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markers in TSM -- 3. The functions of the constructions hoo7 i1 and khit4hoo7 i1 -- 4. The encoding of subjectification via the form of grammaticalization in hoo7 i1 and khit4hoo7 i1 -- 5. Conclusion --

References -- II. Problems in historical comparison and reconstruction -- Emergence of the tone system in the Sanjiazi dialect of Manchu -- 1. Overview of the Manchu language -- 2. Accent and tones in Sanjiazi Manchu -- 3. How did the low tone emerge? -- 4. Conclusion -- Abbreviations -- References -- Searching for undetected genetic links between the languages of South America -- 1. Introduction. 2. The Amerind hypothesis and the languages of South America -- 3. Extent and representation of South American language diversity -- 4. Recent advances in the reduction of lineages -- 5. Increased availability of data -- 6. The harvest of previous historical-comparative research -- 7. Focusing on undetected phylogenetic relations -- 8. Bilateral language comparison -- 9. Selecting the data -- 10. Preparing the data: Morphological deconstruction -- 11. Preparing the data: How to deal with semantic shift? -- 12. Dealing with lexical borrowing and diffusion -- 13. Final word -- References -- Reconstructing the category of "associated motion" in Tacanan languages (Amazonian Bolivia and Peru) -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The category of associated motion: Definition and typological framework of analysis -- 3. Associated motion systems in Tacanan languages: A comparison -- 4. Associated motion systems in neighboring languages: Areal perspective -- 5. Reconstructing the history of AM systems in Tacanan languages -- 6. Conclusions -- References -- The mirage of apparent morphological correspondence: A case from Indo-European -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The PIE 3sg middle ending \*-to -- 3. The PIE 1sg secondary middle ending \*-h2eh2e -- 4. Conclusion -- References --

III. Historical development of morphosyntactic features -- Analogy as a source of suppletion -- 1. Interactions between sound change and analogy -- 2. Neogrammarians: Sound change introduces irregularity and analogy restores regularity -- 3. Suppletion in synchronic/typological perspective -- 4. Sources of suppletion -- 5. Analogy and paradigms -- 6. The semantics of suppletive lexemes and roots -- 7. Motivations and mechanisms -- 8. Frequency and memory -- 9. Conclusions -- Abbreviations -- References -- The rise and demise of possessive classifiers in Austronesian -- 1. Introduction. 2. The historical and geographic background -- 3. Complex systems of possessive constructions in Austronesian -- 4. Developments of the alienable-inalienable contrast and of further contrasts in alienable possessi -- 5. Complex systems of alienable possessive constructions elsewhere -- 6. Evidence from English -- 7. Reduction in possessive systems -- 8. Conclusions -- References -- Immediate-future readings of universal quantifier constructions -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The construction -- 3. Origin of the construction and diachronic developments -- 4. Conclusions -- References -- The historical development and functional characteristics of the go-adjective sequence in English -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Previous studies and remaining questions -- 3. Four types of go-adjective sequences -- 4. Concluding remarks -- References -- Recycling "junk": A case for exaptation as a response to breakdown -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Exaptation: Exclusively morphological? -- 3. From phonology to morphology (and syntax) -- 4. From syntax to discourse -- 5. Conclusion -- References -- Sapiirian 'drift' towards analyticity and long-term morphosyntactic change in Ancient Egyptian -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The synthetic-analytic dimension in Ancient Egyptian historical morphology -- 3. Analytic drift and the profusion of auxiliary verb constructions -- 4. Language genesis and accelerated

grammaticalization -- 5. Concluding remarks -- References --  
Language index -- Index of terms.

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Sommario/riassunto

Starting from Sapir's (1921) concept of linguistic "drift", this chapter explores long-term morphosyntactic change in Ancient Egyptian, with particular attention to the typological shift from agglutinative-synthetic to largely analytic morphological structure. The momentum for the continuing and pervasive analyticization process is to be sought in the profusion of a broad range of auxiliary verb constructions. The flipside of the drift towards analyticity is the decreasing morphological productivity of synthetic inflectional patterns. The structurally marked features of the Coptic particle system can however not exclusively be explained by the general pattern of analytic drift. Rather, the global effects of the long-term analyticization process have been optimized by a short-term process of accelerated grammaticalization during a period of language revival and genesis.

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