

The Typology of Nominalization*

Review article on: Foong Ha Yap, Karen Grunow-Hårsta and Janick Wrona.
Nominalization in Asian Languages: Diachronic and Typological Perspectives.
Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2011.

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In this review article, I propose a new organization of the data in Yap, Grunow-Hårsta & Wrona (2011)'s edited volume on nominalization in about sixty Asian languages. The chapters lack systemic integration into a coherent system. There is no systematic exposition of the logically possible expression types of each variable. The editors do not systematically identify nominalizers with specialized functions. This article classifies the data contained in the volume into a logical system of morphological, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic and diachronic types.

Key words: nominalization, specialized nominalizers, logical types

1. Introduction

This volume consists of twenty-six chapters on nominalization in about sixty languages spoken in Asia: one Indo-European, eighteen Tibeto-Burman, three Sinitic, one Korean, two Japanese, thirty-one Austronesian and one Trans-New-Guinea languages. Most chapters concentrate on one language (e.g. Rhee on Korean), several chapters survey small groups of languages (e.g. Noonan on Tamangic). All papers are descriptive but vary in the coverage of syntactic, semantic, pragmatic and diachronic phenomena. This compilation of new, mainly undescribed, data on nominalization offers new insights on typological research of other authors (Comrie & Thompson 1985).

In the introduction (Yap, Grunow-Hårsta & Wrona 2011:1-57), the editors YG-HW summarize certain facts discussed by the contributors but do not systemically integrate the data. The structure of their typology is not tight and logically conceived. It takes time, for example, to discover that the editors discuss semantic issues under the header 'nominalization types' and morphological issues under the header 'nominalization

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名物化類型

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本文對《亞洲語言的名物化 (2011)》書中大約六十個亞洲語言的數據重新分析並提出新的觀點。作者認為原書的章節缺少系統邏輯的組織。原書主編沒有把每個參數按系統邏輯的方式表達出來；也沒有把特指功能的名物化助詞有系統地提示出來。作者把書中的數據重新整理分到形態、句法、語義、語用和歷史演變各類中，使亞洲語言關於名物化的特殊性，有了更新的想法。

關鍵詞：名物化，特指功能的名物化助詞，邏輯類型