, by Hilary Chappell
- on areal diffusion in African languages, by Gerrit J. Dimmendaal
- on convergence in African languages, by Bernd Heine and Tania Kuteva

The volume concludes with a chapter by Timothy J. Curnow, 'What language features can be "borrowed"?'



2000: The status of “word”: its phonological, grammatical, cultural and cognitive basis
Held 7th – 12th August



Following our successful Workshops in 1997 and 1998 we held our first workshop in Melbourne from Monday 7th until Saturday 12th August 2000 at La Trobe University.

A volume called **Word: a cross-linguistic typology**, edited by Dixon and Aikhenvald, was published by Cambridge University Press in late 2002. Following the Introduction by Dixon and Aikhenvald, there are the following chapters:

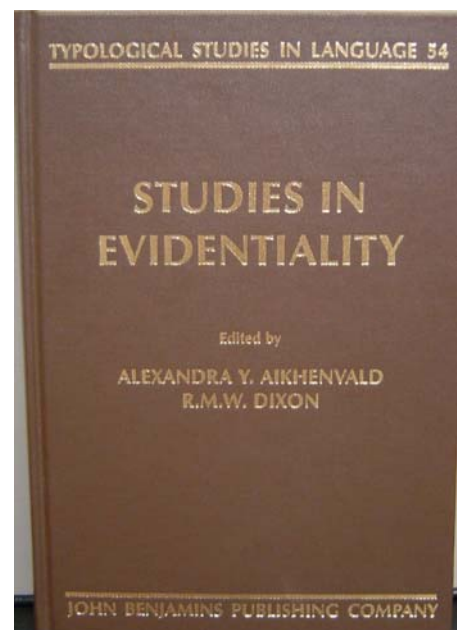
- on Tariana, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
- on Cup'ik, by Anthony C. Woodbury
- on Eastern/Central Arrernte, by John Henderson
- on Jarawara, by R. M. W. Dixon
- on sign languages, by Ulrike Zeshan
- on Siouan, by Robert Rankin, John Boyle, Randolph Graczyk and John Koontz
- on Dagbani, by Knut J. Olawsky
- on Georgian, by Alice C. Harris
- on Modern Greek, by Brian D. Joseph

The final chapter is by P. H. Matthews “What can we conclude?”

2001: Evidentiality
Held 6th – 11th August

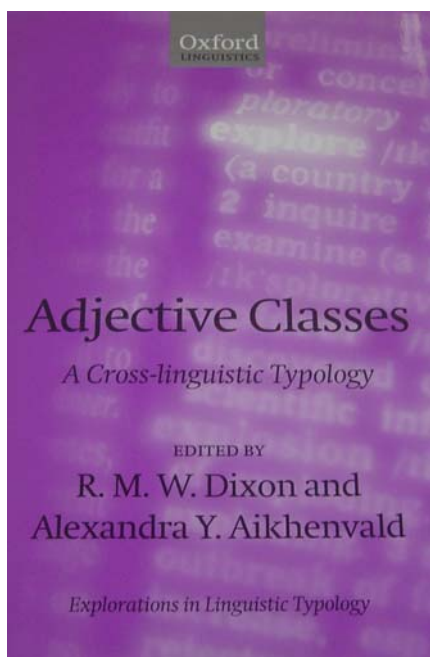
A volume called **Studies in evidentiality**, edited by Aikhenvald and Dixon, was published by John Benjamins in early 2003. The introductory chapter by Aikhenvald is followed by the following chapters:

- on Shipibo-Konibo, by Pilar M. Valenzuela
- on Qiang, by Randy J. LaPolla
- on Western Apache (Athabaskan), by Willem J. de Reuse
- on Eastern Pomo, by Sally McLendon
- on Tariana, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
- on Jarawara, by R. M. W. Dixon
- on the Balkans, by Victor A. Friedman
- on Yukaghir, by Elena Maslova
- on Myky, by Ruth Monserrat and R. M. W. Dixon
- on Abkhaz, by Viacheslav Chirikba
- on Turkic, by Lars Johanson
- on West Greenlandic, by Michael Forstescue



The volume concludes with “Evidentials. Summation, questions, prospects” by Brian D. Joseph.

