

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england

A Grammar of Mam: A Mayan Language by Nora C. England

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england offers a fascinating and in-depth exploration of one of the lesser-known languages within the rich tapestry of Mayan linguistics. For anyone interested in indigenous languages, Mesoamerican studies, or linguistic structure, this work stands out as a comprehensive resource that sheds light on the complexities and beauty of Mam, a Mayan language spoken primarily in Guatemala and parts of Mexico. Nora C. England's scholarship brings clarity and accessibility to Mam's grammar, morphology, and syntax, making it invaluable for linguists, anthropologists, and language enthusiasts alike.

Understanding the Significance of Mam Language

Documentation

Mam is one of the many Mayan languages that have persisted despite centuries of colonial and cultural pressures. Documenting its grammar is crucial not only for preserving cultural heritage but also for advancing linguistic theory, especially in the field of polysynthetic and ergative languages. Nora C. England's work, **A Grammar of Mam**, stands as a testament to the resilience of indigenous knowledge systems and serves as a bridge between native speakers and the global academic community.

The Cultural Context of Mam Language

Mam is spoken by over half a million people, predominantly in the highlands of Guatemala. It is more

than just a means of communication; it carries centuries of oral tradition, history, and identity.

Understanding Mam grammar through England's detailed descriptions provides insight into how the language encodes relationships between people, environment, and cosmology. This cultural embeddedness is part of what makes **A Grammar of Mam** not just a linguistic manual but a cultural document.

Key Features Explored in A Grammar of Mam

Nora C. England's grammar meticulously breaks down the linguistic components of Mam, highlighting its unique features compared to other Mayan languages. The book covers phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, providing clear examples and explanations that illustrate the language's structure.

Phonological Characteristics

One of the first things you'll notice in **A Grammar of Mam** is the detailed account of Mam's sound system. The language features a rich inventory of consonants, including glottalized stops and affricates, which are common in Mayan languages but may be unfamiliar to speakers of Indo-European languages. England explains how these sounds play a role in meaning differentiation and provides practical insights into pronunciation challenges and variations across dialects.

Complex Verb Morphology

Mam verbs are the heart of the language's morphology, exhibiting a complex system of prefixes and suffixes that encode tense, aspect, mood, person, and number. England's grammar carefully unpacks this system, showing how verb forms change depending on the subject and object, making Mam an ergative-absolutive language. This means the way subjects of transitive and intransitive verbs are

marked differs, a feature that can be quite intriguing for linguists accustomed to nominative-accusative languages like English.

Ergativity and Syntax

Ergativity is a key concept in understanding Mam's grammar. England provides thorough explanations of how ergative markers function and how they influence sentence construction. The syntax of Mam demonstrates a flexible word order, but with preferred patterns that align with information structure and emphasis. This syntactic flexibility adds depth to the language, allowing speakers to highlight different parts of a sentence depending on context.

How A Grammar of Mam Enhances Language Preservation and Revitalization

Beyond academic circles, **A Grammar of Mam** plays an important role in language preservation. As many indigenous languages face threats from globalization and cultural assimilation, detailed grammars like England's are essential resources for community members, educators, and language activists.

Supporting Educational Materials

The clarity and organization of **A Grammar of Mam** make it a practical tool for developing educational materials. Teachers and language learners can use the book to create curricula that reflect authentic linguistic structures, helping students learn Mam not just as a set of vocabulary items but as a living, rule-governed system.

Empowering Native Speakers

Documenting the grammar of Mam also empowers native speakers by validating their language in scholarly and public domains. England's respectful and collaborative approach highlights the importance of working with indigenous communities, ensuring that linguistic research benefits those whose language is being described.

Insights Into Linguistic Theory From Mam Language Structure

Nora C. England's work extends beyond descriptive grammar; it contributes to broader linguistic theory by illustrating how Mam challenges and enriches our understanding of language typology.

Polysynthesis and Morphological Complexity

Mam exhibits polysynthetic traits, where words—particularly verbs—can contain multiple morphemes encoding a variety of grammatical information. This morphology provides a compelling case study for linguists interested in how languages package meaning into compact, multifunctional units.

Aspect and Tense in Mam

The treatment of temporal and aspectual distinctions in Mam is nuanced and differs significantly from Indo-European paradigms. England's detailed analysis offers new perspectives on how languages can encode time and action, demonstrating the diversity of human linguistic expression.

