

Preface

For the most part, this issue consists of revised papers presented at the *International Workshop on Relative Clauses* that was held at Academia Sinica in Taipei on November 2-3, 2007. The workshop was organized by the Language Typology Research Group (Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica). At that time, I served as head of the group and set up the goal of promoting cross-linguistic and issue-oriented research. “Relative clauses” was chosen as our research topic from August 2006 through December 2007. The aim of the workshop was to bring together linguists working on relative clauses in different language families and from different perspectives. This issue faithfully reflects our planning.

Speakers at the workshop were all by invitation. They included, among others, Edward Keenan and Bernard Comrie, two of the most renowned pioneer researchers on relative clauses. Edward Keenan gave his talk at the workshop and later contributed his paper to this volume. Bernard Comrie missed the workshop but has nevertheless contributed a paper to this volume as well. Their contributions accord with their earlier seminal and collaborative work of 1977 and bring up to date their thinking on this subject.

This volume covers a variety of languages, including Chinese, Austronesian (Formosan languages, Malagasy, Sasak), and Tibeto-Burman (Qiang, Tujia, Rawang). Hopefully, the various analyses contained herein will not only enhance our understanding of the typology of relative clauses, but also advance the theory of relative clauses.

This issue has gathered together the contributors working from various approaches. Edward Keenan, Jo-wang Lin, Jane Tang, Dylan Tsai, and Niina Zhang are formalists. Bernard Comrie, Randy LaPolla, and Matt Shibatani address issues of the relative clause from a typological/functional perspective; Chenglong Huang and Shixuan Xu commit themselves to the adequate description of two underrepresented languages; Charles Lin examines the processing of relative clauses as a psycholinguist. We are grateful to all their efforts for helping make this volume a valuable reference source for a broad range of readers.

Each of the papers was sent to at least two anonymous reviewers, whom I take this opportunity to thank for their careful and helpful evaluations. I am grateful to the editor-in-chief of the journal *Language and Linguistics*, Dah-an Ho, for his generous support of the workshop and allowing the publication of this special issue. Thanks are

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