2002: Adjective classes
Held 12th – 17th August



A volume called ***Adjective classes: a cross-linguistic typology***, edited by Dixon and Aikhenvald, was published by Oxford University Press in 2004 as the first volume in the series ***Explorations in Linguistic Typology*** (reissued in paperback in 2006). Following Dixon's Introduction, there are the following chapters:

- on Japanese, by Anthony E. Backhouse
- on Manage, by Carol Genetti and Kristine Hildebrandt
- on Tariana, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
- on Mam, by Nora C. England
- on Papantla Totonac, by Paulette Levy
- on Jarawara, by R. M. W. Dixon
- on Russian, by Greville G. Corbett
- on Korean, by Ho-min Sohn
- on Wolof, by Fiona McLaughlin
- on North-East Ambae, by Catriona Hyslop
- on Semelai, by Nicole Kruspe
- on Qiang, by Randy J. LaPolla and Chenglong Huang
- on Lao, by N. J. Enfield

The final chapter "Adjective classes: what can we conclude?" by John Hajek summarises the major generalisations.

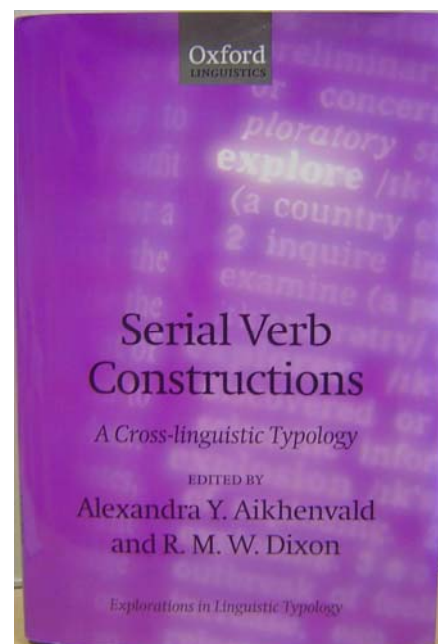
2003: Serial verb constructions
Held 9th – 14th June

A volume called ***Serial verb constructions: a cross-linguistic typology***, edited by Aikhenvald and Dixon, was published by Oxford University Press in 2006 as the second volume in the ***Explorations in Linguistic Typology*** series (to be reissued in paperback in 2007).

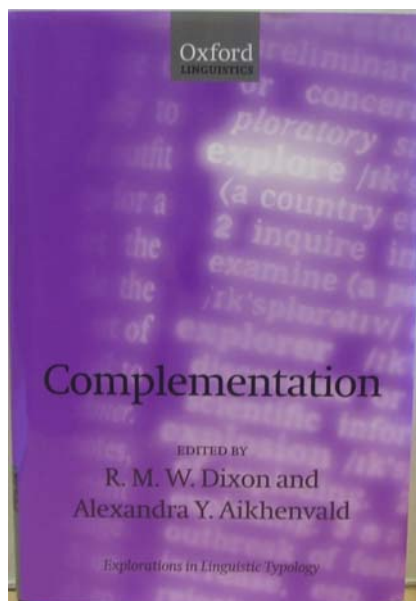
Following Aikhenvald's introductory chapter, we have the following chapters:

- on Cantonese, by Stephen Matthews
- on Goemai, by Birgit Hellwig
- on Khwe (Central-Khoisan), by Christa Kilian-Hatz
- on Ewe, by Felix K. Ameka
- on Eastern Kayah Li, by David B. Solnit
- on Thai, by A. V. N. Diller
- on Tariana, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
- on Dumo, by Andrew Ingram
- on Mwothlap, by Alexandre François
- on Tetun Dili, by John Hajek
- on Toqabaqita, by Frantisek Lichtenberk
- on Olutec (Mixean), by Roberto Zavala
- on Lakota (Siouan), by Willem J. de Reuse
- on Wolaitta, by Azeb Amha and Gerrit J. Dimmendaal

The final chapter "Serial verb constructions: conspectus and coda" by R. M. W. Dixon summarises the major conclusions.