Getting the Most Out of A Grammar of Mam

If you're diving into **A Grammar of Mam** for research or personal interest, here are some practical tips to enhance your understanding:

- **Familiarize yourself with Mayan linguistic terminology:** Terms like ergativity, absolutive, and aspect are central to grasping Mam's grammar.
- **Engage with audio resources if possible:** Hearing the language spoken alongside reading about its phonology can solidify your comprehension.
- **Compare with other Mayan languages:** Understanding similarities and differences can deepen insight into Mam's unique features.
- **Take notes on verb morphology:** The verb system is complex but key to mastering sentence structure.

Whether you are a linguist, student, or language enthusiast, Nora C. England's **A Grammar of Mam** is a gateway into the fascinating world of Mayan languages, offering a window into a vibrant cultural and linguistic heritage that continues to thrive today.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'A Grammar of Mam, a Mayan Language' by Nora C. England

about?

The book provides a comprehensive description and analysis of the Mam language, a Mayan language spoken in Guatemala, covering its phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Who is Nora C. England, the author of 'A Grammar of Mam'?

Nora C. England is a linguist specializing in Mayan languages, known for her extensive research and publications on the grammar and sociolinguistics of Mam and other Mayan languages.

Why is 'A Grammar of Mam' significant in Mayan language studies?

It is one of the most detailed and systematic grammars of the Mam language, contributing to the preservation and understanding of this indigenous language and providing valuable resources for linguists and language learners.

What linguistic features of Mam does the book highlight?

The book highlights Mam's complex verb morphology, ergative-absolutive alignment, tone system, and evidentiality, among other features distinctive to the language.

Is 'A Grammar of Mam' suitable for beginners or only for linguists?

While primarily aimed at linguists and advanced students of linguistics, the book is also accessible to language learners interested in Mam, though some prior knowledge of linguistic terminology is helpful.

How does Nora C. England's work impact the Mam-speaking community?

Her work supports language preservation efforts and provides educational materials that can be used by Mam speakers and educators to maintain and revitalize the language.

Where can one access or purchase 'A Grammar of Mam, a Mayan Language' by Nora C. England?

The book is available for purchase through academic publishers such as the University of Utah Press and can also be found in university libraries and online academic retailers.

Additional Resources

A Grammar of Mam: A Mayan Language by Nora C. England – An In-Depth Linguistic Exploration

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england stands as a seminal work in the field of Mayan linguistics, offering a comprehensive and meticulous description of Mam, a language spoken primarily in Guatemala. Nora C. England's detailed grammatical analysis not only enriches the understanding of Mam's structural intricacies but also serves as a critical resource for linguists, anthropologists, and language preservationists. Through this work, England sheds light on the complex morphosyntactic and phonological features of Mam, situating it within the broader spectrum of Mayan languages.

The importance of England's grammar lies in its methodical approach to documenting an indigenous language that has historically received limited scholarly attention. By meticulously cataloging phonemes, morphologies, and syntactic arrangements, the book becomes a vital tool for academic inquiry and cultural preservation. This article delves into the core components and unique contributions of **A Grammar of Mam: A Mayan Language**, evaluating its impact on linguistic research and indigenous language studies.

Comprehensive Linguistic Description of Mam

Nora C. England's grammar stands out due to its exhaustive coverage of Mam's linguistic elements, ranging from phonology to syntax. Mam belongs to the Quichean branch of the Mayan language family, characterized by its distinctive sound system and verb morphology. England's work

systematically unravels these characteristics, offering readers a rare glimpse into the language's internal mechanics.

One of the key strengths of this grammar is its detailed phonological analysis. England identifies the inventory of consonants and vowels, including glottalized and aspirated consonants, which are pivotal in differentiating meanings within Mam. Furthermore, the treatment of tone and stress patterns underscores the tonal nature of Mam, a feature that often complicates its acquisition and study. This phonological groundwork lays the foundation for understanding the morphological and syntactic phenomena that follow.

Phonological Features and Sound Patterns

The phonology section of England's grammar is particularly valuable for linguists interested in Mayan phonetics and phonology. Mam's sound system includes ejective consonants and a range of vowel qualities that are uncommon in many other language families. The book meticulously documents these sounds with phonetic transcriptions and examples, providing a clear framework for both academic analysis and practical language learning.

