



The genesis of grammar: a reconstruction, Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva, Oxford University Press, 2007, 0199227772, 9780199227778, 418 pages. "This book reconstructs what the earliest grammars might have been and shows how they could have led to the languages of modern humankind." Like other biological phenomena, language cannot be fully understood without reference to its evolution, whether proven or hypothesized," wrote Talmy Givón in 2002. As the languages spoken 8,000 years ago were typologically much the same as they are today and as no direct evidence exists for languages before then, evolutionary linguists are at a disadvantage compared to their counterparts in biology. Bernd Heine and Tania Kuteva seek to overcome this obstacle by combining grammaticalization theory, one of the main methods of historical linguistics, with work in animal communication and human evolution. The questions they address include: do the modern languages derive from one ancestral language or from more than one? What was the structure of language like when it first evolved? And how did the properties associated with modern human languages arise, in particular syntax and the recursive use of language structures? The authors proceed on the assumption that if language evolution is the result of language change then the reconstruction of the former can be explored by deploying the processes involved in the latter. Their measured arguments and crystal-clear exposition will appeal to all those interested in the evolution of language, from advanced undergraduates to linguists, cognitive scientists, human biologists, and archaeologists..

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Pathways of Change Grammaticalization in English, Olga Fischer, Anette Rosenbach, Dieter Stein, Jan 1, 2000, Language Arts & Disciplines, 391 pages. There is a continual growth of interest among linguists of all-theoretical denominations in grammaticalization, a concept central to many linguistic (change) theories. However

Approaches to the Typology of Word Classes , Petra Maria Vogel, Bernard Comrie, 2000, Language Arts & Disciplines, 514 pages. Approaches word classes and their categorial manifestations from diachronic and cross-linguistic perspectives. The eight general studies look at such aspects as a dynamic model

The Changing Languages of Europe , Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva, Jun 22, 2006, Language Arts & Disciplines, 356 pages. "The book is written in clear, non-technical language. It will appeal to scholars and students of language change and variation in Europe and elsewhere. It will also interest

Auxiliation An Enquiry Into the Nature of Grammaticalization, Tania Kuteva, 2001, Language Arts & Disciplines, 209 pages. Probing the nature of grammaticalisation on the basis of an in-depth study of the process of auxiliation, this book brings together the explanatory potential of recent

The origin of language tracing the evolution of the mother tongue, Merritt Ruhlen, 1994, , 239 pages. Argues that proof exists that all languages now spoken on earth are descendents of a single ancestral language.

Degrammaticalization , Muriel Norde, Sep 17, 2009, Language Arts & Disciplines, 270 pages. Muriel Norde shows that linguistic change via the well-attested process of grammaticalization is reversible and that degrammaticalization can occur on all levels: semantic

The language gap , Clifford A. Wilson, Donald W. McKeon, Marvin Keene Mayers, 1984, Language Arts & Disciplines, 208 pages. .

The Talking Ape How Language Evolved, Robbins Burling, 2007, Language Arts & Disciplines, 286 pages. In this thought-provoking book, Burling presents a convincing account of the origins of language, shedding new light on how speech affects the way humans think, behave, and

Possession Cognitive Sources, Forces, and Grammaticalization, Bernd Heine, Feb 13, 2006, Language Arts & Disciplines, 292 pages. Bernd Heine argues that the structure of grammatical categories is predictable to a large extent once we know the range of possible cognitive structures from which they are

Morphosyntactic Change Functional and Formal Perspectives, Olga Fischer, 2007, Language Arts & Disciplines, 378 pages. Olga Fischer presents a critical analysis of morphosyntactic change and the mechanisms that trigger it. She shows how changes in discourse, lexicon, semantics, pragmatics, and

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