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understanding our surroundings; 2. The nature of communication: Ostension and inference; 3. The nature of language: Language is culture; 4. How the grammars of languages differ; Do they constrain or not constrain the interpretation of a particular semantic domain?; If they constrain the interpretation of a particular domain, how much do they constrain it?; If they constrain the interpretation of a particular domain, how do they constrain it?

5. Final remarksReferences; The body, the universe, society and language; 1. Introduction; 2. Modern Germanic in the grip of the unknown; 3. Changes in PG grammar as enactments of the Anabaptist worldview; 3.1 The grammaticalization of zehle: From 'counting' to 'predicting'; 3.2 The degrammaticalization of wotte from subjunctive modal to 'desire'; 3.3 The rise of fer 'for' in purposive complement clauses; 4. The speed of changes in PG grammar; 5. Early Germanic in the grip of the unknown; 6. Experiencing illness; 6.1 The impersonal verb construction and its variants 6.2 The construction of inalienability and its variants6.3 Other oblique curiosities; 6.4 The accusative subject in Middle Dutch; 7. In sum; 8. The decline of the dative-marked participant; 9. A final note on the expression of sickness and disease in Modern English; 10. In conclusion; Bibliography; Middle Dutch sources; Old and Middle English sources; When culture grammaticalizes; 1. The Onya Darat language and its speakers; 2. Encoding social information in pronouns: A Southeast Asian phenomenon; 3. The pronominal system of Onya Darat; 4. The origins of generational affiliation marking 5. ConclusionIn Memoriam; Bibliography; The cultural bases of linguistic form; 1. Introduction; 1.1 Culture and linguistic form; 1.2 Linguistic and ethnographic background; 2. Towards a sociocultural theory of linguistic form; 3. Quotatives evidentials and reported speech constructions; 3.1 Lexical quotative construction; 3.2 Quotative evidentials; 4. Reported speech in Nanti communicative practice; 4.1 Talking about others' actions; 4.2 Talking about others' internal states; 4.3 Conflict, intimacy, and the evidential ethic 5. A practice-based account of the grammaticalization of Nanti quotatives and reportives

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## Sommario/riassunto

It is widely understood that the socio-historical contexts of languages have a direct bearing on their structures and on the types of stance that communities take in relation to them. Within the discipline of linguistics these socio-historical contexts and their impacts on communities' use and understanding of language are generally referred to as sociolinguistic factors. Meanwhile within descriptive linguistics the structure of language remains core. This is evidenced in the shape of university course design, structures of textbooks, and in how linguistic knowledge is recorded. In this paper

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