Moreover, England explores the role of suprasegmental features such as stress and intonation, which are essential in distinguishing grammatical and semantic nuances. This level of detail enhances the descriptive accuracy of Mam and highlights its complexity compared to other Mayan languages.

Morphological Complexity and Verb Structure

A defining feature of Mam—and Mayan languages more broadly—is their rich morphological system, especially concerning verbs. England's grammar delves deeply into verb morphology, illustrating how prefixes, suffixes, and infixes interact to convey tense, aspect, mood, person, and number.

The verb complex in Mam is highly agglutinative, with multiple morphemes concatenated to express

syntactic relations and semantic nuances. England's analysis demystifies this complexity by categorizing verb forms and their functions, making it accessible to scholars unfamiliar with Mayan morphosyntax.

Person Marking and Agreement

One of the standout discussions in England's grammar revolves around person marking on verbs. Mam employs a system of ergative-absolutive alignment, which contrasts with the nominative-accusative systems found in many Indo-European languages. This means that the language marks the subject of an intransitive verb and the object of a transitive verb in the same way, differing from the marking of the subject of a transitive verb.

England carefully explains how Mam's person markers function within this system, providing paradigms and examples that illuminate the language's syntactic alignment. Such clarity assists linguists in comparative studies of ergativity and contributes significantly to typological research.

Tense, Aspect, and Mood

England also provides an exhaustive account of tense, aspect, and mood (TAM) markers in Mam verbs. The interplay of these grammatical categories conveys subtle distinctions in time reference, action completion, and speaker attitude. For instance, the language differentiates between completive and incompletive aspects, a feature crucial to the narrative and discourse structure in Mam.

The grammar details the various affixes associated with TAM distinctions, supported by extensive textual examples from natural speech. This approach enables readers to grasp not only the formal properties but also the pragmatic functions of TAM in Mam communication.

Syntactic Structures and Sentence Formation

Beyond phonology and morphology, England's work addresses the syntax of Mam, exploring how words combine to form phrases and sentences. The grammar outlines word order tendencies, constituent structures, and the role of particles and clitics.

Mam generally follows a verb-initial (VSO) word order, a trait common in Mayan languages, but England's analysis reveals flexibility depending on discourse context and emphasis. This syntactic fluidity is elucidated through examples that demonstrate how topicalization and focus affect sentence construction.

Nominal and Verbal Phrases

The treatment of nominal phrases in the grammar highlights the use of classifiers, possessive constructions, and noun incorporation. England provides a nuanced understanding of how nouns interact with modifiers and possessive markers, reflecting cultural and linguistic specificity.

Verbal phrases, meanwhile, are dissected to show how verb roots combine with affixes and auxiliaries to create complex predicates. This section offers valuable insight for syntacticians and anthropological linguists studying language structure and use.

Significance for Linguistic and Cultural Preservation

Beyond its academic rigor, *A Grammar of Mam* holds cultural and social significance. Mam is an indigenous language with tens of thousands of speakers but faces pressures from dominant languages like Spanish. England's documentation supports language revitalization efforts by providing a detailed reference that can inform educational programs and materials.

Furthermore, the grammar contributes to the broader understanding of Mayan languages, many of which share structural traits but also display unique features. By establishing a comprehensive grammatical framework for Mam, England facilitates comparative research and helps preserve linguistic diversity.

Pros and Cons of the Grammar

- **Pros:**

- Comprehensive and detailed linguistic description.
- Extensive examples from natural speech contexts.
- Clear explanation of complex morphosyntactic features.
- Valuable resource for both linguists and language learners.

- **Cons:**

- Highly technical language may challenge non-specialists.
- Limited focus on sociolinguistic aspects and language use in community settings.
- Some sections assume prior knowledge of linguistic terminology.

Despite these minor limitations, the grammar remains a cornerstone text for anyone invested in Mayan linguistics.

In sum, **A Grammar of Mam: A Mayan Language** by Nora C. England exemplifies meticulous linguistic scholarship. It bridges the gap between theoretical linguistics and applied language documentation, offering an invaluable tool for understanding Mam's intricate grammar. For researchers exploring indigenous languages of Mesoamerica, England's work is an indispensable reference that continues to inform and inspire ongoing study in the field.