2004: Complement clauses and complementation strategies
Held 16th – 21st August



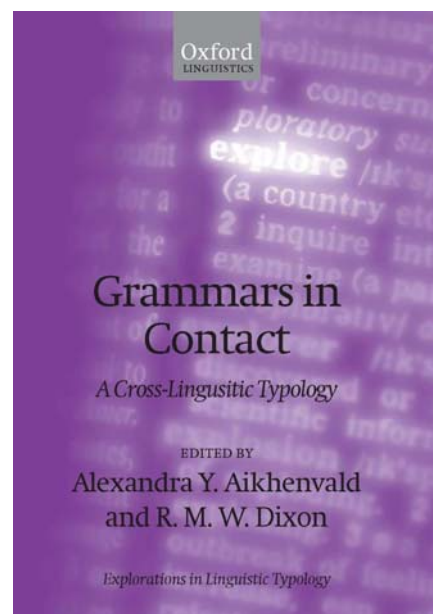
Complementation: a cross-linguistic typology, edited by Dixon and Aikhenvald, was published in 2006 by Oxford University Press as the third volume in its series **Explorations in Linguistic Typology**. Following Dixon's introductory chapter there are the following chapters:

- on Pennsylvania German, by Kate Burridge
- on Israeli, by Ghil'ad Zuckermann
- on Jarawara, by R. M. W. Dixon
- on White Hmong, by Nerida Jarkey
- on Dolaka Newar, by Carol Genetti
- on Akkadian, by Guy Deutscher
- on Tariana, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
- on Goemai, by Birgit Hellwig
- on Matses, by David Fleck
- on Kambera, by Marian Klamer
- on Dyirbal, by R. M. W. Dixon

2005: Grammars in contact
Held 13th – 18th June

Grammars in contact: a cross-linguistic typology, edited by Aikhenvald and Dixon, to be published in early 2007 by Oxford University Press as the fourth volume in its series **Explorations in Linguistic Typology**, contains an Introduction by Aikhenvald, and the following chapters:

- on Australian languages, by R. M. W. Dixon
- on Western Nilotic languages, by Anne Storch
- on Likpe, by Felix K. Ameka
- on Basque, by Gerd Jendraschek
- on Tetun Dili, by John Hajek
- on Pennsylvania German, by Kate Burridge
- on the Balkan languages, by Victor A. Friedman
- on Cantonese, by Stephen Matthews
- on the Vaupés languages, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
- on Tukano, by Patience Epps
- on Amuesha, by Willem F. H. Adelaar
- on Mawayana, by Eithe B. Carlin



Published books by members

WILLEM F. H. ADELAAR

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ALEXANDRA Y. AIKHENVALD

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—1998. *Historical linguistics: an introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. xx, 396pp.

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—2001. Editor of *Sinitic grammar: synchronic and diachronic perspectives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xvii, 397pp.

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—2004. *The Jarawara language of southern Amazonia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xxiii, 636pp.

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—2004. *A grammar of the Nyangumarta language of the Pilbara*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics. xxiii, 429pp.

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DAVID WATTERS

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RAOUL ZAMPONI

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ULRIKE ZESHAN

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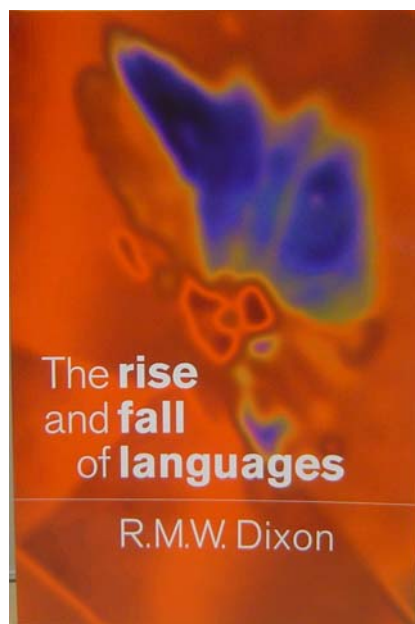
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GHIL'AD ZUCKERMANN

—In press. *Hebrew as myth*. Tel Aviv: Am Oved.



