In terms of its linguistic and cultural make-up, the continent of South America provides linguists and anthropologists with a complex puzzle of language diversity. The continent teems with small language families and isolates, and even languages spoken in adjacent areas can be typologically vastly different from each other. This volume intends to provide a taste of the linguistic diversity found in South America within the area of clause subordination. The potential variety in the strategies that languages can use to encode subordinate events is enormous, yet there are clearly dominant patterns to be discerned: switch reference marking, clause chaining, nominalization, and verb serialization. The book also contributes to the continuing debate on the nature of syntactic complexity, as evidenced in subordination.

Table of contents

List of contributors
Subordination in South America: An overview
  Rik van Gijn, Katharina Haude and Pieter Muysken
Subordinate adverbial constructions in Mekens
  Ana Vilacy Galucio
Relative clauses in Mübengokre
  Andrés Pablo Salanova
Clause embedding strategies in Baure (Arawakan)
  Swintha Danielsen
Subordinate clauses, switch-reference, and tail-head linkage in Cavineña narratives
  Antoine Guillaume
Referring to states and events: Subordination in Movima
  Katharina Haude
Semantic and grammatical integration in Yurakaré subordination
  Rik van Gijn
Subordination in Cholón
  Astrid Alexander-Bakkerus
Cofán subordinate clauses in a typology of subordination
  Rafael Fischer and Eva van Lier
Relative clauses in Ecuadorian Quechua
  Pieter Muysken
Participial clauses in Tarma Quechua
  Willem F.H. Adelaar
Complex sentences in Uchumataqu in a comparative perspective with Chipaya
  Katja Hannss

Author index
Language index
Subject index