

# Preface

This book was written as the culmination of a research programme that spanned several years. The motivation for this book is to offer a work that describes the features and properties of the English clause system, explores the theoretical and empirical significance of these properties, and outlines the challenges of understanding the system from a cognitive perspective. It presents a series of interconnected studies that investigate English clause combination both diachronically and synchronically and, it is hoped, develops a reasonably coherent description of the grammar and its patterns in relation to other features of English discourse. The book draws on innovations in corpus linguistics over the past few decades, such as the development of syntactically parsed corpora that represent both contemporary spoken and written English, as well as the language's historical development from Old English through to the modern era. It is only through the efforts of other scholars who have developed these resources and made them available to the scholarly community that such a book has become possible. The studies contained herein draw upon the new resources to explore the cognitive-functional theory of language, known as the Adaptive Approach to Grammar: a theory which has made major contributions to the field of functional linguistics over the years. In recent times, corpus linguistics and cognitive-functional linguistics have found an ever-increasing amount of common ground, producing new paths for interdisciplinary research. It is in this tradition that the current work situates itself and hopes to make its modest contribution.

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System

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