

BOOK NOTICE: *MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIAN LANGUAGES - A CONCISE TYPOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION (2019)* BY N. J. ENFIELD

Mainland Southeast Asian Languages - A Concise Typological Introduction (2019) is a primarily synchronic (with some historical linguistics comments) overview of a range of the linguistic features common to many of the languages of Mainland Southeast Asia. In the introductory section, N. J. Enfield (Professor at the University of Sydney and the Director of the Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre) provides contextualizing typological, sociolinguistic, and historical details. In the remainder of the 278-page book, the author summarizes the phonological, morphological, and syntactic features shared by the languages of the Austroasiatic, Austronesian, Hmong-Mien, Sino-Tibetan, and Tai-Kadai language families. All linguistic aspects are clarified with choice samples taken from authoritative sources for over one hundred languages, most of which are minority languages. The linguistic topics and data (e.g. nearly 1,000 sample sentences, numerous charts of phonemes or of pronoun systems, diagrams illustrating stages of tonogenesis, etc.) are presented in a clear, suitably technical, but largely theory-neutral way, making them precisely defined yet accessible to linguistic researchers of various backgrounds. This book can thus be referred to by specialists in the region, those with specific questions of key linguistic topics, as well as those interested developing foundational knowledge of linguistics in MSEA. It is available in hardcover, paperback, and eTextbook formats. Below are the main chapters and key subsections, many of which have additional subsections for various typological subtypes.

1. **Context** (The Mainland Southeast Asian region, MSEA languages, historical-comparative linguistics, language in social life, etc.)
2. **Typological Overview** (Morphological profile, basic phrasal constituent-order patterns, sentence-type distinctions, etc.)
3. **Sound and Sound Systems** (Consonants, vowels, phonotactics, register, tone, tonogenesis, etc.)
4. **Word Formation** (Form classes, compounding, reduplication, affixation, tone in word formation, etc.)
5. **Reference and Nominal Syntax** (Nominal modification, nominal classification, personal pronoun systems, demonstrative systems, etc.)
6. **Predication and Clausal Syntax** (Verbal marking, multi-verb constructions, valency-increasing strategies, etc.)
7. **Postface** (The idea of a Typical MSEA language, MSEA as a linguistic area, prospects)

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