

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xi
<i>List of Figures</i>	xii
<i>List of Tables</i>	xiii
1. Copulas in Current Research	1
1.1. The copula paradox	1
1.2. Definition of 'copula'	5
1.3. The parts-of-speech issue	7
1.3.1. Parts-of-speech class indistinctions	8
1.3.2. Cluster definitions of noun, verb, and adjective	10
1.3.3. The hybrid status of adjectives	13
1.3.4. Towards a universal theory of lexical class formation	16
1.3.4.1. Implicational hierarchies	16
1.3.4.2. Markedness	17
1.3.4.3. Time-stability	20
1.4. A possible theoretical approach to copularization	22
2. Copulas in Cross-linguistic Perspective	27
2.1. Scope of the investigation	27
2.1.1. Basic methodological and terminological considerations	27
2.1.2. Copulas and predicate types	29
2.2. Copula dropping	34
2.3. The global sample	39
2.3.1. Structural types of copulas	39
2.3.2. Multiple copularization	45
2.3.3. The genesis of copulas	54
2.3.4. Distribution of copularizing vs. non-copularizing lexemes in the lexicon of individual languages	61
2.3.5. Global distribution of copulas	73
2.4. A universal hierarchy of copularization	73
2.5. The copularization scale and contemporary research on lexical categorization	78

3. Copularization and Lexical Semantics	83
3.1. Copularization and time-stability: a pilot study	83
3.2. Copularization and lexical semantics: method of investigation	87
3.2.1. Lexical minimal pairs	90
3.2.2. Semantic features and statistics	92
3.3. Lexical minimal pairs and semantic features	95
3.3.1. Dynamicity	95
3.3.2. Transience	105
3.3.3. Transitivity	114
3.3.4. Dependency	121
3.3.5. Generalizations	128
3.4. Statistics	134
3.4.1. The data	136
3.4.2. Predictive power of semantic features	136
3.4.3. Competing semantic models of copularization	145
4. The Multi-factor Model of Copularization	153
4.1. The limited predictive power of semantics	153
4.2. Migration of copulas in the lexicon	154
4.3. Combining the parameters	159
4.4. The cognitive basis: prototypes	164
4.5. A scalar model of the lexicon	167
4.6. Discourse frequency	181
5. Synopsis	185
5.1. Copularization and markedness	186
5.2. Towards a new approach to the parts-of-speech issue	191
Appendix A. Genetic affiliation of the languages quoted	196
Appendix B. Pilot study/semantic classification	200
Appendix C. Pilot study/statistics	204
Appendix D. Questionnaire	214
Appendix E. The semantic structure of the lexical samples	220
Appendix F. Copula use and semantic similarity space	240
Further Reading	248
References	249
Index	260