[A Grammar Of Mam A Mayan Language Nora C England](#)

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: A Grammar of Mam, A Mayan Language Nora C. England, 2014-02-19 This is the first full-length reference grammar of Mam, a Mayan language spoken today by over 400,000 people in the western highlands of Guatemala and the state of Chiapas, Mexico. The result of over three years of extensive fieldwork in Guatemala, *A Grammar of Mam, a Mayan Language* is based on the dialect of Mam spoken by 12,000 people in San Ildefonso Ixtahuacan in the department of Huehuetenango, Guatemala. England organizes *A Grammar of Mam* according to two complementary principles: to analyze Mam following basically traditional levels of grammatical description and to present material in such a way that the background information necessary for understanding each topic of discussion shall have been previously provided. Accordingly, England's analysis of the sound system and morphophonemic processes of Mam is followed by a description of the characteristics of root, inflectional, and derivational morphology. Chapters on phrase structure precede two chapters on sentence-level syntax. *A Grammar of Mam* is of particular interest in analyzing a Mayan language that is both syntactically and morphologically ergative and that is innovative in the direction of strengthening the ergative system. Indeed at all levels of linguistic organization Mam is innovative, and for this reason it is uniquely interesting both historically and theoretically.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: The Mayan Languages Judith Aissen, Nora C. England, Roberto Zavala Maldonado, 2017-05-12 *The Mayan Languages* presents a comprehensive survey of the language family associated with the Classic Mayan civilization (AD 200–900), a family whose individual languages are still spoken today by at least six million indigenous Maya in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras. This unique resource is an ideal reference for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students of Mayan languages and linguistics. Written by a team of experts in the field, *The Mayan Languages* presents in-depth accounts of the linguistic features that characterize the thirty-one languages of the family, their historical evolution, and the social context in which they are spoken. *The Mayan Languages*: provides detailed grammatical sketches of approximately a third of the Mayan languages, representing most of the branches of the family; includes a section on the historical development of the family, as well as an entirely new sketch of the grammar of Classic Maya as represented in the hieroglyphic script; provides detailed state-of-the-art discussions of the principal advances in grammatical analysis of Mayan languages; includes ample discussion of the use of the languages in

social, conversational, and poetic contexts. Consisting of topical chapters on the history, sociolinguistics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, discourse structure, and acquisition of the Mayan languages, this book will be a resource for researchers and other readers with an interest in historical linguistics, linguistic anthropology, language acquisition, and linguistic typology.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: The Oxford Handbook of Word Classes Eva van Lier, 2023 This handbook explores multiple facets of the study of word classes, also known as parts of speech or lexical categories. The contributions showcase the importance of word classes for the whole discipline of linguistics, while also highlighting the many ongoing debates in the areas and outlining fruitful avenues for future research.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: The Routledge Handbook of North American Languages Daniel Siddiqi, Michael Barrie, Carrie Gillon, Jason Haugen, Eric Mathieu, 2019-09-25 The Routledge Handbook of North American Languages is a one-stop reference for linguists on those topics that come up the most frequently in the study of the languages of North America (including Mexico). This handbook compiles a list of contributors from across many different theories and at different stages of their careers, all of whom are well-known experts in North American languages. The volume comprises two distinct parts: the first surveys some of the phenomena most frequently discussed in the study of North American languages, and the second surveys some of the most frequently discussed language families of North America. The consistent goal of each contribution is to couch the content of the chapter in contemporary theory so that the information is maximally relevant and accessible for a wide range of audiences, including graduate students and young new scholars, and even senior scholars who are looking for a crash course in the topics. Empirically driven chapters provide fundamental knowledge needed to participate in contemporary theoretical discussions of these languages, making this handbook an indispensable resource for linguistics scholars.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: The Oxford Handbook of Endangered Languages Kenneth L. Rehg, Lyle Campbell, 2018-07-18 The endangered languages crisis is widely acknowledged among scholars who deal with languages and indigenous peoples as one of the most pressing problems facing humanity, posing moral, practical, and scientific issues of enormous proportions. Simply put, no area of the world is immune from language endangerment. The Oxford Handbook of Endangered Languages, in 39 chapters, provides a comprehensive overview of the efforts that are being undertaken to deal with this crisis. A comprehensive reference reflecting the breadth of the field, the Handbook presents in detail both the range of thinking about language endangerment and the variety of responses to it, and broadens understanding of language endangerment, language documentation, and language revitalization, encouraging further research. The Handbook is organized into five parts. Part 1, Endangered Languages, addresses the fundamental issues that are essential to understanding the nature of the endangered languages crisis. Part 2, Language Documentation, provides an overview of the issues and activities of concern to linguists and others in their efforts to record and document endangered languages. Part 3, Language Revitalization, includes approaches, practices, and strategies for revitalizing endangered and sleeping (dormant) languages. Part 4, Endangered Languages and Biocultural Diversity, extends the discussion of language endangerment beyond its conventional boundaries to consider the interrelationship of language, culture, and environment, and the common forces that now threaten the sustainability of their diversity. Part 5, Looking to the Future, addresses a variety of topics that are certain to be of consequence in future efforts to document and revitalize endangered languages.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: The Heart of the Matter Wesley M. Collins, 2016-11-16 Can a culture have a theme that unifies seemingly unrelated practices? In this volume, Collins suggests that Maya-Mam customs as different as constructing a house, staying healthy, seeking God, disciplining children, agreeing to a contract, or just speaking the language, all originate from the same concept- a search for the center. This is far more than mere balance, long recognized as a Mayan cultural value. Rather, center space is a place of physical and metaphysical peace, acceptance, meaning, health, happiness and home. Collins also shows how cenderedness is