Major recent publications by R. M. W. Dixon



The rise and fall of languages

Cambridge University Press

First published 1997

Reprinted 1999, 2000, 2002

Gengo no kobo (Japanese translation by Midori Osumi) published in 2001 by Iwanami Shoten

This book offers a new approach to language change, the punctuated equilibrium model. This is based on the premise that during most of the 100,000 or more years that humans have had language, states of equilibrium have existed during which linguistic features diffused across the languages in a given area so that they gradually converged on a common prototype. From time to time, the state of equilibrium would be punctuated, with expansion and split of peoples and of languages. Most recently, as a result of European colonisation and the globalisation of communication, many languages currently spoken face

imminent extinction. Professor Dixon suggests that every linguist should assume a responsibility for documenting some of these languages before they disappear.

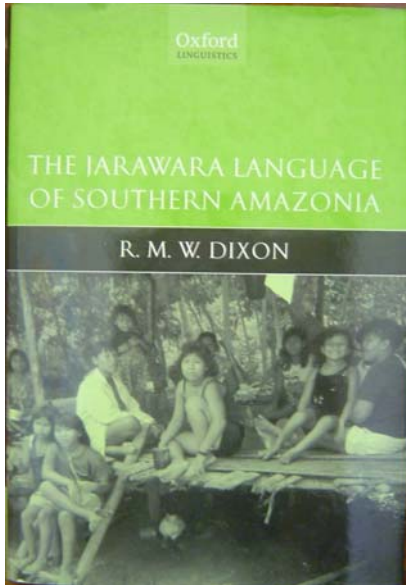
Professor Dixon argues that the commonly used family tree model of language change is appropriate during a period of punctuation, but not during the longer periods of equilibrium. He suggests that many of the views currently held by linguists, archaeologists and geneticists need serious rethinking, and emphatically dismisses recent speculation that the original languages of humankind could be reconstructed.

Australian languages – their nature and development

Cambridge University Press, 2002

Aboriginal people have been in Australia for at least 40,000 years, speaking about 250 languages. Through examination of published and unpublished materials on each of the 240-250 individual languages, Professor Dixon, a pioneering scholar in this field, surveys the ways in which the languages vary typologically and presents a profile of this long established linguistic area. The parameters examined include phonological contrasts, types of nominal case marking, patterns of verb organisation, varieties of pronoun systems, the development and loss of bound pronouns and a prefixing profile, generic nouns, nominal classifiers and noun classes, and ergative/accusative characteristics. The areal distribution of most features is illustrated with more than 30 maps, showing that the languages tend to move in cyclic fashion with respect to many of the parameters. There is also an index of languages and language groups. Professor Dixon brings a unique perspective to this diverse and complex material which will appeal to researchers and students in linguistics as well as to anthropologists with linguistic interests.





The Jarawara language of southern Amazonia

Oxford University Press, 2004

R. M. W. Dixon is well known for his grammars of the Australian languages Dyirbal and Yidiñ, and of the Boumaa variety of Fijian. Here he provides a detailed description and analysis of Jarawara, a dauntingly complex language from Brazil, based on field research over a twelve-year period deep in the Amazonian jungle.

Jarawara shows promiscuous homonymy of both lexical roots and grammatical forms, and an array of phonological processes of assimilation and lenition whose conditioned application is crucial to resolving ambiguity. There is a small adjective class, with just fourteen members. A subclass of obligatorily possessed nouns covers body parts and also 'smell', 'name', and 'home'. Verbs distinguish three past tenses and eyewitness versus non-eyewitness evidentiality. There are four imperatives and eight distinct varieties of subordinate clause.

Feminine is the default gender.

Professor Dixon weighs alternative solutions to tricky analytic problems and describes features that will provide a challenge to functional and formal theories. What is the head of a noun phrase? Is the distinction between derivational and inflectional processes a useful one for this language? He also reconstructs historical developments which explain many of the seemingly irregular patterns in the modern language.

