

Morpheme order and semantic scope : word formation in the Athapaskan verb / Keren Rice

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Abstrak

Athapaskan languages are well known for their intricate morphology, in particular the complexity of their verbs. The significance of these languages for linguistic theory is widely acknowledged. In this book Keren Rice offers a rich typological survey of morpheme ordering in Athapaskan verbs, with implications for both synchronic grammar and language change. Arguing against a view that sees morpheme order in Athapaskan languages as templatic and essentially without principle, she shows that verb structure is in fact widely predictable across languages if appropriate syntactic factors and an overarching principle of semantic scope are taken into account. The presentation also includes a detailed study of argument and aspectual systems. This landmark volume is the first major comparative study of its type for the Athapaskan language family, combining descriptive depth with a contemporary theoretical perspective. Clear and insightful, it will be welcomed by Athapaskanists, typologists, and historical and theoretical linguists alike.