deeply embedded in the grammar of Mam- its lexicon, morphology, syntax, and discourse structure. This relatedness of Mam culture and linguistics provides an unusually detailed contribution to the debate on linguistic relativity and the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. Collins combines historical accounts with firsthand ethnographic and linguistic methodology to explore the concept of centeredness. Detailed accounts of his personal interaction with the Mam illustrate and enrich the book's concepts. This volume will interest students of the relationship between language and culture generally, and specifically those interested in the study of Maya of Mexico and Guatemala.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Participles Ksenia Shagal, 2019-11-05 The book is the first large-scale typological study of participles, based on data from more than 100 languages. Its main aim is to model the diversity of non-finite verb forms involved in adnominal modification. Participles are examined with respect to several morphological and syntactic parameters, and are shown to be a versatile cross-linguistic category. The book is of interest to language typologists and descriptive linguists.

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a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Basic Linguistic Theory Volume 1 R. M. W. Dixon, 2010 In Basic Linguistic Theory R. M. W. Dixon provides a comprehensive guide to the nature of human languages and their description and analysis. The books are a one-stop text for undergraduate and graduate students, the triumphant outcome of a lifetime's immersion in every aspect of language, and a lasting monument to innovative scholarship.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Language Typology and Language Universals 2.Teilband Martin Haspelmath, Ekkehard König, Wulf Oesterreicher, Wolfgang Raible, 2008-07-14 No detailed description available for Language Typology and Language Universals 2.Teilband.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Definiteness Christopher Lyons, 1999-03-13 This 1999 textbook investigates definiteness both from a comparative and a theoretical point of view, showing how languages express definiteness and what definiteness is. It surveys a large number of languages to discover the range of variation in relation to definiteness and related grammatical phenomena, such as demonstratives, possessives and personal pronouns. It outlines work done on the nature of definiteness in semantics, pragmatics and syntax, and develops an account on which definiteness is a grammatical category represented in syntax as a functional head (the widely discussed D). Consideration is also given to the origins and evolution of definite articles in the light of the comparative and theoretical findings. Among the claims advanced are that definiteness does not occur in all languages, though the pragmatic concept which it grammaticalizes probably does.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Adpositions Claude Hagège, 2010-04-29 Adpositions lie at the core of the grammar of most languages, their usefulness making them recurrent in everyday speech and writing. Based on an analysis of 350 languages, this pioneering study examines their morphological features, syntactic functions, and semantic and cognitive properties.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Constituent Order in the Languages of Europe Typology of Languages in Europe (Project), 1998 The series is a platform for contributions of all kinds to this rapidly developing field. General problems are studied from the perspective of individual languages, language families, language groups, or language samples. Conclusions are the result of a deepened study of empirical data. Special emphasis is given to little-known languages, whose analysis may shed new light on long-standing problems in general linguistics.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Syntax - Theory and Analysis. Volume 3 Tibor Kiss, Artemis Alexiadou, 2015-11-13 This Handbook represents the development of research and the current level of knowledge in the fields of syntactic theory and syntax analysis. Syntax can look back to a long tradition. Especially in the last 50 years, however, the interaction between syntactic theory and syntactic analysis has led to a rapid increase in analyses and