A semantic approach to English grammar

Oxford University Press

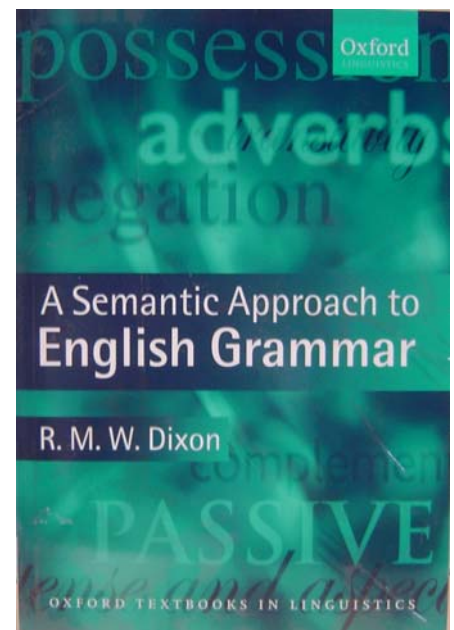
First edition published 1991 as *A new approach to English grammar on semantic principles*, issued in paperback 1992 (reprinted five times)

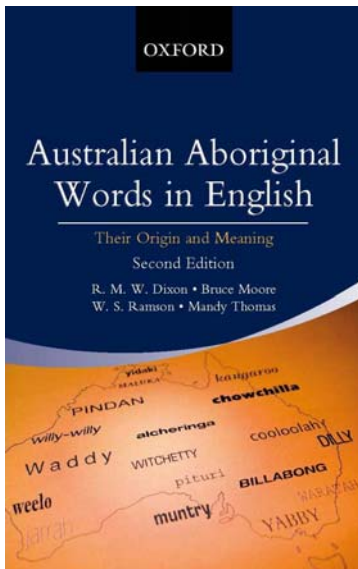
Revised and enlarged second edition first published 2005

This book shows how grammar helps people communicate and looks at the ways grammar and meaning interrelate. The author starts from the notion that a speaker codes a meaning into grammatical forms which the listener is then able to recover: each word, he shows, has its own meaning and each bit of grammar its own function, their combinations creating and limiting the possibilities for different words. He uncovers a rationale for the varying grammatical properties of different words and in the process explains many facts about English – such as why we can say *I wish to go*, *I wish that he would go*, and *I want to go* but not *I want that he would go*.

The first part of the book reviews the main points of English syntax and discusses English verbs in terms of their semantic types including those of Motion, Giving, Speaking, Liking, and Trying. In the second part Professor Dixon looks at eight grammatical topics, including complement clauses, transitivity and causatives, passives, and the promotion of a non-subject to subject, as in *Dictionaries sell well*.

This is the updated and revised edition of *A new approach to English grammar on semantic principles*. It includes new chapters on tense and aspect, nominalisations and possession, and adverbs and negation, and contains a new discussion of comparative forms of adjectives. It also explains recent changes in English grammar, including how *they* has replaced the tabooed *he* as a pronoun referring to either gender, as in *When a student reads this book, they will learn a lot about English grammar in a most enjoyable manner*.





Australian Aboriginal words in English – their origin and meaning
Oxford University Press

First published 1990
Reprinted in paperback 1992, 1995
Second edition published 2006

Words like *boomerang* and *woomera*, *kangaroo* and *koala*, *mallee* and *mulga* are quintessentially Australian. *Australian Aboriginal words in English* is the definitive account of the history of these and other words borrowed from Aboriginal languages into English. It is also a fascinating insight into the contacts between the first Australians and the European settlers.

In 1788 there were some 250 languages in use in Australia. This book begins with a general account of the nature and history of Aboriginal languages, and with profiles of those languages that have been most significant as sources of borrowings. The words are then grouped according to subject — birds, fish, flora, religion, implements, dwellings, and so on. For each word there is an entry, like that in a dictionary, giving the language the word comes from, the original pronunciation and meaning in that language, the date of its first written use in English, and its present meaning. Illustrative quotations are given in many instances.

