

ASSOCIATION FOR LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY (ALT)

STATUTES

Article I. Name and Object

1. This Association shall be known as the ASSOCIATION FOR LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY.
2. Its objects are set out in the Charter, which is hereby deemed to form part of these Statutes.

Article II. Membership

1. There shall be the following classes of membership: regular members, student members, group members, and associate members.
2. Any individual may become a regular member by payment of dues. The Secretary-Treasurer may, in consultation with the Executive Committee, and on an equitable basis, waive a portion or all of the dues for scholars actively working in the area of linguistic typology who are unable to pay the regular dues.
3. Any bona fide student may become a student member on payment of dues. Student membership in the Society requires that the individual submit a verification of student status.
4. Any group of individuals, incorporated or not, may apply for group membership to the Secretary-Treasurer; on acceptance, such a group shall pay dues at the rate for a regular member. The individuals constituting a group member shall be associate members.
5. Each regular, student, and group member shall pay an annual fee as dues, in amount fixed by vote of the Executive Committee. If the annual dues are not received within a time to be prescribed, the member shall forfeit the rights of membership (as hereafter specified) until payment is received; these rights shall be restored upon payment of all arrears.
6. Only regular members, student members, and group members may vote and hold office in the Association; to be eligible to vote and hold office, group members must appoint one of their constituent associate members as the representative of the group for the purpose of voting and holding office. All regular, student, and group members shall receive certain publications of the Association, including the journal *Linguistic Typology*. Anyone may submit articles and reviews to the Editor to be considered as possible contributions to the journal. Only regular, student, and associate members may offer to the Program Committee papers for oral presentation at the meetings of the Association.

Article III. Officers and Committees

1. The elected officers shall be a President, a Secretary-Treasurer, and the Editor-in-Chief of

the journal *Linguistic Typology*.

2. The President shall serve for four years, and shall not be eligible for re-election. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee and shall, with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint the Nominating and the Program Committees and such other non-elective officers and committees as may be required.

3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for four years, with the possibility of re-election. The responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer shall include keeping the records of the deliberations of the Association and the Executive Committee, presenting an annual report to the Association, supervising publications of the Association which are not the responsibility of the Editor, and such functions as may be assigned by the President and the Executive Committee. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the chief fiscal officer.

4. The Editor-in-Chief shall be elected for four years, with the possibility of re-election, and shall be responsible for the publication of the journal.

5. Nine other members of the Editorial Board shall be elected for six years, with the possibility of re-election, with three members retiring and three members joining every other year.

6. There shall be an Executive Committee, composed of the President; the Secretary-Treasurer; the Editor-in-Chief; and six other members, three of the six being elected every other year to serve for four years each. The six extra members shall not be eligible for immediate re-election. The Executive Committee shall have the power to take, by a majority vote of those voting, any action that the Association itself could take, but all its acts must be reported in timely manner to the Association. The Executive Committee may conduct part or all of its business by mail, including electronic mail.

7. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of four members, two of them being appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee every other year, to serve for four years, without eligibility for immediate re-election. The President shall designate one of the senior members as chair of the committee.

8. The Nominating Committee shall nominate one person for the position of President, one for the position of Secretary-Treasurer, one for the position of Editor-in-Chief, and one for each vacant position on the Executive Committee and on the Editorial Committee. A report from the Nominating Committee and the slate of nominees shall be mailed to the members at the meeting of the Association. The elections shall start during the meeting of the Association. In order to allow members not attending the meeting to vote, the polls shall remain open for six weeks after the meeting. During this period members may vote by mail. For each vacant position, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be deemed elected.

9. There shall be a Program Committee consisting of six members appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee, three persons being appointed every second

year to serve for a period of four years. For each meeting of the Association, the President shall appoint one member as Chair. The Program Committee shall have responsibility for the scholarly content of the Association's meetings and for recommending general policies on the form of the meetings to the Executive Committee for action.

