1 Introduction: Some Things Old, Some Renewed, Some on Borrowing – Here, Previewed

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In 2003, the *Handbook of Historical Linguistics* (*HoHL*) was issued by Blackwell, a respected publishing-house that was later incorporated into Wiley Publishers. That tome was edited by the two of us with *J*-initial (last) names. To judge from the reviews and from the responses to the issues discussed by its contributors, the volume was a success. In the past 15 years, the book has been widely referenced, with hundreds of citations currently noted in Google Scholar. It thus compares more than favorably, in terms of its reception, with other handbook-like treatments of historical linguistics, such as Jones (1993) or Bowern and Evans (2015) – though the latter has not been out for very long.

HoHL presents a fairly traditional vision of what the field of historical linguistics entails, with chapters on: language relatedness, the Comparative Method, internal reconstruction, sound change, analogy, morphological change, syntactic change, semantic change, language contact, sociohistorical linguistics, psycholinguistic factors language change, and the like. We reproduce the Table of Contents here:

Like any solid handbook, *HoHL* thoroughly covers – as is evident from Table 1.1 – the basic subfields of linguistics, though with an unusual twist. Namely, for several major topics, the volume eschews the usual monolithic way of proceeding – where only one chapter, with a single author, discusses, e.g., phonological change. Rather, *HoHL* adopts an approach that is sometimes dilithic (since two chapters, with one author each, present contrasting views of the Comparative Method, as also for analogy), sometimes trilithic (with three differing discussions of phonological change, as also for grammaticalization), and occasionally even tetralithic (with four partially opposed treatments of syntactic change (again, see Table 1.1). There were, of course, chapters that could have been commissioned but were not; any handbook covering a large area of study requires editorial choices regarding what to include and what to exclude, so as to offer a suitable overview but still maintain a manageable volume. Indeed, the original draft-proposal for *HoHL* included at least five additional chapters for which there simply turned out to be too little space. It was therefore gladdening when the two *J*-editors and an other-initialed colleague were approached by the publishers regarding the possibility of a follow-up edition.

Table 1.1   Table of Contents for *HoHL Volume 1*

Part I   Introduction
On Language, Change, and Language Change – Or, Of History, Linguistics, and Historical Linguistics, by Richard D. Janda and Brian D. Joseph

Part II   Methods for Studying Language Change
1. The Comparative Method, by Robert L. Rankin
2. On the Limits of the Comparative Method, by S. P. Harrison
3. Internal Reconstruction, by Don Ringe
4. How to Show Languages Are Related: Methods for Distant Genetic Relationship, by Lyle Campbell
5. Diversity and Stability in Language, by Johanna Nichols

Part III   Phonological Change
6. The Phonological Basis of Sound Change, by Paul Kiparsky
7. Neogrammarian Sound Change, by Mark Hale
8. Variationist Approaches to Phonological Change, by Gregory R. Guy
9. "Phonologization" as the Start of Dephoneticization – Or, On Sound Change and Its Aftermath: Of Extension, Generalization, Lexicalization, and Morphologization, by Richard D. Janda

Part IV   Morphological and Lexical Change
10. Analogy: The Warp and Woof of Cognition, by Raimo Anttila
11. Analogical Change, by Hans Henrich Hock
12. Naturalness and Morphological Change, by Wolfgang U. Dressler
13. Morphologization from Syntax, by Brian D. Joseph

Part V   Syntactic Change
14. Grammatical Approaches to Syntactic Change, by David Lightfoot
15. Variationist Approaches to Syntactic Change, by Susan Pintzuk
16. Cross-Linguistic Perspectives on Syntactic Change, by Alice C. Harris
17. Functional Perspectives on Syntactic Change, by Marianne Mithun

Part VI   Pragmatico-Semantic Change
18. Grammaticalization, by Bernd Heine
19. Mechanisms of Change in Grammaticization: The Role of Frequency, by Joan Bybee
20. Constructions in Grammaticalization, by Elizabeth Closs Traugott
21. An Approach to Semantic Change, by Benjamin W. Fortson IV

Part VII   Explaining Linguistic Change
22. Phonetics and Historical Phonology, by John J. Ohala
23. Contact as a Source of Language Change, by Sarah Grey Thomason
24. Dialectology and Linguistic Diffusion, by Walt Wolfram and Natalie Schilling-Estes
25. Psycholinguistic Perspectives on Language Change, by Jean Aitchison

The result is the present volume, a successor tome – *HoHL, Volume 2* (hereafter *HoHL2*) – whose chapters are totally different from those in the earlier book (although one chapter is an updated reprint from the diachronic section of another Blackwell *Handbook*).[1] On the one hand, many of the chapters in *HoHL2* are devoted to new topics that either complement or supplement the contents of *HoHL Volume 1* (hereafter *HoHL1*). On the other hand, several chapters of *HoHL2* present arguably new perspectives on a set of topics which, while addressed in *HoHL1*, are both so broad and so central to the field that their alternative treatments in *HoHL2* are a virtual necessity. For example, the cumulative contribution of several studies involves a complete recasting of a crucial chapter – that explaining linguistic change – which represents the part of any historical handbook that is perennially in need of the most revis(it)ing over time. *HoHL2* further differs from its predecessor by not duplicating (either literally or in spirit) the latter's long introductory discussion by the editors, which touched on overarching themes and

in many ways was like a separate monograph. Instead, as readers can see here, we begin with this brief, more standard introduction, laying out the rationale for, as well as the nature of, this second volume, especially in comparison with the first.

