

Re: Universal grammar

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Hans Aberg wrote:

A long time ago, in the early 1970s, a fellow had a book with a kind of universal grammar, describing what is common to language specific grammars. For example, it would classify the tense of verbs according to point of time and temporal direction: past, present, future, thus giving nine possibilities, noting that Turkish(?) is one of the few languages having the "future future" tense.

What book might this have been? Are there similar, more contemporary references?

Not the four-volume set edited by Joseph Greenberg *Universals of Human Language* published by Stanford UP in 1978?

There have been plenty of works along these lines. You might look up Bernard Comrie.

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