Contents

Note: Every chapter begins with an outline and a list of key terms and ends with a summary, activities, and a list of further reading.

List of figures vii
Preface ix
List of copyright permissions xi
List of abbreviations xii

1. What is language typology? 1
   1.1 Goals 2
   1.2 Tools 10
      1.2.1 Statement types 10
      1.2.2 Language samples 17
      1.2.3 Data sources 19

2. The worlds of words: Lexical typology 25
   2.1 Introduction 26
   2.2 Me. Words for body parts 31
   2.3 Me and others 34
      2.3.1 Kinship terms 34
      2.3.2 Personal pronouns 39
   2.4 How many? Words for numbers 45
   2.5 What kind? 51
      2.5.1 Antonymic adjectives 51
      2.5.2 Words for colors 56

3. Assembling words: Syntactic typology 65
   3.1 Introduction 66
   3.2 The choice of words and word forms 69
      3.2.1 Which words? 69
      3.2.2 Which word forms? 80
   3.3 The order of words 90
   3.4 Syntactic categories 101

4. Disassembling words: Morphological typology 109
   4.1 Introduction 110
   4.2 The choice of morphemes and morpheme forms 120
      4.2.1 Which morphemes? 120
      4.2.2 Which forms of morphemes? 126
   4.3 The order of morphemes 137
   4.4 Morphological categories 143
5. The sounds of languages: Phonological typology
   5.1 Introduction
   5.2 The choice of sounds and sound forms
      5.2.1 Which sounds?
      5.2.2 Which forms of sounds?
   5.3 The order of sounds
   5.4 Phonological categories
   5.5 Visual forms of language
      5.5.1 Writing systems
      5.5.2 Sign languages

6. Language in flux: Typologies of language change
   6.1 Introduction
   6.2 As the centuries pass ... historical change
      6.2.1 The genesis of articles
      6.2.2 Word order change
   6.3 As the weeks pass ... developmental change
      6.3.1 From the mouth of babes. First-language acquisition
      6.3.2 Two systems in one head. Second-language acquisition
   6.4 From knowing to doing. Linguistic performance
      6.4.1 Relative clauses
      6.4.2 Competing motivations

7. Explaining crosslinguistic preferences
   7.1 Introduction
      7.1.1 What are explanations?
      7.1.2 Explaining language structure
   7.2 Synchrony is explained by diachrony
   7.3 Diachrony is explained by acquisition and use
   7.4 Acquisition and use are explained by function

Postscript

List of languages mentioned
Glossary
References
Subject index
Language index
Author index