theoretical suggestions. This second edition of the Handbook on Syntax adopts a unifying perspective and therefore does not place the division of syntactic theory into several schools to the fore, but the increase in knowledge resulting from the fruitful argumentations between syntactic analysis and syntactic theory. It uses selected phenomena of individual languages and their cross-linguistic realizations to explain what syntactic analyses can do and at the same time to show in what respects syntactic theories differ from each other. It investigates how syntax is related to neighbouring disciplines and investigate the role of the interfaces especially the relationship between syntax and phonology, morphology, compositional semantics, pragmatics, and the lexicon. The phenomena chosen bring together renowned experts in syntax, and represent the consensus reached as to what has to be considered as an important as well as illustrative syntactic phenomenon. The phenomena discuss do not only serve to show syntactic analyses, but also to compare theoretical approaches with each other.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Language at Large Alexandra Aikhenvald, R.M.W. Dixon, 2011-07-27 The volume brings together important essays on syntax and semantics by Aikhenvald and Dixon. It focusses on topics in linguistic typology, the analysis of previously undescribed languages and issues in the grammar and lexicography of English.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: The Emergence of Distinctive Features Jeff Mielke, 2008-03-13 The Emergence of Distinctive Features will be of essential interest to phonologists and typologists, as well as to syntacticians, cognitive scientists, and scholars outside linguistics interested in the nature of language and its acquisition.--BOOK JACKET.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: The Morphology and Phonology of Exponence Jochen Trommer, 2012-09-27 Addressing the common problems, questions and solutions of exponence, this book contains contributions from leading specialists who formulate a coherent research programme which integrates the central insights of the last decades and provides challenges for the future.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Properties, Types and Meaning G. Chierchia, Barbara B.H. Partee, R. Turner, 2012-12-06 This collection of papers stems originally from a conference on Property Theory, Type Theory and Semantics held in Amherst on March 13-16 1986. The conference brought together logicians, philosophers, computer scientists and linguists who had been working on these issues (of ten in isolation from one another). Our intent was to boost debate and exchange of ideas on these fundamental issues at a time of rapid change in semantics and cognitive science. The papers published in this work have evolved substantially since their original presentation at the conference. Given their scope, we thought it convenient to divide the work into two volumes. The first deals primarily with logical and philosophical foundations, the second with more empirical semantic issues. While there is a common set of issues tying the two volumes together, they are both self-contained and can be read independently of one another. Two of the papers in the present collection (van Benthem in volume 1 and Chierchia in volume II) were not actually read at the conference. They are nevertheless included here for their direct relevance to the topics of the volumes. Regrettably, some of the papers that were presented (Feferman, Klein, and Plotkin) could not be included in the present work due to timing problems. We nevertheless thank the authors for their contribution in terms of ideas and participation in the debate.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: Voice Barbara A. Fox, Paul J. Hopper, 1994-01-01 The volume's central concern is grammatical voice, traditionally known as diathesis, and its classical manifestations as Active, Middle, and Passive. While numerous problems in the meaning, syntax, and morphology of these categories in Indo-European remain unsolved, their counterparts in more exotic languages have raised still further questions. What discourse functions and diachronic events unite 'voice' as a recognizable phenomenon across languages? How are they typically grammaticalized? What stages do children go through in learning them? How does 'voice' link up with ergativity and with other categories and constructions such as the Inverse and the Antipassive? The authors in this volume have different perspectives on these problems: they discuss voice, e.g., from a typological-universal view, in relation to language acquisition and to ergativity,

and from diachronic and cross-linguistic perspectives.

a grammar of mam a mayan language nora c england: *Morphosyntax* William Croft, 2022-08-04 Bringing together the results of sixty years of research in typology and universals, this textbook presents a comprehensive survey of Morphosyntax - the combined study of syntax and morphology. Languages employ extremely diverse morphosyntactic strategies for expressing functions, and Croft provides a comprehensive functional framework to account for the full range of these constructions in the world's languages. The book explains analytical concepts that serve as a basis for cross-linguistic comparison, and provides a rich source of descriptive data that can be analysed within a range of theories. The functional framework is useful to linguists documenting endangered languages, and those writing reference grammars and other descriptive materials. Each technical term is comprehensively explained, and cross-referenced to related terms, at the end of each chapter and in an online glossary. This is an essential resource on Morphosyntax for advanced undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, and linguistic fieldworkers.

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