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Canonical Morphology and Syntax Oxford University
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*This is the first book to present Canonical
Typology, a framework for comparing
constructions and categories across
languages. The canonical method takes the
criteria used to define particular categories
or phenomena (eg negation, finiteness,
possession) to create a multidimensional*

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space in which language-specific instances can be placed. In this way, the issue of fit becomes a matter of greater or lesser proximity to a canonical ideal. Drawing on the expertise of world class scholars in the field, the book addresses the issue of cross-linguistic comparability, illustrates the range of areas - from morphosyntactic features to reported speech - to which linguists are currently applying this methodology, and explores to what degree the approach succeeds in discovering the elusive canon of linguistic phenomena.

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