

# Typology of Comparatives

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**Abstract.** It is well-known that an adjective is not a universal part of speech. As pointed out in the previous researches, many oceanic languages do not have a morphologically distinguished adjective class. The only criteria which distinguish adjectives from verbs and nouns could be whether they appear in comparative construction or not. However, even comparative construction is not universal. Whereas most languages have a specific morpheme to construct comparatives like inflection, some languages do not. In this paper I investigate various languages in the Pacific Asia region and discuss the difference in comparative construction in the framework of formal semantics. I suggest two parameters to distinguish the four language groups and propose a new typology of comparative construction: degree abstraction and maximization of degrees.

**Keywords:** Oceanic languages, Comparatives, Formal semantics, Typology