Contents

Preface xi

Chapter 1

The Form-Function Problem in Linguistics 1

1 Setting the Stage with a (Not Totally) Imaginary Dialogue 1

2 The Goals of This Book 5

3 The Two Orientations in Modern Linguistics 7

4 On the Variety of Generativist Approaches 11

5 On the Variety of Functionalist Approaches 13

6 A Look Ahead 18

Chapter 2

The Boundaries of Grammar 23

1 Overview 23

2 The Three Autonomy Hypotheses 23

3 The Autonomy of Syntax 25

4 The Autonomy of Knowledge of Language with Respect to Use of Language 55

5 The Autonomy of Grammar as a Cognitive System 77

6 Conclusion 94

Chapter 3

Internal and External Explanation in Linguistics 95

1 Overview 95

2 On Explanation in Linguistics, Internal and External 96

3 Internal Explanation 97

4 External Explanation 103

5 Convincing and Unconvincing External Explanations 126

6 The Problem of Competing Motivations 137

7 External Explanation and the Autonomy of Syntax 153

8 Conclusion 164

Chapter 4

On Syntactic Categories 165

1 Prototypes, Fuzzy Categories, and Grammatical Theory 165

2 Prototype Theory and Syntactic Categories 171

3 Syntagmatic Simplicity and Prototypes: An Evaluation 177

4 Paradigmatic Complexity and Prototypes: An Evaluation 180

5 Prototypes and Markedness 196

6 The Nonexistence of Fuzzy Categories 200

7 Against Langacker's Notional Definitions of 'Noun' and 'Verb' 206

8 Conclusion 208

Appendix On Prototype Constructions 208

Chapter 5

Deconstructing Grammaticalization 225

1 Overview 225

2 Grammaticalization: A Capsule Description 226

3 What Is the 'True Nature' of Grammaticalization? 232

4 The Epiphenomenal Nature of Grammaticalization 237

5 On Unidirectionality 260

6 Two Issues in Grammaticalization Research 279

7 Grammaticalization and Generative Grammar 289

8 Conclusion 295

Chapter 6

Language Typology and Its Difficulties 297

1 Overview 297

2 The Field of Language Typology 298

3 Barriers to Language Typology 306

4 What Is to Be Done? 335

5 Formal Prerequisites to Typological Analysis 337

6 Implicational Hierarchies and a New Argument for Functionalism 348

7 Typology and Generative Grammar 350

8 Summary 364

Chapter 7

Conclusion 367

References 371

Name Index 417

Subject Index 423