Brown D, Chumakina M, Corbett GG (2012). Canonical Morphology and Syntax. 336 pages. Oxford University Press 08 Nov 2012. ISBN: 978-0-19-960432-6
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Abstract

- First book-length coverage of the canonical method
- Covers key topics in syntax and morphology
- Includes discussion and data from over 200 languages

This is the first book to present Canonical Typology, a framework for comparing constructions and categories across languages. The canonical method takes the criteria used to define particular categories or phenomena (eg negation, finiteness, possession) to create a multidimensional space in which language-specific instances can be placed. In this way, the issue of fit becomes a matter of greater or lesser proximity to a canonical ideal. Drawing on the expertise of world class scholars in the field, the book addresses the issue of cross-linguistic comparability, illustrates the range of areas - from morphosyntactic features to reported speech - to which linguists are currently applying this methodology, and explores to what degree the approach succeeds in discovering the elusive canon of linguistic phenomena.

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