Call for papers: Lidil Journal
(thematic issue)

“Current trends in functional typology:
For a ‘typological description’ of languages”

This issue of Lidil (http://lidil.revues.org/; University of Grenoble) aims to open the scope of the journal to encompass typology for the first time. We wish to gather linguists whose descriptive works incorporate theoretical and methodological tools that were predominantly developed from a functional-typological perspective. The audience of this issue will be composed of linguists who are not specialists in typology; therefore, the idea is to gather a relatively large and representative panel of works.

Linguistic typology sheds light on the differences and similarities that exist between languages based on different criteria. More than just taxinomic work, building a typology implies revealing patterns of similarities and variation, universals and tendencies, that can only be observed at a crosslinguistic scale and that cannot be apprehended through other approaches. More crucially, linguistic typology works as a tool to reveal restrictions on patterns of variation: restrictions suggest the existence of constraints that imply internal and external factors and that must be explained.

Functional typology or “functional-typological approach” is a non generative approach that has been mostly applied to morphosyntax and the description of morphosyntactic systems.

It is functional in the sense that crosslinguistic patterns or “types” can be apprehended within the frame of functional domains. It aims at explanation and not only description (“West Coast Functionalism” à la Givon 2001[1984]). It incorporates the analysis of grammaticalization phenomena, arguing for a dynamic, panchronic perspective on systems and constructions (Givon ibid.; Svorou 1994; DeLancey 2001ms; Imbert 2008) that takes into account the notion of gradience of categories (notions of continuum and prototype, e.g. Lakoff 1987; Givón ibid.).

This functional inspiration applied to recent typological works almost constitutes an approach to typology in its own right: it argues for a typological description of languages (see for instance Creissels 2006), a descriptive strategy that relies on the necessary interaction between typological knowledge and language description. Therefore, typology must not precede nor follow description, but be a part of it, in a non hierarchical relationship of “back-and-forth”. This is to be distinguished from: (a) contrastive approaches, which are generally limited to genetically-close languages and share interests with applied linguistics (as pointed out by Söres 2008); (b) comparatist approaches, some with typological aspirations (Lazard 2001), in which typological
analysis is posterior to description; (c) “classic” typological approaches inspired by Greenberg and
developed by projects and workgroups such as the Surrey Morphology Group (canonical typology,
Corbett 2007) or the WALS Project (Haspelmath et al. (eds.) 2005). In those works, the elaboration
of a typology constitutes a frame that defines “types” into which a language or a construction must
be classified; in these essentially taxinomic approaches, the place of a construction in the system of
the language is not the main focus of study – in contrast, that place is put forward in a typological
description.

So far, the functional-typological approach has essentially been applied to a morphosyntactic
level of description; however, recent work in phonetics and phonology adopted a similar
perspective, although the term “functional” is not commonly used at that level of analysis. Such
works (e.g. Lindblom et Maddieson 1988 ; Maddieson 1984, 2010 ; Mairano 2011 ; Rousset 2004 ;
Vallée et al. 2002, Vallée et al. 2009) include problematics of crosslinguistic patterns, universals,
constraints with underlying internal and external factors (for instance constraints of perception-
production, aerodynamism) or continuum of evolution (Blevins, 2004).

Topics that we wish to see addressed in that issue are:

▲ Morphosyntactic sketches : typological descriptions of languages or constructions (within a
specific functional domain or not), that may include grammaticalization processes;
▲ Typological descriptions of phonetical/phonological phenomena, that may include
universals or crosslinguistic tendencies;
▲ Articles that bridge typological analysis with related disciplines such as sociolinguistics,
psycholinguistics, language acquisition or language didactics. Taking into account such a
wide range of studies aims to illustrate the productivity of a typological approach within
language sciences in general.
We especially encourage junior researchers to share their descriptive works.

Keywords: Functional typology, morphosyntax, phonetics, phonology, grammaticalization,
variations, constraints, universals, crosslinguistic tendencies.

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Submission:
Submissions should be 35000 to 45000 signs all included (spaces, footnotes, references) and may
be written in French or in English. Authors will submit first a one-page abstract (references not included) and then a full article. Each article will be sent anonymously to two reviewers. Authors should keep in mind the non specialist reader; this thematic issue on linguistic typology aims at a large public of linguists.

Please send your submissions to:

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Please use as Object line: “LIDIL TYPOLOGY”.

**Important deadlines:**

Submission of abstract: 1\textsuperscript{st} October 2011
Notification of acceptance of abstract: 15 October 2011
Submission of full article: 15 January 2012
Notification of acceptance of full article: 15 mai 2012
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**References:**


