Preface

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The present volume of *Linguistische Arbeits Berichte* is a collection of papers on the morphology of argument encoding, by case or agreement.[1] The analyses were developed in the context of the research project *Argument Encoding in Morphology and Syntax*, as part of DFG-Forschergruppe 742 ('Grammar and Processing of Verbal Arguments'). The empirical evidence comes from a variety of typologically different languages, many of them lesser-studied. The systems of argument encoding morphology in Albanian, Basketo, Diyari, German, Kambera, Nocte, Sanskrit, Serbo-Croatian, Sierra Popoluca, and Slovenian are all addressed in detail. The theoretical framework for the analyses is Distributed Morphology. An important question that comes up in virtually all the papers collected here concerns seemingly primitive, non-composite argument encoding markers (more specifically, agreement or case markers) as they can be found in grammatical descriptions, and as they seem to be motivated by looking at the syntax: To what extent can or should these markers be reanalyzed as composite, in the sense that they are made up of smaller units with separate specifications of morpho-syntactic features, and often with segment-like size. Such a *subanalysis* of argument encoding markers can derive many instances of partial syncretism (or block syncretism, as opposed to whole-word syncretism; see Stump (2001) vs. Baerman et al. (2005)); and subanalysis has been pursued in Distributed Morphology since its inception (see, e.g., Halle (1992, 1994) on noun inflection in Latvian and Russian, respectively; Noyer (1992) on the Afro-Asiatic prefix conjugation;

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[1]Note that separating the two nouns in *Arbeitsberichte* in writing is not a recent innovation. It already says *Linguistische Arbeits Berichte* on the title page of the very first volume of the series (*LAB* 1, from 1970); so this is just a tradition that is being upheld here. – Incidentally, with Haltof & Steube's (1970) feature-based analysis of tense systems in Russian and German, *LAB* 1 contains a paper that is very similar in spirit to the contributions to the present volume. Among other things, it includes an early application of Chomsky & Halle's (1968) α notation; this technique of employing variables over feature values is still relevant today, and shows up in a number of the papers collected here.

and Halle & Marantz (1993) on argument encoding markers on verbs in Georgian). To open up the possibility of subanalysis in Distributed Morphology, Halle & Marantz (1993) and Noyer (1992) introduce two (radically different) concepts of *fission*; these figure prominently in a variety of papers in this volume.

Theory-internal considerations aside, we can note that subanalysis is also an issue that is highly relevant in other morphological theories. The fine-grained systems of rule blocks that can be found in stem-and-paradigm approaches like those in Anderson (1992) or, in particular, Stump (2001) are capable of incorporating subanalysis; and accounts that make use of subanalysis have indeed often been developed in rule-block based frameworks (compare, e.g, Stump's Paradigm Function Morphology approach to Bulgarian verb inflection, which postulates four rule blocks for suffixal markers). Janda & Joseph's (1992) analyses in terms of what they call "pseudo-agglutinative hypersegmentation" or, alternatively, meta-templates also belong in this tradition; and so does the articulate system of iterated affixation that Wunderlich (1996, 1997) develops within a Minimalist Morphology approach. More generally, while all papers in the present volume focus on Distributed Morphology, we would like to emphasize that neither the basic underlying research questions, nor (most aspects of) the answers provided by the analyses collected here, are in any way framework-specific; and they should thus potentially also be of relevance to other theories.

The contributions are loosely ordered in such a way that papers on argument encoding by agreement precede papers on argument encoding by case, and papers on lesser-studied languages precede those on Indo-European languages; the final two papers also tackle more general theoretical questions.

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