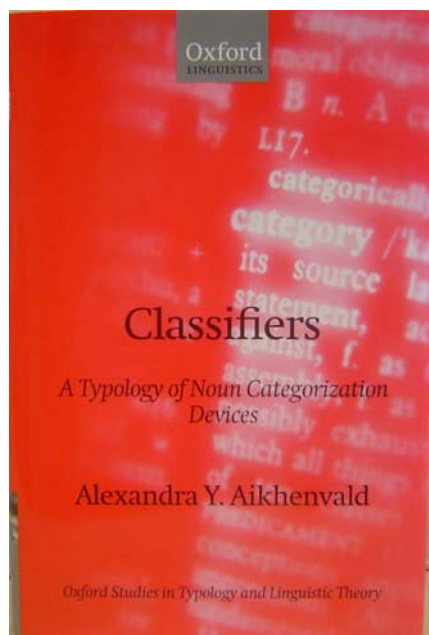
This second edition of the book has been fully revised, adding more than 30 new words and bringing the book fully up to date with contemporary scholarship. Chapter 6 — on the way English words have taken on new meanings and forms to describe Australia’s indigenous inhabitants — is completely new.

Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald teaching Tariana in a village classroom with co-teacher José Luis Brito (*Iauaretê, Northwest Brazil*)



PhD student, Mark Post, working with Igo Riba, a speaker of Galo (*Arunachal Pradesh, North East India*).

Major recent publications by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald



Classifiers – a typology of noun categorization devices Oxford University Press

First published 2000
Published in paperback 2003

This book combines original research with innovative analysis to present the most comprehensive cross-linguistic study of classifiers ever published. It examines major and minor languages from every continent, including several little-known languages drawn from the author's pioneering fieldwork in various parts of the world (including Amazonia and Papua New Guinea).

Classifiers indicate membership of a formal or semantic class. They come in different morphological forms and can be free nouns, clitics, or affixes. They may variously denote such properties or categories as grammatical function, number, colour, size, shape, and status. Their semantic range may be precise or general. Some languages combine several different varieties; some classifiers are

language-specific. Almost all languages, however, have some grammatical means for the linguistic categorization of nouns.

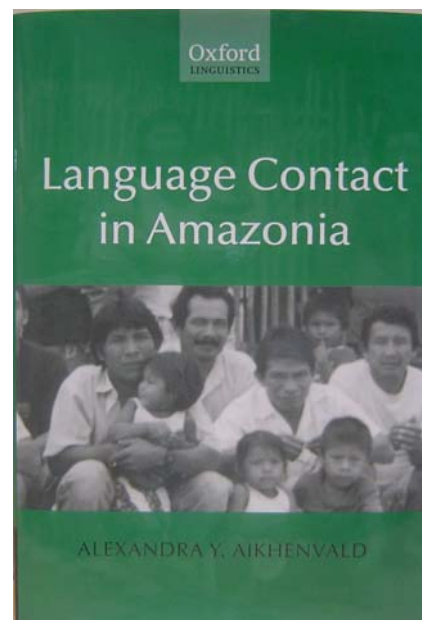
By analysing their manifestations over time in different languages, Professor Aikhenvald shows that different types of classifier have varying correlations with other grammatical categories and can develop, become obsolescent, or disappear in different ways. The author presents a full typology of classifiers based on these contrasting patterns.

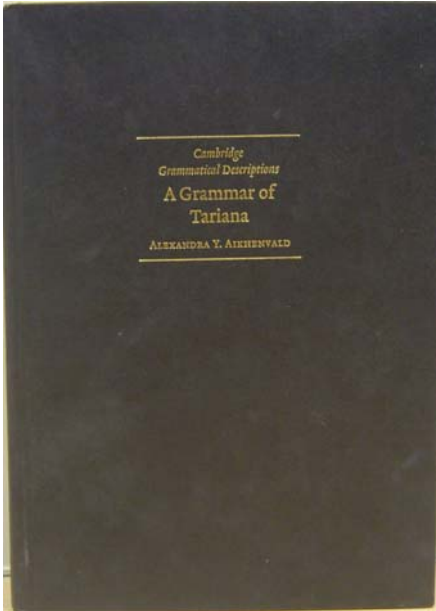
This important work will interest typologists, as well as those working in the fields of morphosyntactic variation and lexical semantics. It also provides valuable data and analysis for formal theories that seek to explain the diversity found in natural language.