By way of situating this *HoHL2* in a broader context of handbooks, and of clarifying its relation to the first volume, let us explain our strong conviction that just updating all the earlier chapters would not yield the best possible book. This is in large part because, within the spectrum of the essential issues in historical linguistics that are well covered in *HoHL1*, many have not changed substantially in the decade and a half since its publication. Furthermore, in a number of instances, *HoHL1* has the above mentioned unique trait (here exemplified more concretely) of including multiple chapters on the same general diachronic topic – e.g., for sound-change *sensu lato*: one by Mark Hale on the Neogrammarian approach, one by Gregory Guy on the variationist approach, and one by Paul Kiparsky on the phonologically based approach. This feature arose from our desire to give readers a sense of those points on which there is the greatest amount of legitimate debate among diachronic linguists. The editors' reasoning was that such a "debate in print" of various views would be a healthy way of reflecting not just the areas of contention in regard to the study of language change but, by implication as well, the points of general agreement. But, with those conflicting positions thoroughly aired in its predecessor, there is no need for including in *HoHL2* even echoes of all the scholarly back-and-forth on those particular competing viewpoints. Readers interested in observing scholarly disagreement on certain topics can still get an eyeful from the 2003 book.

Yet even *HoHL1*'s uniquely multiplex handling of core matters in diachrony left ample room for considering new approaches to those issues that have arisen out of the ferment of the past 15-plus years. This was the basis for our thinking that *HoHL2* must also include chapters that discuss how the study of linguistic change is illuminated by current views of crucial topics like acquisition, analogical morphosyntax, dialect convergence, language contact, phonetics, phonology, and phylogenetic divergence. In addition, we include here in *HoHL2* a range of topics that supplement the offerings in *HoHL1*, including Bayesian methods, corpus-based work, creoles, fieldwork-based studies, origin of language, sign languages, tonogenesis, and typology, all in relation to the study of diachrony, as well as the importance of not only theoretical but also field biology as a model for historical linguists.

The combination of new topics and new approaches in *HoHL2* has allowed for an expansion of its language coverage vis-à-vis the earlier volume. *HoHL1* came in for some criticism – unfairly, in our opinion – for being too centered on Indo-European languages (even though it includes chapters that are largely based on Australian languages, on Siouan, and on other American Indian families). *HoHL2* extends cross-linguistic coverage in two ways: (i) via the inclusion of Asian languages, in connection with the tonogenesis chapter (inasmuch as a large number of diachronic tonal studies have drawn on various languages of Asia, including many from the Chinese and Tibeto-Burman groups); and (ii) via the inclusion of a chapter on the diachrony of signed languages – to mention just two examples.

It should be noted also that, whereas *HoHL1* has (to repeat) no fewer than four chapters dealing primarily with grammaticalization (by Joan Bybee, Bernd Heine, Marianne Mithun, and Elizabeth Traugott, respectively), *HoHL2* has only one such chapter (that by Olga Fischer, though Joseph's and Pat-El's chapters are relevant here, too), and even that contribution devotes equal attention to analogy, as well as iconicity. This apparent reduction of phonetic and semantic bulk, so to speak, derives partly from the appearance in the intervening years of a massive handbook, Narrog and

Heine (2011), dealing with grammaticalization from just about every imaginable perspective; while admittedly issued by a different publisher, it is nonetheless already out and easily available to readers.

In light of this fact and of all the preceding, considerations, we felt – in proposing and structuring it – that *HoHL2* could be capable of standing alone as an indispensable guide to historical linguistics while at the same time being an ideal companion to the existing Wiley handbook that bears on the same vast topic (*HoHL1*).

At this point, while a chapter-by-chapter summary of the contents of the present volume might be expected, we have decided to allow the *HoHL2* Table of Contents (which precedes this introduction) and the following 23 substantive chapters to speak for themselves. We would still like to point out, though, that a comparison of the *HoHL2* Table of Contents with that of *HoHL1* in Table 1.1 shows that, while there is some overlap in topics between the two volumes (though with new authors), there is also a high degree of complementarity. We therefore hope not only that this second, complementary volume, *HoHL2*, will provide specialists with new tools and perspectives, but also, since many of the areas covered are the focus of most general courses on historical linguistics, that it can be used no less than *HoHL1* as a text for advanced courses in the subject, for serious linguistics students interested in understanding the multi-dimensionality of the study of language change.

This is what we hope. but we do not dare to predict it. And yet, as a last introductory word on *HoHL2*, we should reveal that the volume's twenty-fourth and final chapter centers on a set of bold predictions regarding language change over the course of the twenty-first century. We know of no other chapter, and therefore also of no other historical-linguistic handbook (or work of any genre), that makes and discusses in detail so large a number of highly specific predictions as to the future – first 40 and then 80 years from the present time – of a widely spoken language-variety. The goal of that discussion is to focus long-term attention on thirty ongoing and intriguing changes in the lexicon, phonology, morphology, and morphosyntax of North American English, whereby the risks of mispredicting are outweighed by the probability of deeper insights into linguistic diachrony. "Fools rush in", wrote Alexander Pope (1688–1744) in his 1711 *Essay on Criticism*, "where angels dare to tread". Yet we three editors, appealing to the better angels of our readers' nature, do dare to predict that virtually all of them will find much that is insightful, intriguing, and/or revealing in *HoHL2*.

NOTE

1   The chapter in question is the one by Joseph, on morphological change, which updates his overview of that subject in Zwicky and Spencer (1998) by adding both new content and new bibliographical references.

REFERENCES

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