Editors' Preface

The present collection of articles is based on the symposion "The Prospective as a Grammatical Category: Evidence from Turkic, Iranian and beyond" held in Frankfurt a.M. in September 2013 (cf. http://titus.fkidg1.uni-frankfurt.de/prospective/). The purpose of the symposion was to explore proximative and prospective formations in an areal perspective, starting from Turkic, which shows dedicated morphology in a number of languages, some of which had already been studied previously, and then looking towards Iranian, where these categories have not been studied yet. Some other languages within or broadly at the edges of Turkic or Iranian speaking regions are also included, viz. Aramaic, Mongolic and non-Turkic languages of Siberia. For future research, it would be interesting and relevant to enlarge the perspective, for instance by including Armenian and Caucasian languages.

Highlighting historical, areal and typological aspects, the contributions in this book investigate the encoding of proximative and prospective semantics in closely related languages of Altaic (particularly Turkic) and Iranian. Articles devoted to genetically non-related languages address areal convergence of Altaic and Iranian in contact areas in various parts of Eurasia. Of particular typological interest are advances in our understanding of the semantic structures of proximative and prospective categories as well as in disclosing the sources and grammaticalization paths of the development of the respective forms. These aspects are summarised in the articles by the editors in Part I.

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