Whether all human languages are fundamentally the same or different has been a subject of debate for ages. This problem has deep philosophical implications: If languages are all the same, it implies a fundamental commonality—and thus mutual intelligibility—of human thought. We are now on the verge of solving this problem. Using a twenty-year-old theory proposed by the world's greatest living linguist, Noam Chomsky, researchers have found that the similarities among languages are more profound than the differences. Languages whose grammars seem completely incompatible may in fact be structurally almost identical, except for a difference in one simple rule. The discovery of these rules and how they may vary promises to yield a linguistic equivalent of the Periodic Table of the Elements: a single framework by which we can understand the fundamental structure of all human language. This is a landmark breakthrough both within linguistics, which will herewith finally become a full-fledged science, and in our understanding of the human mind.

Causatives and Causation A Universal -typological Perspective, Jae Jung Song, Jun 11, 2014, Language Arts & Disciplines, 312 pages. It also examines the pragmatic foundations of causatives, an important but previously unexplored area of study. This book will be essential and stimulating reading for.

A Dictionary of Grammatical Terms in Linguistics , R.L. Trask, Apr 15, 2013, Language Arts & Disciplines, 348 pages. Covers both current and traditional terminology in syntax and morphology. It includes descriptive terms, the major theoretical concepts, and the chief terms from mathematical.


Information Structure and Sentence Form Topic, Focus, and the Mental Representations of Discourse Referents, Knud Lambrecht, 1994, Language Arts & Disciplines, 388 pages. This major contribution to the study of discourse pragmatics investigates the 'information structure' of sentences.

Theoretical Approaches to Universals , Artemis Alexiadou, Aug 8, 2002, Language Arts & Disciplines, 319 pages. The present volume has its origin in the GLOW conference on Universals hosted in Berlin in March 1999. The papers in this volume are concerned both with formal as well as with.

Studies in Syntactic Typology , Michael Hammond, Edith A. Moravcsik, Jessica Wirth, Jan 1, 1988, Language Arts & Disciplines, 394 pages. The papers in this volume are revised versions of presentations at the conference on Language Universals and Language Typology in March 1985 at the University of Wisconsin.

Functional Syntax and Universal Grammar, William A. Foley, Robert D. Van Valin (Jr.), 1984, Language Arts & Disciplines, 416 pages. This book is an important attempt to integrate the study of linguistic form with the study of language use and meaning.


Linguistic Variation in a Minimalist Framework, M. Carme Picallo, Jul 1, 2014, Language Arts & Disciplines, 336 pages. In this book, leading scholars consider the ways in which syntactic variation can be accounted for in a minimalist framework. They explore the theoretical significance, content.

The Polysynthesis Parameter, Mark C. Baker, 1996, Literary Criticism, 556 pages. This book investigates in detail the grammar of polysynthetic languages—those with very complex verbal morphology. Baker argues that polysynthesis is more than an accidental.


Morphology and Its Interfaces in Second Language Knowledge, Maria-Luise Beck, Jan 1, 1998, Language Arts & Disciplines, 387 pages. The interface between syntax and morphology forms one of the more challenging aspects of linguistic theory and language acquisition. The papers collected here respond to that.

Parameter Setting in Language Acquisition, Dalila Ayoun, Feb 28, 2005, Language Arts & Disciplines, 224 pages. This book provides a broad overview of parameter-setting theory in first and second language acquisition and refines the theory by revisiting and challenging the traditional.


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