Language contact in Amazonia Oxford University Press, 2002

This book considers how and why forms and meanings of different languages at different times may resemble one another. The author explains the relationship between areal diffusion and the genetic development of languages, and reveals the means of distinguishing what may cause one language to share the characteristics of another.

Professor Aikhenvald uses the example of Arawak and Tucanoan languages spoken in the large area of the Vaupés river basin in northwest Amazonia, which spans Colombia and Brazil. In this region language is seen as a badge of identity: language mixing, interaction, and influence are resisted for ideological reasons. The book considers which grammatical categories are most and least likely to be borrowed in a situation of prolonged language contact where lexical borrowing is reduced to a minimum. The author provides a genetic analysis of the languages of the region and considers their historical relationships with languages of the same family outside it. She also examines changes brought about by recent contact with European languages and culture, and the linguistic and cultural effects of being part of a group that is aware of the threat to its language and identity. The work is presented in relatively nontechnical language and will interest linguists and anthropologists.





A Grammar of Tariana
Cambridge University Press

First published 2003
Published in paperback 2006

This is a comprehensive reference grammar of Tariana, an endangered Arawak language from a remote region in the northwest Amazonian jungle. Its speakers traditionally marry someone speaking a different language, and as a result most people are fluent in five or six languages. Because of this rampant multilingualism, Tariana combines a number of features inherited from the protolanguage with properties diffused from neighbouring but unrelated Tucanoan languages. Typologically unusual features of the language include: an array of classifiers independent of genders, complex serial verbs, case marking depending on the topicality of a noun, and double marking of case and number. Tariana has

obligatory evidentiality — every sentence contains a special element indicating whether the information was seen, heard, or inferred by the speaker, or whether the speaker acquired it from somebody else. This grammar will be a valuable source-book for linguists and others interested in natural languages.

Evidentiality

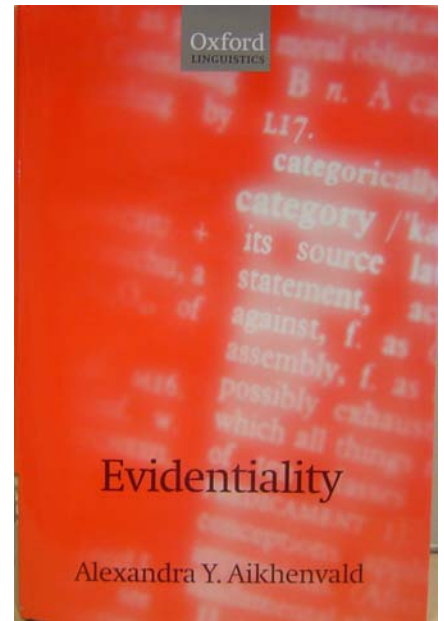
Oxford University Press

First published 2004
Published in paperback 2006

In some languages, every statement must contain a specification of the type of evidence on which it is based: for example, whether the speaker saw it, heard it, inferred it from indirect evidence, or learnt it from someone else. This grammatical reference to information source is called 'evidentiality', and is one of the least described grammatical categories. Evidentiality systems differ in how complex they are: some distinguish just two terms (eyewitness and non-eyewitness, or reported and everything else), while others have six or even more terms. Evidentiality is a category in its own right, and not a subcategory of epistemic or some other modality, nor of tense-aspect.

Every language has some way of referring to the source of information, but not every language has grammatical evidentiality. In English expressions such as 'I guess', 'they say', 'I hear that', and 'the alleged' are not obligatory and do not constitute a grammatical system. Similar expressions in other languages may provide historical sources for evidentials. True evidentials, by contrast, form a grammatical system. In the North Arawak language Tariana, an expression such as 'the dog bit the man' must be augmented by a grammatical suffix indicating whether the event was seen, heard, assumed, or reported.

This book provides the first exhaustive cross-linguistic typological study of how languages deal with the marking of information source. Examples are drawn from more than 500 languages from all over the world, several of them based on the author's original fieldwork. Professor Aikhenvald also considers the role evidentiality plays in human cognition, and the ways in which evidentiality influences human perception of the world. This is an important book on an intriguing subject. It will interest anthropologists, cognitive psychologists and philosophers, as well as linguists.



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