Article IV. Fiscal Policy

The Secretary-Treasurer will provide the membership with an annual report of the Association's finances.

Article V. Meetings

1. There shall be a meeting of the Association at least once every two years, at such time and place as shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
2. Titles and descriptions of papers to be read before the Association must be submitted to the Program Committee beforehand, and its disposition of such papers, including a possible limitation of the time to be devoted to them, shall be final.

Article VI. Publication

1. On behalf of the Association, Mouton de Gruyter shall publish a journal, to be called *Linguistic Typology*.
2. Approval of expenditures in connection with the publication of the journal is the responsibility of the Secretary-Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Committee.
3. Other publications of the Association are the responsibility of the Secretary-Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Article VII. Amendments

Any proposed amendments to this constitution must be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer in writing, signed by at least five members of the Association. Such proposals will be submitted to the membership for ballot. An amendment must have the approval of two-thirds of the members voting.

Interim Arrangements for 1999

1. The next elections will be held in 1999.
2. Until the office-holders elected in 1999 take office, all current office-holders, who were elected under an interim procedure at ALT-I in 1995, will remain in office.
3. Eight members-at-large of the Editorial Board shall be elected at the 1999 elections; four for a four year position, and four for a two year position.
4. Six members-at-large of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the 1999 elections; three for a four year position, and three for a two year position.
5. Four members of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee prior to the 1999 elections, two to a term of four years, and two to a term of two years.
6. Six members of the Program Committee shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee prior to the 1999 Annual Meeting, three to a term of two years, and three to a term of four years.

CHARTER

I.

The purpose of the Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT), founded in March 1994,* is to advance the scientific study of linguistic typology, i.e. of the diversity of human languages and the patterns underlying it. To that end ALT will seek (i) to further mutual awareness, dialogue, and cooperation within the international community of typologists and (ii) to act as an interest group of typologists in relation to the worlds of science and science funding.

II.

The role that typology has tended to play within the academic discipline of linguistics, generally taking a back seat to the historical-comparative grammar of particular genetic groups of languages and to all kinds of linguistic theorizing neglectful of linguistic diversity, is not commensurate with the self-evident importance of the typological enterprise. The charting of cross-linguistic diversity and the empirical determination of its principled limitations were once the preoccupation of gentleman scholars and academic outsiders, and have long remained a marginal concern within linguistics, without a firmly established international network of individual scholars and with only loosely defined scholarly standards. Over the last few decades, however, typology has been gaining ground on an unprecedented scale, through various outstanding individual and collective efforts, and it is now high time to consolidate its position. This is what ALT considers to be its remit.

The internal roles of ALT will be to enhance cohesion within the typological community and to help define and maintain, or even raise, professional standards. In view of the dimensions of the typological programme, it goes without saying that mutual awareness, dialogue, and cooperation are essential for it to flourish. Owing to the academic marginality of typology in the past, the training in its methods and their proper practice have not yet received the attention they deserve.

The external roles of ALT will be to give typology a higher profile within as well as outside linguistics. ALT will seek to firmly re-establish typology at the centre of theoretical linguistics, and to highlight its potential, largely untapped so far, for applied linguistics (in particular those branches of it to do with relationships between languages, such as foreign language teaching or translation), for neighbouring disciplines (such as anthropology, psychology, or cognitive science), and for general education. Where possible and desirable, ALT will help to create the kind of infrastructure required for cooperative research to be undertaken on a larger scale and for such research to get funded appropriately.

As linguistic diversity, on the wane for centuries, is in danger of being dramatically reduced in the near future, it is a task of paramount cultural importance to help prevent endangered languages from falling into disuse and oblivion. As an association of linguists whose special professional expertise lies in linguistic diversity, ALT will share in the responsibility for this task.

III.

Gilbert Lazard
Edith A. Moravcsik
Juan Carlos Moreno
Masayoshi Shibatani
Anna Siewierska
Leon Stassen