



The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language)

By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva

"This book reconstructs what the earliest grammars might have been and shows how they could have led to the languages of modern humankind.

"Like other biological phenomena, language cannot be fully understood without reference to its evolution, whether proven or hypothesized," wrote Talmy Givón in 2002. As the languages spoken 8,000 years ago were typologically much the same as they are today and as no direct evidence exists for languages before then, evolutionary linguists are at a disadvantage compared to their counterparts in biology. Bernd Heine and Tania Kuteva seek to overcome this obstacle by combining grammaticalization theory, one of the main methods of historical linguistics, with work in animal communication and human evolution. The questions they address include: do the modern languages derive from one ancestral language or from more than one? What was the structure of language like when it first evolved? And how did the properties associated with modern human languages arise, in particular syntax and the recursive use of language structures? The authors proceed on the assumption that if language evolution is the result of language change then the reconstruction of the former can be explored by deploying the processes involved in the latter. Their measured arguments and crystal-clear exposition will appeal to all those interested in the evolution of language, from advanced undergraduates to linguists, cognitive scientists, human biologists, and archaeologists.

 [Download The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction \(Oxford S ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction \(Oxford ...pdf](#)

The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language)

By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva

The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva

"This book reconstructs what the earliest grammars might have been and shows how they could have led to the languages of modern humankind.

"Like other biological phenomena, language cannot be fully understood without reference to its evolution, whether proven or hypothesized," wrote Talmy Givón in 2002. As the languages spoken 8,000 years ago were typologically much the same as they are today and as no direct evidence exists for languages before then, evolutionary linguists are at a disadvantage compared to their counterparts in biology. Bernd Heine and Tania Kuteva seek to overcome this obstacle by combining grammaticalization theory, one of the main methods of historical linguistics, with work in animal communication and human evolution. The questions they address include: do the modern languages derive from one ancestral language or from more than one? What was the structure of language like when it first evolved? And how did the properties associated with modern human languages arise, in particular syntax and the recursive use of language structures? The authors proceed on the assumption that if language evolution is the result of language change then the reconstruction of the former can be explored by deploying the processes involved in the latter. Their measured arguments and crystal-clear exposition will appeal to all those interested in the evolution of language, from advanced undergraduates to linguists, cognitive scientists, human biologists, and archaeologists.

The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #3396563 in Books
- Published on: 2007-11-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.20" h x .90" w x 9.20" l, 1.45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages

 [Download The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction \(Oxford S ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction \(Oxford ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

Heine and Kuteva's *The Genesis of Grammar* is a major contribution to the rapidly burgeoning literature on the origins and evolution of human language. They draw on their decades of research on the phenomenon of grammaticalization to draw plausible conjectures about what the first human language might have looked like. I recommend this book to anyone looking for a fresh perspective on this challenging and fascinating problem. Frederick J. Newmeyer, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics, University of Washington

Heine and Kuteva's book is a wonderful, illuminating, exhaustive introduction to the subject of language evolution. It affords the reader a wide-ranging, comprehensive overview of the topic and relevant literature. It outlines the core issues, notes the perennial puzzles, and wades boldly into the bitter controversies that have dogged the discussion ever since its inception. Above all, the book reminds us that, however frustrating the topic may be, a true understanding of the phenomenon of language, and thus of human culture and cognition, is only possible within an evolutionary framework. Talmy Givon, Professor of Linguistics and Cognitive Science, University of Oregon

About the Author

Bernd Heine is Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at the Institute of African Studies, University of Cologne. His 33 books include *Possession: Cognitive sources, forces, and grammaticalization* (C.U.P., 1997); *Auxiliaries: Cognitive Forces and Grammaticalization* (O.U.P., 1993); *Cognitive Foundations of Grammar* (U.S.A., 1997); with Derek Nurse, *African Languages: An Introduction* (C.U.P., 2000), *A Linguistic Geography of Africa* (C.U.P., to appear 2007). Tania Kuteva is Professor of English Linguistics at the University of Dusseldorf and author of *Auxiliation: An Enquiry into the Nature of Grammaticalization* (O.U.P., 2001). Bernd Heine and Tania Kuteva are the joint authors of *World Lexicon of Grammaticalization* (C.U.P., 2002) and *Language Contact and Grammatical Change* (C.U.P., 2005), and *The Changing Languages of Europe* (O.U.P., 2006).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Pippin:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book called *The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language)*? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have different opinion?

Elvia Wirtz:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The details you get

based on what kind of book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want sense happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) is kind of book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Herman Pendergrass:

This book untitled The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) to be one of several books this best seller in this year, this is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this publication from your list.

Patricia Meyer:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find e-book that need more time to be learn. The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) can be your answer given it can be read by a person who have those short spare time problems.

Download and Read Online The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva #BNIKEJ85S1Z

Read The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva for online ebook

The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva books to read online.

Online The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva ebook PDF download

The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva Doc

The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva Mobipocket

The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva EPub

BNIKEJ85S1Z: The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction (Oxford Studies in the Evolution of Language) By Bernd Heine, Tania Kuteva