

## Take Home Exam -- Due.19.10.2007

You are invited to write an essay on the notion of markedness in linguistics, notably in linguistic typology. Your essay should include:

1. A detailed discussion of the markedness patterns in your language. This will be the heart of the paper. Provide examples of the various types of markedness (structural markedness; behavioural markedness; local markedness; neutral value) and discuss them from a cross-linguistic/comparative point of view.
2. A discussion of the notion of markedness from a more theoretical perspective. Your discussion can focus on various aspects. Here are just a few ideas: What can we learn from markedness patterns for the analysis of language? What motivates markedness patterns? What is the relationship between markedness and frequency? Is it reasonable to subsume the various types of markedness under a common notion? Is there anything that would make markedness phenomena interesting for the theory of language change, for studies of language acquisition, for sociolinguistic studies etc.

In order to answer these questions you should consider at least the following sources:

- Croft, William. 1990. Markedness in typology. In William Croft. 1990. *Typology and Universals*, 64-94. Cambridge: CUP
- Croft, William. 2003. Grammatical categories: Typological markedness, economy and iconicity. In William Croft. 1990. *Typology and Universals*, 87-121. Cambridge: CUP.
- Haspelmath, Martin. 2005. Against markedness (and what to replace it with). MPI Leipzig. Manuscript. [<http://email.eva.mpg.de/~haspelmt/publist.html>]
- Diessel, Holger. 2007. Frequency effects in language acquisition, language use, and diachronic change. *New Ideas in Psychology* 25: 108-127. [<http://www.holger-diessel.de/>]

In addition, you might want to look at some of the following publications:

- Andersen, Henning. 2001. Markedness and the theory of linguistic change. In H. Andersen (ed.) *Actualization: Linguistic change in progress*, 21-57. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Battistella, Edwin. 1996. *Markedness: The evaluative superstructure of language*. New York: OUP.
- Battistella, Edwin. 1996. *The logic of markedness*. New York: OUP
- Greenberg, Joseph. 1966. Marked and unmarked categories. In J. Greenberg (1966). *Language Universals with Special Reference to Feature Hierarchies*, 9-71.
- Ludwig, Ralph. 2001. Markiertheit. In M. Haspelmath, E. König, W. Oesterreicher, W. Raible. (eds). *Language Typology and Language Universals: An International Handbook*. Vol. 1., 400-419. Berlin: de Gruyter.
- Tiersma, Peter. 1982. Local and general markedness. *Language* 58: 832-849.
- Wurzel, Wolfgang U. 1998. On markedness. *Theoretical Linguistics* 24: 53-71.
- Wurzel, Wolfgang U. 2000. Inflectional system and markedness. In Aditi Lahiri (ed.) *Analogy, Leveling, Markedness: Principles of change in phonology and morphology*, 193-214. Berlin: de Gruyter.

Your essay should be a piece of “creative writing”, i.e. do not just answer the question as on an exam. Like a common term paper, your essay should be divided into sections, it should include an introduction and a conclusion, a list of references, etc. The structure and writing of the essay is as important as the content.

Do not copy from the literature or from your grammar, i.e. use your own words and indicate all sources.