Record Nr. UNINA9910827740403321 Form and function in language research: papers in honour of Christian **Titolo** Lehmann / / edited by Johannes Helmbrecht, ... [et al.] Pubbl/distr/stampa New York, NY,: Mouton de Gruyter, 2009 **ISBN** 1-282-29658-2 9786612296581 3-11-173860-4 3-11-021613-2 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (362 p.) Trends in linguistics. Studies and monographs;; 210 Collana Classificazione ES 480 Altri autori (Persone) HelmbrechtJohannes Disciplina 415 Soggetti Grammar, Comparative and general - Syntax Typology (Linguistics) Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Glosses -- Introduction -- A.1 Functional Typologies -- The continuum of pragmaticity: a sketch -- Weighing semantic distinctions in person forms -- Spatial reciprocity: between grammar and lexis -- A chapter in marginal possession: on being six (ty) in Europe (and beyond) -- A.2 Constraints on the Encoding of Concepts -- Thoughts on (im)perfective imperatives -- Animacy and argument hierarchy in conflict: constraints on object-topicalization in

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Sommario/riassunto

Language description enriches linguistic theory and linguistic theory sharpens language description. Based on evidence from the world's languages, functional-typological linguistics has established a number of thorough generalizations about the nature of linguistic categorizations and their manifestation in natural languages. Empirical studies in these fields of linguistics have contributed to sharpen linguistic theory in several respects. This volume is a collection of 19 contributions from outstanding scholars in the field of functionaltypological linguistics that address fundamental issues in the study of language, such as the nature of linguistic categories, the constitution of functional domains, and the form of cross-linguistic continua. Empirical data from individual languages and from typological samples are investigated in order to achieve generalizations about the properties of human grammar(s). Several grammatical phenomena are dealt with including tonal systems, person distinctions, modalities, reciprocity, complex predicates, grammatical relations, word order, clause linkage, and information structure. The structure of the book illustrates the fundamental importance of the analytical distinction between the onomasiological and the semasiological approach to language and language diversity. Both perspectives are integrated in most papers with a dominant focus on either the former or the latter perspective.